

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



September 27, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Living into Trust”

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music

"Cares Chorus" #493

I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do.
I will cast all my cares upon you.
(repeat)

Invocation

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust you!

All: Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We follow you!

All: Lead us in your ways, your path liberates and saves.

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship you!

All: Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One!

***Opening Hymn**

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #31

I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care;
And everywhere that man can be, you, God, are present there.

***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

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 quarreled 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 quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Responsorial

Psalm 25:1-9

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

All: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

One: Make me know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

All: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

One: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

*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 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

"This is the Day" #652 2X

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made.

Message

Living into Trust

Pastor Joy



Hymn of Response

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” # 442 v. 1,2,4

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
’Neath the healing, cleansing flood.
(Refrain)

I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.
(Refrain)

Celebration of Communion

Pastor: Beloved children 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 bread... and we take the 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

“Broken Vessels”

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 draw on the Holy Spirit's power within us. We bring forward now the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether they be joys or sorrows.... *(prayer requests are presented)*. We also pray for all who have asked to be on our printed 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 now 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

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 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

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/Ministry of Music

"Make it Well"

Ladies' Ensemble

Offertory 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, may we feel stillness in your presence when the world may feel unsettled.

All: **Help us to continually trust in you, so that our lives reflect the peace we have received here today. Amen!**

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord” #559

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

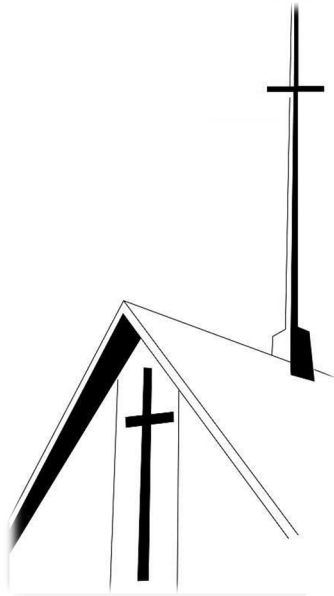
I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?
(Chorus)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
(Chorus)

*Until we meet again, remember: you are
loved.*

Postlude _____

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



**Next Week:
Sunday, October 4, 2026
11:00 AM**

Readings:
Philippians 3:4b-14
Psalm 19
Matthew 21:33-46

Theme:
“Listening, Growing, and Moving Forward Together”

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

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church

communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com



Community United Church

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Ginnie Burger in celebration of her birthday. Happy Birthday, Ginnie!

Thank you for sharing the flowers with us this morning.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Today, September 27: Community-Building Conversations Session after Worship
- Friday, October 2: **Firelight & Fellowship** 6:00 PM Outside! All are welcome!
- Sunday, October 4: Community-Building Updates during worship, followed by lunch
- Thursday, October 10: Crafternoon 1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, October 13: Liberty House Veterans' Ministry
- Wednesday, October 14: **Spirits & Spirituality**: Calamari's at 7:00 PM

***Need hearing assistance? We have four available devices to enhance your worship experience!
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), and Connor Bille (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin,
Toni Stevenson, Sandra Ganley, Dorothy Moyer, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Debra Jackman,
Zoey Cathie Witmire, Laura Will, Veronica, Joan Schultz, Michelle and Melissa, Tom and Thea Hyatt,
Randy Koziol, Barbara Thompson, Tanisha and Jaeda, Barbara Hickey, Sandy Gool, Jim Haglund,
Shirley Carrier, Ruth Zavaglia, Brad Stewart, Cain Hickey, Zoey Foote, Earl Hall, Patty Brogdan,
Lynn Oliver, Rowan Oliver, Katrina Strohmeier, Theodore, Bill and Marilyn, Mellisa and Janell.

Your 2026 Council Members:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Applebee Davis, Treasurer,
Juli Tonks, Secretary, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, and Chuck Becker
You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters
or use email: communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

There are available Church Council positions – please let us know if you're interested!

Don't forget to check Facebook and our website: **communityunited.church**
Community United Church is committed to ethical and legal compliance
in our music and livestreaming:

CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 / Streaming License: 20856761

Please be with us on October 4th

Together, we are working to shape a cohesive vision for Community United Church through a process led by the Church Profile Committee.

We hope you'll join us on Sunday, Oct. 4, for the first update on the Church Profile Team's work.

During the 11 a.m. service, members will introduce themselves, share some early insights from the Community-Building Conversations, and announce two initiatives to foster communication.

Following worship, we'll continue the conversation over lunch, which will be provided, with time for questions, ideas, and discussion.

Your voice, participation, and input are important as we continue shaping the future of Community United Church as a community of faith.

See you October 4th!

Are you Fluent with Social Media?

Community United Church is looking for a Social Media Specialist. This position is temporary with the possibility of becoming permanent after a 90-day probationary period. The time commitment would be between 5-10 hours a month, however that could either increase or decrease with the exploration and execution of the position. Interested persons should submit an email or letter of interest to Thea Hyatt (Council President), Chuck Becker, Becky Pomeroy, and Cheryl Sealy (Hiring Committee Members). If you have any questions about what the position will entail, please contact Tracy Applebee-Davis.