

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ & The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



The Third Sunday in Lent
International Women's Day

March 8, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

Centering Music

“The Summons” #350 v. 1&4

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Invocation

One: God of living water, you meet us on ordinary roads and at ordinary wells-- when we are tired, overlooked, searching, or thirsty.

All: Speak to us, Christ Jesus; draw near in mercy. Give us water that truly satisfies.

One: Today we honor all women, including the unnamed Samaritan woman at the well— crossing boundaries, carrying questions, and daring to speak with you. We honor your own disciple, Mary Magdalene, who was steadfast at the cross, faithful at the tomb, and sent to proclaim resurrection.

All: Meet us where we are; refresh us with your love.

One: In the spirit of International Women's Day, we celebrate the achievements, resilience, and strength of women and girls, and the progress made toward equality that challenges and transforms rigid gender expectations.

All: Make us courageous, O God, for gender equality in our homes, our church, our workplaces, and our world.

One: We give thanks for the strength and talent of women in this congregation and beyond: for those who lead, teach, organize, advocate, create, heal, and serve; for those who quietly keep faith when no one is watching; for those whose wisdom holds families and communities together.

All: Thank you, God, for your image reflected in their lives. Bless their gifts; multiply their joy; protect their bodies and spirits.

One: We pray also for women who carry heavy loads—those raising children alone, working multiple jobs, caring for aging parents, navigating illness, grief, or addiction, and those whose lives are threatened by violence, trafficking, or war. God of justice, let safety and peace become reality.

All: Shelter the vulnerable; strengthen the weary; liberate the oppressed. Teach us to do more than pray—teach us to act. Amen!

* Opening Hymn

“Daughters dance your dreams awake”

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Make your homes and build your houses, reap the fullness of the land.
Bear the children of your passion, live completely, rightly stand.
Seek the welfare of the Body, practice mercy for my sake.
In its welfare yours is hidden, Daughters dance your dreams awake.

Listen not to worldly prophets, faithfulness they do not know.
When the time has been completed justice streams will freely flow.
Know the plans I fashion for you, your oppression I will break.
You are future, hope and healing, Daughters dance your dreams awake.

When you speak to me I listen, when your heart cries out I hear.
Search for me and you will find me, O my daughter I am here.
I will mend your broken fortunes, blessings of your burdens make.
Celebrate God’s gracious promise, Daughters dance your dreams awake.

***Opening Prayer**

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

Lenten Time of Confession

One: *Let us pray together:* O God, as we journey through Lent with Christ, we acknowledge our weakness and neglect of those who are marginalized, especially women who have suffered throughout history and today. We confess our silence and lack of compassion, and ask for your guidance to protect and uplift all who are vulnerable in our communities.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

One: For the times we have thirsted for power, approval, or possessions, things that will not truly satisfy or heal. For all the ways we have worshipped idols of success, self-sufficiency, or exclusion—forgetting that salvation cannot be found in what we build or buy, but only in your grace:

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

One: Despite our failures, despite our thirst for what cannot save, you offer us the gift of living water—your mercy, your love, your justice. Help us to receive this gift, to become a people who speak for the voiceless, who seek justice, and who love as you have loved us.

All: Grant us spiritual thirst for your living water, O God—so that we may know the fullness of your mercy and become bearers of your justice and love. Amen.

Lenten Meditation & Candles

Song of Reflection

“Jesus Remember Me” #285

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

(Sing Three Times)

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ ⁵The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

Responsorial

Psalm 95

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

All: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which has hands have formed.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

All: O that today you would listen to his voice! Amen!

*Lenten Acclamation

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” #250 V. 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way,
Where meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.



⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that Sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have

entered into their labor.”³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

One: This the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Music Ministry “Certain Women” Addy Johnson

Reflection *Women at the Well: Stories of Seeking and Finding -Part I* Rev. Evon Lloyd

Song of Response “Find Us Faithful” #497

O may all who come behind us find us faithful;
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

Reflection *Women at the Well: Stories of Seeking and Finding -Part II* Pastor Joy

Music Ministry “Eat This Bread” Shelly Conrad

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table with open hands and love in your hearts, for this is *Christ’s* table—a place where *every person* is valued, treated with kindness, and embraced in fairness and love.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. We come to the table as a people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God’s eternal love.

Pastor: And so, here at this table we take the bread and we take the cup and we ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

All: Here at this table we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God’s love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.

Pastor: Remembering that no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. People of God, come to the table!

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer (“Debts and Debtors”)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

One: People of God, let us center our hearts and extend the spiritual power within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows...*[prayer requests are presented]*...We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list *[see last page of the bulletin]*. Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. *(Silent prayer)*...Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors—and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever.” Amen.

Offering

God is inviting us to serve in response to God’s great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God’s peace.

If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at: www.communityunited.church

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Offertory

“Fountains”

CUC Ladies Ensemble

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Lenten Congregational Response #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak!
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant!
Make me a servant!
Make me a servant today!***

**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning
at Community United Church!**



Next Week:

Sunday, March 15:

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Psalm 23

John 9:1-41

Theme: The Trouble with Blaming Sin

*Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect with
a small group or church ministry?*

1011 West 38th Street - Erie, PA 16508

(814) - 864 - 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

Our Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of International Women's Day by our Ladies' Outreach Group.

We warmly invite you to find peace in our sanctuary, a special place for meditation and prayer. Thank you for being with us today!

- March 10: Liberty House Meal Preparation and Sharing
March 11: Soup & Simplicity: Lenten Devotions and Social, Fellowship Hall (6:30 PM)
March 12: Crafternoon (1:30-3:30)

Coming up:

- March 15: Service Sunday
March 17: Ladies' Outreach Group - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
March 18: Resonate

Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jackson Feiock (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army),
Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),
Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines),
Cole Posnett (Army), Hunter Miaczynski (Army) & Mathew Anderson (Army)
Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard), Aran Maloney (Air National Guard)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin,
Toni Stevenson, Dave Wooledge, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson,
Shirley Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Zoey Cathie Witmire, Laura Will,
Paul Dietz, the Smith and Schmidt families, Linda Weber, Veronica, baby Elijah, Kim Normandy,
Joan Schultz, Mary Mong and Phyl Weaver

Your 2026 CUC Council:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer,
Michele Vahey, Secretary (Interim), Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, Don Cameron

CUC IS LOOKING FOR A COUNCIL SECRETARY

We currently have an open position on the CUC Council and are looking for someone who can provide valuable support as Secretary and serve as a voting member. If you are interested, please speak with any Council member or contact the Church office. Thank you!

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters or use email:
communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com