

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



November 1, 2026

The Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music

"Spirit of the Living God" #492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

Invocation

One: Holy God, Creator of all, you have woven the fabric of creation so that earth and heaven meet in this sacred moment.

All: Today we remember that death does not have the final word, for the power of the empty tomb has broken every chain.

One: In the resurrection of Jesus, we are promised eternal life—a life already shared by the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

All: With grateful hearts, we unite our earthly praise with the heavenly chorus. Let us worship God together. Amen!

***Opening Song**

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" #138 v. 1,2,3

Holy God, we praise your name,
Lord of all, we bow down before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore you;
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All apostles join the strain
as your sacred Name they hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun,
through the Church the song goes on.

***Opening Prayer**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

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

[Please be mindful that some people may not shake hands or hug due to health precautions]

First Reading

The Book of Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

*"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Memorial Candles and Butterflies



Song of Remembrance

“Hymn of Promise” #515

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Responsorial

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

One: I will bless the LORD at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

One: I sought the LORD, and the Holy One answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

All: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in God. The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned. 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 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Message:

Table Beyond Time

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

“Blest Are They” #666

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Chorus:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill. *(Chorus)*

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God. *(Chorus)*

Blest are they who seek peace. They are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. *(Chorus)*

Blest are they who suffer hate—all because of me.

Rejoice be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see! *(Chorus)*



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

"Only Hope"

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 begin with everyday acts of justice, kindness, compassion, and mercy. Our financial gifts sustain the life and work of this church, extending God's love and care into the wider community.

Thank you! Your offerings make this inclusive ministry possible.

**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

"Remember Me"

Amber Jarosewski, Dina 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, the lives of those who came before us are woven into our own. Their stories, their struggles, and the love they shared, remain part of who we are and who we are becoming.

All: May we honor the past, embrace the future, and trust that we never journey alone. Amen!

***Blessing**



***Closing Song**

“For All the Saints” #529 Vv. 1,2,3,5

For all the saints—who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou was their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness—drear, their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle—they in glory shine.
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! Their breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

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



**Next Week:
Sunday, November 8, 2026
11:00 AM**

Readings:
Joshua 24:1-39, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
Matthew 25:1-13

Theme: Being Prepared: An Opportunity

***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

Altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Bob Martin in loving memory of his father, Charles, and by Carol Rodgers in loving memory of her sister, Teresa Kurty and father, Walter Kurty upon their heavenly birthdays.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 8: Sunday Worship
November 15: Sunday Worship
November 15: Service Sunday is *paused* due to changes at The Upper Room
November 18: Friendsgiving supper in Fellowship Hall: Please sign up!
November 22: A Sunday of Thanksgiving / **Decorating for Advent:** Please help!
November 26: Thanksgiving Observance: Liberty House Thanksgiving
November 29: First Sunday in Advent

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, Patty Brogdan, Lynn Oliver, Rowan Oliver, Katrina Strohmeier, Theodore, Bill and Marilyn, Ron Celeski, Dennis and Kate Martin.

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

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