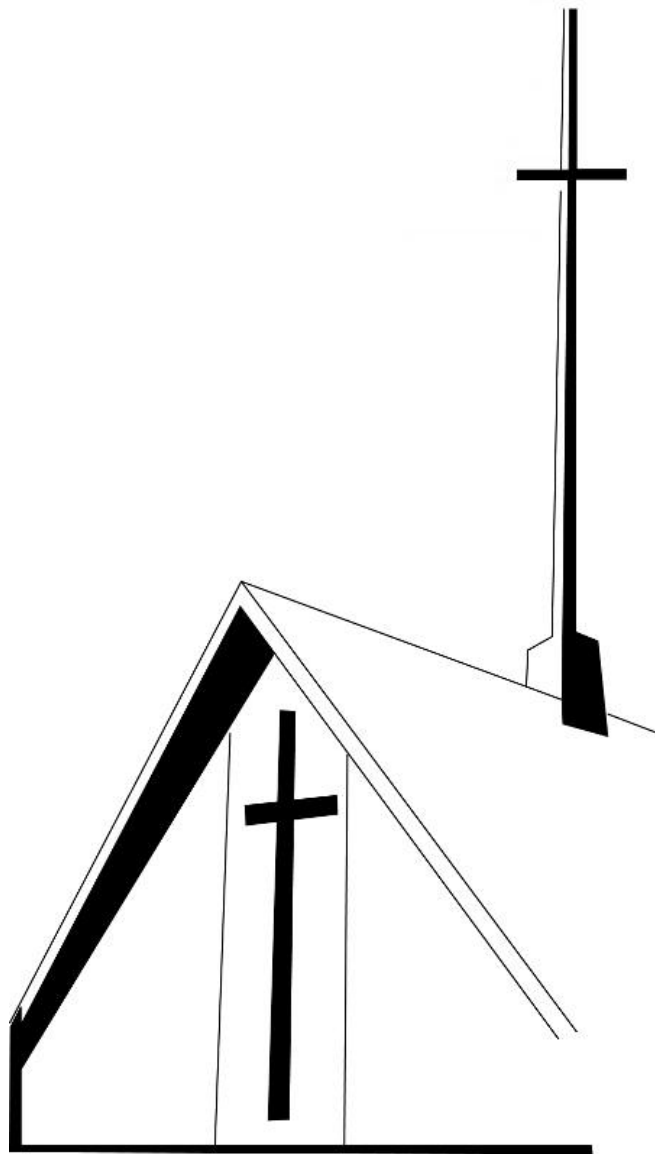


# Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



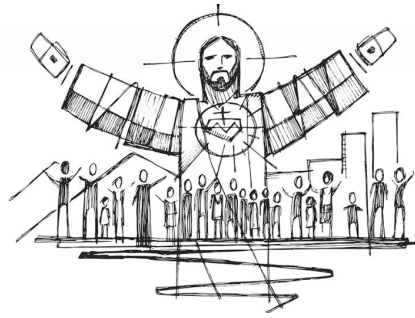
**August 7, 2022**

**11:00 AM**

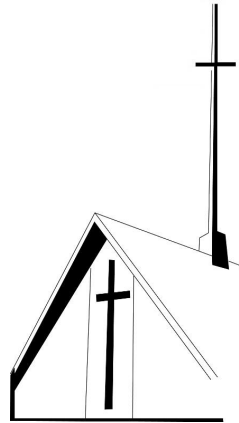
# The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost.

But 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 calendar 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:  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Psalm 33:12-22  
Luke 12:32-40



**Theme: “Walking by Faith, in Hope”**

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 Strecker

Centering Music

**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, in all times and places you have inspired people to step into the journey of faith.

**All: You, O God, are Mystery upon Mystery, and Deep upon Deep. No mortal mind can fully understand you; and yet you reveal yourself to us in small glimpses, and in ways we can understand. In this time of worship, graciously reveal yourself once more—that we might all walk more surely in the ways of faith and hope. Amen!**

\*Hymn

“God is Here!” #1

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, Here,  
in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the Gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

**\*Opening Prayer**

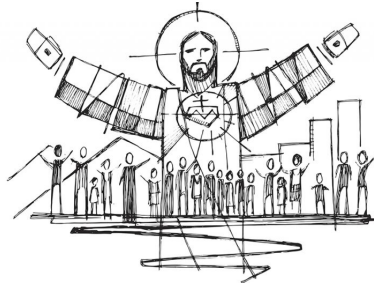
## The Sign of Peace

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.)*



## First Reading

## The Letter to the Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## **Responsorial**

**Psalm 33:12-22**

One: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom God has chosen.

**All: The LORD looks down from heaven; God sees all humankind.**

One: Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who revere God, on those who hope in God's steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.

**All: Our soul waits for the LORD; God is our help and shield.**

One: Our heart is glad in God because we trust in God's holy name.

**All: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in 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 12:32-40**

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those servants.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

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

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety—though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

Chorus:

*Be not afraid.  
I go before you always.  
Come, follow me,  
And I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters—in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,  
Know that I am with you through it all.

*(Chorus)*

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,  
Blessed, blessed are you!

*(Chorus)*

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!

## **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 those who are weary walking the path of faith; that God's Spirit will infuse in them (and all of us) the gifts of faith and hope to renew our strength for the journey.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For generations past who walked the path of faith, and for future generations who will carry on the ministry long after us.

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/](http://www.communityunited.church/donate/)

*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 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: God of Sarah and Abraham, the same God of Jesus and Mary: you invite your people to contemplate heavenly things and urge us toward faith in you.

**All: May your coming among us find our doors open, our tables set, and all your people ready to greet you. Amen!**

\*Blessing



\*Closing Hymn

“Find Us Faithful” #497

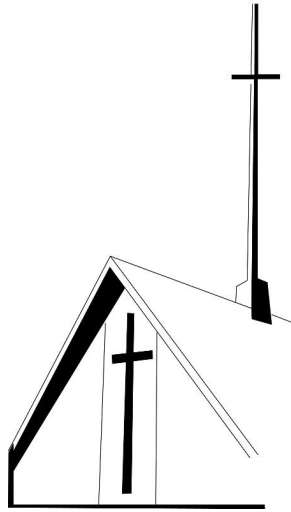
O may all who come behind us find us faithful;  
May the fire of our devotion light their way,  
May the footprints that we leave,  
Lead them to believe,  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
O may all who come behind us  
Find us faithful!  
(Repeat all)

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker



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



**Next Sunday, August 14: Tenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**11:00 AM**

*Readings:*

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Luke 12:49-56

**Theme:**

**“The Gospel that Heals, First Divides”**

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

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

(814) – 864 – 4429

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



## Community United Church

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN  
CELEBRATION OF JIM SAWYERS BIRTHDAY FROM MARTI!

**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**

We are looking for volunteers to take the packed lunches to the Upper Room on Service Sundays. Please see Cheryl or Nancy for more information.

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**Deacons:**

August 7- Sassy, Lauryne  
August 14- Patti, Volunteer Needed  
August 21- Angel, Patti  
August 28- April, Natalie

**Coming Up:**

August 8<sup>th</sup>- Council Meeting 6:30 PM  
August 9<sup>th</sup>- Liberty House Dinner  
August 10<sup>th</sup>- Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM at Calamari's  
August 17<sup>th</sup>- RESONATE 7 PM  
August 21<sup>st</sup>- Service Sunday  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>- Ladies Lunch

**WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:**

**Meagan Dawson (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Chris Duncan (Marines), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)**

**PRAYERS FOR: Rodn Johnson, Dan Wingerter, four year old Julie, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Joe O'Hara, Bill, Diane Walker, George Churley, Mandy, Diane, Rose, Dick, JoMarie, Skinny, The Family of Joe Armstrong, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams and the family of John Stempka.**

# PLEASE SUPPORT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH DURING ERIE GIVES!

- Checks accepted until 8.8.2022  
*\*must be accompanied with a  
Check Contribution Form (see Tracy)*
- Online giving: Tuesday, August 9,  
2022 from 8 AM to 8 PM at  
[www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org)
- \$25 minimum donation; no max!
- Contact Tracy at  
[tracydavis.cuc@yahoo.com](mailto:tracydavis.cuc@yahoo.com) or call  
814-864-4429 with any questions!



**You can be a  
philanthropist with a  
gift of \$25 (or more)!**

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