

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

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

Centering Music

“Goodness is Stronger than Evil” #296

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours; through him who loved us.
Victory is ours; victory is ours; through him who loved us.
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: Holy and loving God, your Spirit gathers us to worship you alone. Our souls yearn for you. From your heart we receive limitless love, mercy, wisdom, and grace.

All: You meet us in quiet stillness, and you reveal yourself to us in all that leads to love. We behold your radiant face in the person of Jesus, the light of the world who is redeeming and transforming the world. Amen!

* Opening Hymn

“Sing of God Made Manifest” #247 Vv. 1-2, 4

Sing of God made manifest, in a child robust and blest,
To whose home in Bethlehem, where a star had guided them,
Magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
Myrrh and frankincense and gold—grave and God and King foretold.

Sing of God made manifest, when at Jordan John confessed,
“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do.”
Then from heaven a double sign, dove-like Spirit, voice Divine
Hailed the true Anointed One: “This is my beloved Son.”

Sing of God made manifest, on the cloud-capped mountain’s crest,
Where the law and prophets waned, so that Christ alone remained;
Glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face
Towards the waiting cross and grave, sing of hope that God would save.

***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.



First Reading

The Book of Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Second Reading

The Second Letter Attributed to Peter 1:16-19

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Responsorial

Psalm 99

One: The LORD is sovereign; let the people be moved! God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

All: The LORD is great in Zion; the Holy One is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is God!

One: Mighty One, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have enacted justice and righteousness among your people.

All: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at God's holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy. Amen!

*Gloria

"Glory Be to God, Creator" #145

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One

As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be,
In a world without an ending, glory through eternity.

Holy, holy God Almighty! Holy, holy Prince of Peace!
Holy, holy Wind of Presence! Holy, holy, holy! Amen!

*Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Song of Preparation

"Holy Ground" #654

We are standing on holy ground, and I know there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.
(Repeat)

Message

The Transfiguration of Christ

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

"Come, Share the Lord" #696

We gather here—in Jesus' name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through his loving Son—the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
*No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.*

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
*We are now a family—of which the Lord is head;
Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.*

We'll gather soon—where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

All: Our altar table is a place to encounter the living Christ—who meets us once again in the bread and in the cup. Here at this table, food for the body also becomes food for the spirit.

Pastor: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come.

All: We come to the table as 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 bread and cup, and we ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us communion with the living Christ, body and blood, love poured out, forever!

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

Pastor: People of God, come to the Table and find the Light of Heaven as true light for our lives.

Communion Music

“How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings”

Cheryl Strecker

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

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

Leah Johnson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Congregational Response #147

***“Praise God, from whom all blessing flow!
Praise God, all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known! Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!”***

*Departing Prayer

One: Holy and loving God, you call us to take our vision of your glory and radiance into the valley of shadows, where people need your love.

All: So, send us out into the world, we pray, that we might be a reflection of Christ to all who need your light. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine” #319 Vv. 1, 3

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me!

Chorus:

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
Shine on me, shine on me!

(Chorus)

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



Next Week:

Wednesday, February 18:

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 22:

The First Sunday in Lent

Scriptures:

Romans 5:12-19

Psalm 32

Matthew 4:1-11

Theme:

Christ in the Desert

***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

The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of February Birthdays by Nancy Alberico

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15th (Today) after worship – change Sanctuary over to Lenten **Purple** – helpers requested!
February 15: Service Sunday (TODAY after worship, 12:15 PM)
February 17: Ladies' Lunch in Fellowship Hall – brown bag
February 18: Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 PM

Keep 'em Coming! Please Bring in Cans of Soup!

The CUC Ladies' Group is sponsoring the Jean Reidel Memorial Superbowl Soup Drive going on now and through February. **Please bring in cans of "hearty" soups** to be collected and given to the Bethany Outreach Center which directly helps families in the City of Erie.

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)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Dorothy Moyer,
Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Shirley Carrier, The Kuzma Family,
Debra Jackman, Rose Goss, the Smith and Schmidt families, Zoey Cathie Witmire, Laura Will,
Paul Dietz, Wendy Wilcox, baby Elijah,

Meet your 2026 Church 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

Do you enjoy taking notes and staying organized? Becoming the Council Secretary is a great way to put your skills to good use and make a meaningful contribution to the Church. We currently have an open position on the CUC Council and are looking for someone who can provide valuable support as Secretary and participate actively as a Church 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