

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints Commemoration

November 2, 2025

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

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

Centering Music "Be Thou My Vision" #502 Vv. 1, 3

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Invocation to Worship

One: Holy and loving God, in you there is eternal life. It is the life that is *true life*, which can be experienced on earth and in the fullness of heaven.

All: **As we gather to worship you today, O God, remind us that we join the eternal worship of heaven—where angels and saints and all who have gone before us encircle your throne, in song, praise, and prayer. Blessing and honor and power and might be to our God, now and forever. Amen!**

*Opening Song "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" #87

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before God's throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore—his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forever more, "Alleluia! Amen!"

***Opening Prayer**



***Passing of the 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.

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."

Memorials & Communion with our Saints

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil" #296

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.*

One: In his vision of heaven, the prophet John saw "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." People of God, look more closely through that opened door to heaven. Among the multitude too numerous to count are our loved ones who have gone before us into the near presence of God.

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.*

One: People of God, see now through the eyes of the Spirit. Look again at that great multitude around God's throne—and see the ones who have gone before us. Grandparents and parents. Siblings and friends. Spouses and partners. Teachers and co-workers. Neighbors and devoted civil servants. Those who have died serving their country, and those who did not know they were going to die. The young and the old. The sick and the healthy. Jesus, be merciful in our sorrow, and help us to believe the good news and the power of your resurrection: that when we exhale our last breath on earth, we awaken with the breath and life of heaven.

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.*
(Sing twice)

Responsorial

Psalm 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

Luke 6:20-23, 27-31

Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”

²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

“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.

Message:

“The Communion of Saints”

Pastor Rich



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: 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!

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**

*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

"Reflections"

Cheryl Strecker

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: God of unfailing light, in your realm of glory the poor are blessed, the hungry filled, and every tear is wiped away.

All: Strengthened by this vision, may we follow in the way of holiness that Christ made known in life and death.

One: All blessing, honor, and glory, all wisdom, praise and thanks be yours, O God—the Source of our salvation!

All: And so we pray in communion with all the saints on earth and in heaven: bless us with your healing presence; make us hungry for justice; strengthen our faith; and increase our love for others, especially those we find it most difficult to love. Amen!

***Blessing**

***Closing Song**

“For All the Saints” #529 Vv. 1-5

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—dear, 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!

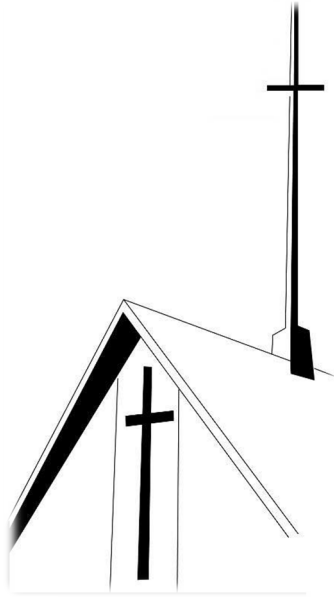
And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave—again and arms are strong.

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!

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



Next Week:
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Psalm 98

Luke 20:27-38

The World to Come

***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



Community United Church

The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bob Martin's father, Charles.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov. 2: Church & the Paranormal: Angels, Demons, and the Afterlife. 12:45 PM
- Nov. 5: Bible Study, Love Wins Chapters 4-6 at 6:30 PM
- Nov. 12: Spirits & Spirituality at Calamari's, *Love Wins: Scare Tactics?* 7:00 PM
- Nov. 13: Crafternoon, 1:30-3:30 PM. You are invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed and stories about them are welcome!
- Nov. 19: "Friendsgiving" Resonate Service at 6:30 PM – Look for food sign-up sheet (See also the Love Wins calendar in this bulletin)

Important Mission Announcement: *Our Ladies' Group is coordinating a food drive over the next three weeks. **Ready-to-eat** (and ready to **heat**) food is requested during this time of significant food insecurity throughout our communities and beyond. All gifts of already prepared, sealed, purchased food items are being accepted here at the church starting immediately! Please help as you can.*

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)
Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard)

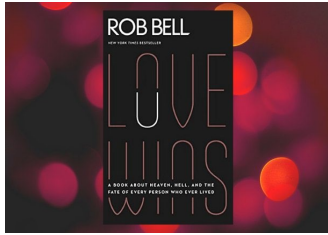
PRAYERS FOR:

Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Dorothy Moyer,
The Vadzemnieks Family, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Rose Goss, Cathie Witmire, Laura Will

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



Love Wins Series at Community United Church

Join us on a multi-month exploration of Christian concepts about the afterlife, including the ancient sacred hope that all people will be redeemed by the love of God in Christ.

October 2025

October 1:	Bible Study (Chapters 1-3 of <i>Love Wins</i>)
October 8:	Spirits & Spirituality: On the Afterlife
October 15:	Documentary & Discussion: <i>Hellbound?</i>
October 16-30:	Small Groups as Requested
October 22:	Art Show V: Does Love Win? POSTPONED UNTIL 2026
October 29:	Evening Small Group Discussion
October 30:	Morning Small Group Discussion

November 2025

November 2:	Church & the Paranormal: Angels, Demons, and the Afterlife
November 5:	Bible Study (Chapters 4-6 of <i>Love Wins</i>)
November 12:	Spirits & Spirituality: Scare Tactics or Love Tactics? How what we say matters.
November 13-30:	Small Groups as Requested
November 19:	Resonate: Friendsgiving
November 22:	Afternoon Small Group

December 2025

December 3:	Bible Study (Chapters 7-8 of <i>Love Wins</i>)
December 4-19:	Small Groups as Requested
December 10:	Spirits & Spirituality: Advent, Christmas, and Eternal Hope
December 17:	Resonate: Living in Waiting