Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



November 15, 2026

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Come, Follow! The Journey of Discipleship

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Prelude "Without Seeing You" Veronica Quinn & Cheryl Strecker
Welcome and Announcements

Centering Music "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" #396

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.
There is comfort in life's darkest hour,
There is light and life, there is help and power
In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: Loving God, you call us to follow Jesus with open hearts. Teach us through his example and those who mentor us in faith, so we may grow as disciples and guide others in your way.

All: Root us in your teaching like trees beside water. Keep us humble and ready to learn, growing in gentleness, integrity, and service.

One: As Jesus called the fishermen and Matthew to follow him, help us answer his call. Bless those who teach and mentor us, and help us welcome with compassion all who will learn, guide and grow in faith.

All: **Teach us to live your mercy, not merely speak of it. Shape us into faithful disciples who learn from one another, prepare future generations for faithful service, and follow Jesus in love. Amen!**

***Opening Hymn** "Thine is the Glory" #310

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

<u>Refrain</u>
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth: Death hath lost its sting.
(Refrain)

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
(Refrain)

***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 **1 Timothy 3:1-10**

The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. 2Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, 3not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way— 5for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? 6He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil. 8 Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; 9they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons.

Responsorial **Psalm 1**

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

All: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

One: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

All: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. 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 4:18-22. 9:9-13**

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.
All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Message *Come, Follow! The Journey of Discipleship* Lee Pomeroy
Jackson Feiock

Hymn of Response "The Summons" #350 vv. 1,2,4

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" / "In Christ Alone" Cheryl



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 "Coming Home" Veronica Quinn

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: O God, teach us to follow Jesus, growing as disciples through your love and the wisdom we share.

All: Help us learn from one another, nurture the gifts you give, and guide others in your way. Send us forth to grow in faith and serve in love. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn "He Leadeth Me" #499

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where're I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

<u>Refrain</u>
He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whate'er my lot may be, since 'tis my God who leadeth me.
(Refrain)

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.
(Refrain)

Postlude_____

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

Next Week:

Sunday, November 22, 2026
11:00 AM

A Sunday of Thanksgiving

Readings:
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46

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 Jeanine Thompson
in loving memory of Cathy Thompson, loving wife, mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 16: CUC Council Meets at 6:30
- November 17: Women's Outreach Group Luncheon
- November 18: **Friendsgiving Supper at 6:00 – sign up now!**
- November 22: A Sunday of Thanksgiving / **Decorating for Advent: Please stay to 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 Strohmeyer, 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, Chuck Becker, Pat Smith, and Jackson Feiock

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters or use email: communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

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

Your voice matters!

The Question of the Week is an effort by our CUC Profile Committee to collect input from the congregation. Based on one of the seven **Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches in the United Church of Christ**, each question aims to help establish our shared vision for the present and future of our church.

Everyone is encouraged to prayerfully respond to this week's question using the new response cards (headlined "Your Voice Matters!!") located in the pews. Responses to the Question of the Week, as well as questions or concerns, can also be shared with **Members at Large Sean Leonard, Aimee DeYoung, and Cheryl Sealy,** or sent confidentially to the Profile Committee email address: CUCPROFILETEAM@gmail.com

Question of the Week: Nov.15

Mark: Shaping Church Community

How would you like to see our church inspire a culture of generosity and faithful stewardship, including financial support of the church?



FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

2026

Month	Offering/Revenue	Expenses
OCTOBER	$5,697.76	$7,905.68

2026 Revenue Goal: **$114,250** (Monthly $9,520.83)

With grateful hearts, may we celebrate the blessings we share and the possibilities our generosity creates. Together, our giving can turn compassion into action, bring hope, and open new doors for love and service.

