

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



October 12, 2025

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

"In the Name of the Lord" #125

There is strength in the name of the Lord;
There is power in the name of the Lord;
There is hope in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: Holy and loving God, you sent your living Word into our world in the person of Jesus Christ. In his presence, the Reign of God came near. In his teachings, healing truth was revealed. In his death, the ultimate demonstration of your mercy. In his resurrection, new supernatural life triumphed over death.

All: We come to worship you, O God, through Christ, and by the power and presence of your Spirit. Help us to be a people of that new life birthed forth in Christ. Help us to acknowledge you not only in worship, but in the face of the stranger. Until the world is fully restored in love, guide and strengthen us each day. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

"Alleluia" #291

Refrain:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. (Refrain)

Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. (Refrain)

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. (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

The Second Letter to Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.



Responsorial

Psalm 111

One: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is God's work, and God's righteousness endures forever.

One: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: Revering the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever. 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 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

"Open My Eyes, That I May See" #480

Open my eyes, that I may see—glimpses of truth you have for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I want your will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear—voices of truth you send so clear;
And while the message sounds in my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear—gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare—love with your children thus to share.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Message

The Gift and Power of Gratitude

Pastor Rich

Hymn

"Give Thanks" #359

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

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

"Deep River"

Sarah 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

“Simple Gifts”

Sarah 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: Holy and loving God, with grateful hearts we have been refreshed by your living Word, your gentle presence, and the spiritual food from your eternal table.

All: With hearts filled with gratitude, we turn from our time of adoration and worship to go out and serve you again by loving all of those who cross our path. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Surely It is God Who Saves Me” #423

Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.

For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.

So rejoice as you draw water from salvation’s living spring;

In the day of your deliverance—thank the Lord, God’s mercies sing.

Make God’s deeds known to the people; tell out God’s exalted Name.

Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his work God’s might proclaim.

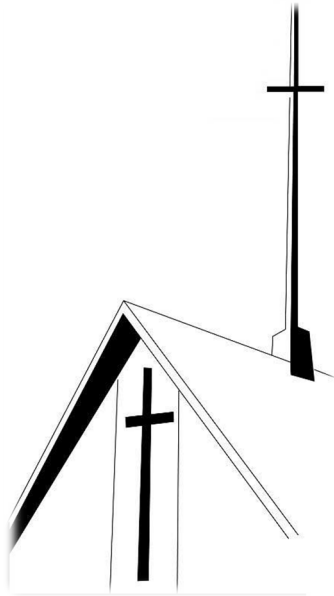
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,

In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



Next Week:

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

Luke 18:1-8

Theme: Keep Knocking, Keep Wrestling

***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 Teresa Kurty by Carol Rodgers for Teresa's birthday, and the second arrangement is given by Penny Churley in honor of her granddaughters' birthdays:

Grace's 18th and Avery's 15th.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 14: Liberty House – Veterans' Ministry
- October 15: Documentary, *Hellbound?* 7:00 PM
- October 19: Dixieland Sunday Worship at CUC and Service Sunday
(see also the Love Wins calendar page 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:

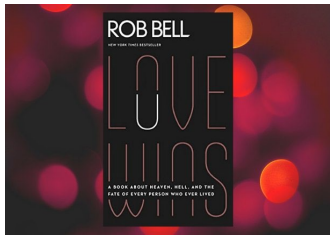
Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Dorothy Moyer,
The Vadzemnieks Family, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Lori Tripp,
Rosie Goss

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

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livestreaming: CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 Streaming License: 20856761



Love Wins Study & 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? Opening Night
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

September 2025 YTD Budget Update:

Offerings & Revenue:	\$93,753.26
Expenses:	\$86,969.08
Net Operating Income:	\$6,784.18*

*Of the income figure of \$6,784.18, we have reserved \$2,448 to cover the cost of our website, and \$2,524.50 to cover the 2025-2026 cost for Snowplowing.