

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



September 18, 2022

11:00 AM

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost. Having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months: Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing "ordinary" about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church year when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.

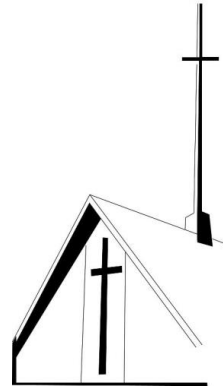
Today's Readings:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Psalm 113

Psalm 139

John 3:13-17



Annual Fall Music Service

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor
Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

*Whoever you are, and wherever you
are on life's journey, you are welcome
here!*

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Cheryl & Sarah Strecker

Centering Music

“Meditation from Thais”

Sarah Strecker

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

All: And also with you.

One: Holy and loving God, scripture tells us that “in the beginning” you created order out of chaos by speaking your living word. But what if you actually sang creation into being? What if the divine power that brought order out of chaos came through melody and accompanying notes of harmony, which gave birth to uncountable galaxies and the life that we live?

All: God of song, receive our worship this morning through the gift of music that fills our hearts. Hear us sing songs of love and praise. Hear us lament our sorrows. Hear us dare to hope that we are not alone. Receive all of this through the same Word that sung creation into being, the living Word whom we know in Christ Jesus! Amen!

*Hymn

“I Sing Praises” #660

I sing praises to your name, O Lord, praises to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised!

I sing praises to your name, O Lord, praises to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised.

I give glory to your name, O Lord, glory to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised!

I give glory to your name, O Lord, glory to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised.

***Opening Prayer**

The 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.

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

Ministry of Music I:

“Good News”

Ensemble

First Reading

Paul's First Letter to Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the nations in faith and truth.

Ministry of Music II:

“One Pair of Hands”

Patrick Vahey Jr.

Responsorial

Psalm 113:1-4

One: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

All: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

All: The LORD is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

Ministry of Music III:

“Only a Shadow”

Shelly Conrad & Dina Johnson

Responsorial

Psalm 113:5-8

One: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

All: God raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

Ministry of Music IV:

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Jerry Strobel

Responsorial

Psalm 139:7-12

One: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

All: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me.

All: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Ministry of Music V:

“No One is Alone”

Bob Martin & Leah Johnson

Responsive Prayer

One: O God, you call us to embrace both you and the children of this world with unconditional love.

All: Give us grace to discern what your love demands of us, that being faithful in things both great and small, we may serve you with an undivided heart; and that by listening to you, we will be guided to become who you meant us to be. Amen!

Ministry of Music VI:

“The Girl I Mean to Be”

Addy Johnson

***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**

John 3:13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Meditation

“On Music, God, Life, and Spirituality”

Pastor Rich

Music Ministry VII

“In My Life”

Julie Lokahi

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. 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 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: People of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

“Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World”

Lizdel Collado-Monahan

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

One: The Lord be with you.

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

One: *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [*prayer requests are presented*] 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 the gift of music and musicians, that as we are blessed by beautiful music, we might encounter God with heart, mind, and spirit.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: That we would listen for Spirit to speak in lyrics both in and out of hymnals, and to know that God is still speaking, even through music.

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

Our offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

www.communityunited.church/donate/

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 Music and Time for Contemplation

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.

*Congregational Response (BLUE) #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, in music we feel your presence and we are inspired to receive new truths.

All: May we go out into the world as people carrying the contagious song of grace and love in our hearts. God of song, be with us now and always. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Our Life Has Its Seasons”

Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons
Why spring follows winter, and new leaves grow,
For there's a connection with our resurrection
That flowers will bud after frost and snow.

*So there's never a time to stop believing,
There's never a time for hope to die,
There's never a time to stop loving,
These three things go on.*

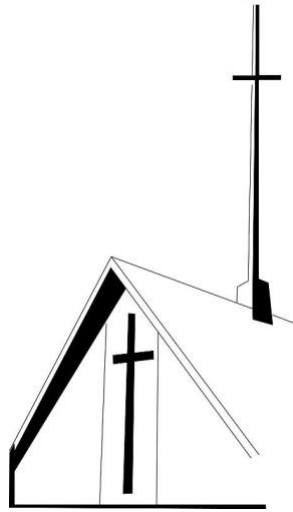
There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking,
A time to be laughing, a time to weep,
A time to be building, a time to be breaking,
A time to be waking, a time to sleep.

*But there's never a time to stop believing,
There's never a time for hope to die,
There's never at time to stop loving,
These three things go on.*

There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing,
A time to be saving, a time to spend,
A time to be grieving, a time to be dancing,
A time for beginning, a time to end.

*But there's never a time to stop believing,
There's never a time for hope to die,
There's never at time to stop loving,
These three things go on.*

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



Next Sunday, September 25:
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: From the Perspective of Heaven

11:00 AM

Readings:

1 Timothy 6:12-19

Psalm 146

Luke 16:19-31

***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 DINA'S BIRTHDAY FROM PASTOR JOY**

**THE SECOND SET OF ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING
MEMORY OF HER MOM, FLORENCE KURTY FROM CAROL RODGERS.**

The Ladies Outreach Group will have their first ever Tea Party. It will be Tuesday, September 27, 2022. Thea Hyatt will be our hostess. We will meet at the church parking lot at 11:30 AM and car pool to her house. Please consider wearing a "fancy" hat to the event to make it more fun!!

Please let Carol Rodgers know if you can attend at (814) 450-0194.

Coming Up:

- September 18th- Service Sunday
- September 21st- Concert with Andrew Rainbow
benefitting Liberty House for Homeless Veterans
- September 25th- Breakfast Sunday (bring a dish to share)
- September 27th- Ladies Lunch 12 noon

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR: Rod and Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Diane Walker, George Churley, Rose, Dick, Skinny, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams, Joannie, Brandie, Kathy Koziol, Ralph Kester and Sharon Cooper.

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall

Community United Church's

Fall

Fest



Face Painting, Food, Crafts & fun!

Sunday,
October

16

2022

12:30-2:30pm

1011 WEST 38TH STREET
FREE TO EVERYONE

We can't wait to see you there!