

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 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!**

Welcome & Announcements

Veterans' Day Commemoration

Centering Music

"Sanctuary" #482

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(Repeat all)

Invocation

One: Holy and loving God, in the beginning, you spoke into the chaos and brought forth order. Whenever chaos returns, you speak again and again. Your living Word offers direction, comfort, and a great promise that one day all chaos will be undone.

All: We cast our spiritual vision to that Day when all sorrow will be replaced with joy; brokenness will be transformed into wholeness, and violence and war shall cease. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray—and renew the face of the earth!

*Opening Song

"Sing a New Song" #10

Refrain:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing "Alleluia."*

Yahweh's people dance for joy; O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.
(Refrain)

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.
(Refrain)

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.
(Refrain)

***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 Second Letter to the Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Responsorial

Psalm 98:1-3

One: O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

All: God's right hand and holy arm have achieved victory.

One: The LORD has made known the victory of God; the Holy One has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.

All: God has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. 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 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive."

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

"Step by Step" #494

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways;

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

(Repeat all)

Message:

"The World to Come"

Pastor Rich



Song of Response

"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.

(Sing twice)

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!

Communion Music

"The Revelation Song"

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 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

“Come to Jesus”

Amber Jarosewski

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 your promise of the world to come inspire us to continue to live on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Today, we pledge to join you in the grace of bringing order out of chaos, wholeness where there was brokenness, and love where there was once only hate. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Song

“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty” #19

Blessed be the Lord God almighty,

Who was, and is, and is to come;

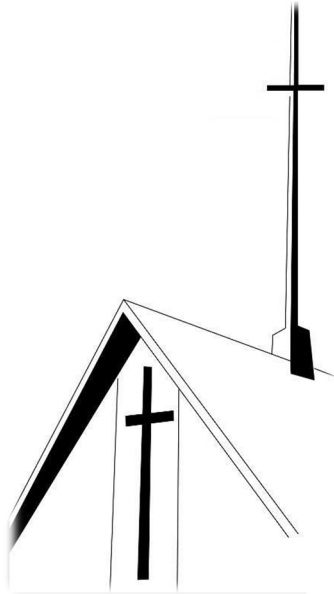
Blessed be the Lord God almighty,

Who reigns forevermore.

(Repeat all)



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



Next Week:
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 98

Luke 21:5-19

Visions of the End, Not Predictions

***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
Linda Weber's Mom and Dad's wedding anniversary.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov. 12: Spirits & Spirituality at Calamari's: *Love Wins: Scare Tactics?* 7:00 PM
- Nov. 13: Crafternoon from 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 – *Please RSVP* and sign up in Fellowship Hall for what you can bring.

(See also the Love Wins calendar in this bulletin)

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)

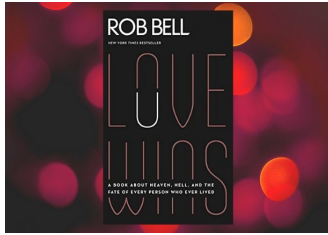
PRAYERS FOR:

Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Wooledge, 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

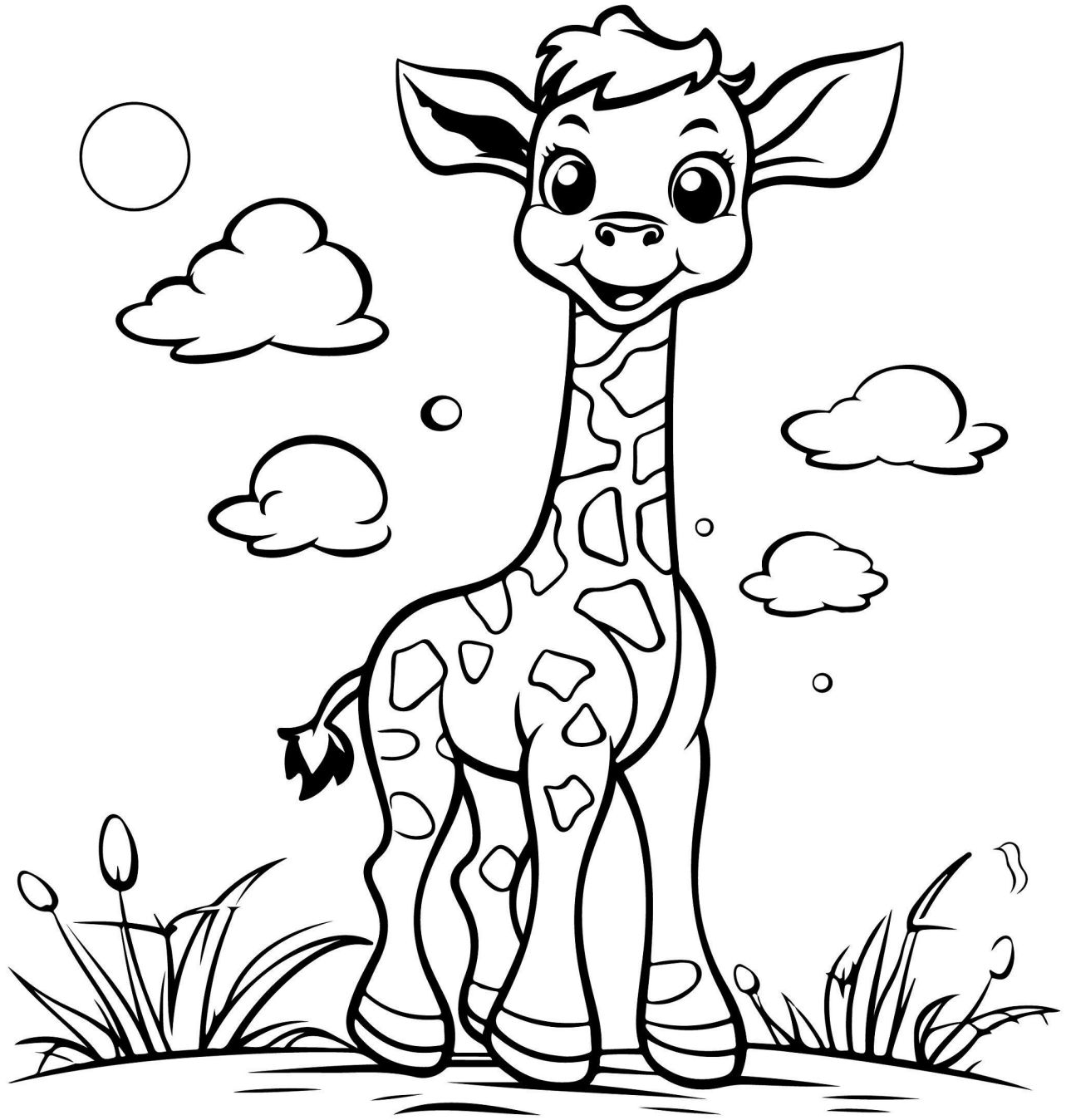
October 1:	Bible Study (Chapters 1-3 of <i>Love Wins</i>)
October 8:	Spirits & Spirituality: On the Afterlife
October 15:	Documentary & Discussion: <i>Hellbound?</i>
October 16-30:	Small Groups as Requested
October 22:	Art Show V: Does Love Win? POSTPONED UNTIL 2026
October 29:	Evening Small Group Discussion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



Love one another
John 13:34