

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



August 17, 2025

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music

“I Sing Praises”

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 sing praises 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.

Invocation:

One: God of peace, we eagerly seek your Word, Wisdom and Presence in our lives.  
Through your Spirit, may we sense the fire and the truth that proclaims your  
sovereignty as well as the courage to trust the unity that is beyond our sight.

**All: Gathered as your people, may we recognize the forces that separate us in this  
life. Yet may we unite in the knowledge, gratitude and love for you and for  
each other, as we seek reconciliation where there is division, and confidence  
where there is fear. Amen!**

\*Opening Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory” #569 v. 1,3,4

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
Crown your ancient Church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Heal your children’s warring madness, bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,  
Lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory ever more.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
Serving you whom we adore.



## \* Opening Prayer

### \*The Peace of Christ

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

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

## First Reading

## The Prophet Jeremiah 23:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?



## Responsorial

## Psalms 82

One: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

**All: Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." <sup>5</sup> They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.**

One: I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince."<sup>[a]</sup>

**All: Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you! 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**

**Luke 12:49-56**

<sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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**

“You Are My All in All” #427

You are my strength when I am weak, you are the  
Treasure that I seek, You are my All in All.  
Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I’d be a fool,  
You are my All in All.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.  
(Repeat)

### **Message**

*Taking a Stand*

Pastor Joy

### **Hymn**

“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.  
(Repeat)



## Celebration of Communion

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. 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 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

"Refiner's Fire"

Aimee DeYoung  
and Shelly Conrad

## 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 that is 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 all who have asked to be on our prayer list—and so we ask: Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace. We pray together:

**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

*Your offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our financial contributions to the church are what allow us to support our ministries. As you can give, please do so joyfully!*

**If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:**

**[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)**

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

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

## Offertory/Ministry of Music

“Heart of Worship”

Aimee DeYoung  
and Shelly Conrad

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Congregational Response #147

***“Praise God, from whom all blessings 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, we grow in gratitude for your endless love. Help us to stand our ground in your truth and help us to be guided by your leading and your grace.

**All:** **Grant us the clarity of your vision, the compassion of your tenderness, and the strength in the fire of your Holy Spirit. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn

“We Are Called to Be God’s People” #580

We are called to be God’s people, showing by our lives his grace,

One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.

Let us show how He has changed us, and remade us as his own,

Let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.

We are called to be God’s servants, working in his world today;

Taking his own task upon us, all his sacred words obey.

Let us rise, then, to his summons dedicate to him our all,

That we may be faithful servants quick to answer now his call.

We are called to be God’s prophets, speaking for the truth and right,

Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.

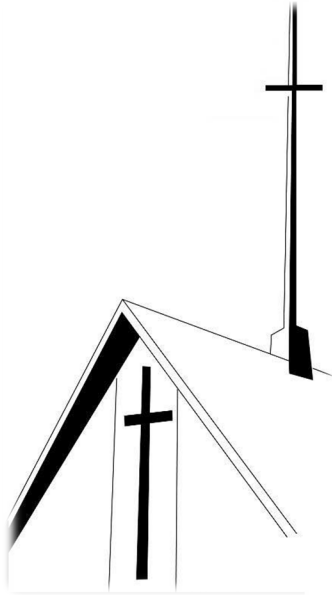
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,

That the world may know the blessing of the doing of God’s will.

Postlude

Shelly Conrad

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



**Next Week:**  
**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*Readings:*

Isaiah 58: 9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Luke 13:10-17

**Theme: Interpreting through Love**

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

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

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## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by  
Pat and Michele Vahey in celebration of the birthday of Barbara Hickey, Michele's Mom**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- August 18: Church Council 6:30 PM
- **August 20:** Outside Resonate at 7 PM
- August 26: Women's Group Luncheon at noon at Calamari's-  
Please see Carol Rodgers if interested in carpooling

### Reminders:

- *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)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Darek Baksik, Laura Will, Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Josh Cook & Danny Kaerberlein, Helena Burgos, The Vadzemnieks Family, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family

### **Current Council Members:**

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Al Tilley (Treasurer), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Angel Conrad, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, and Mark Davis

Need to contact our Council President? Please email at: [mpruzinsky@icloud.com](mailto:mpruzinsky@icloud.com)

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