

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



October 19, 2025

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Dixieland Worship

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!*

Prelude

"Precious Lord, Take my Hand"
Medley of Christian Hymns

Cheryl Strecker
"The Firehouse 4" *plus four*

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

"Down by the Riverside"

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more...
I ain't gonna study war no more.
Gonna lay down my burden...

Invocation

One: Gracious and steadfast God, we come before you, grateful for your unwavering presence and boundless love. In moments when our strength is tested, grant us the persistence to hold fast to your promises.

All: Give us the wisdom, we pray, to face every difficulty with bravery and hope and to remain constant through all of our striving, and patient with our ceaseless prayers. Make our hearts resilient and guide us to trust in you as we yearn for justice and seek your blessing, for our own sakes and for the sake of the world. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

"Lord, Let Me into the Lifeboat"

Chorus

Lord, let me into that lifeboat with You,
Please don't leave me all alone way out there in the blue
Put me on the oar, to that beautiful shore,
Lord, let me into Your lifeboat.

*** 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

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.



Responsorial

Psalm 121

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills---from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth.

All: God will not let your foot be moved; the Holy One who keeps you will not slumber. The God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

All: The LORD will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. 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 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

"Through it All" #452

Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God;
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's Word.
(Sing twice)

Message

Keep Knocking, Keep Wrestling

Pastor Joy

Hymn

"Lord, Lord, Lord"

Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me
Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me
Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me
You've sure been good to me.



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

“Amazing Grace”

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 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

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, through voices and instruments we have sung your praises and sought your guidance. May we never cease to recognize your all-encompassing grace. We know, truly, that you will not let us go...for even in our questions and in our struggles, you give us the will to be faithful and persistent in fairness and in love.

All: **With hearts renewed by your Spirit, may we go forth as witnesses to your power of restoration in this world, and may we remain constant in our striving to pray, to give of ourselves, and to not lose heart. Amen!**

*Blessing

One: Jesus on your mainline

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Jesus on your mainline

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Jesus on your mainline

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Why don't you

All: Call Him up and tell Him what you want

One: His line ain't ever busy

All: Tell Him what you want

One: His line ain't ever busy

All: Tell Him what you want

One: His line ain't ever busy

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Why don't you

All: Call Him up and tell Him what you want

One: If you're feeling down and out

All: Tell Him what you want

One: If you're feeling down and out

All: Tell Him what you want

One: If you're feeling down and out

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Why don't you

All: Call Him up and tell Him what you want

One: If you want his kingdom

All: Tell Him what you want

One: If you want his peace and love

All: Tell Him what you want

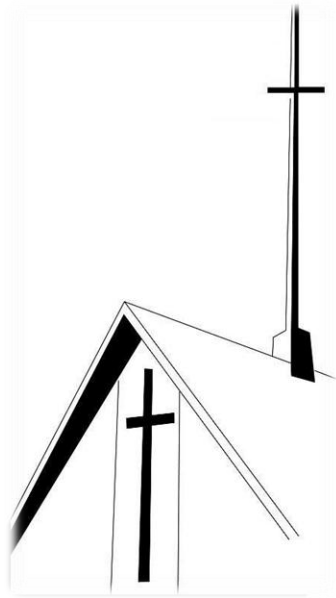
One: If you need some hope today

All: Tell Him what you want

One: Why don't you

All: Call Him up and tell Him what you want

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



Next Week:

17th Annual Diversity Sunday

Readings:

Romans 14:1-13

Psalm 150

Matthew 7:1-8

Theme: Putting Away Judgement, Putting on Love

***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 by Nancy Alberico in memory of Debbie Clouse

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 19: Service Sunday
- October 20: CUC Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- October 26: **Diversity Sunday**
- October 26: Lake Erie Association Fall Meeting here at CUC 3:00 PM
- October 28: Ladies' **Halloween** Luncheon at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
(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:

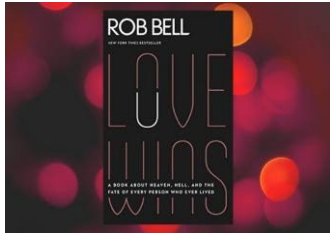
Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Dorothy Moyer,
The Vadzemnieks Family, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Lori Tripp,
Rosie Goss

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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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 (POSTPONED to the first half of 2026 to create more space for additional artists and selected pieces)
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

“The Firehouse 4” *plus four*

Musicians:

Don Cameron, Clarinet*

Shelly Conrad, Vocals*

Cheryl Strecker, Piano*

Carl Jones, Tuba

Marilyn Marszalek, Piano

Dan Nawrocki, Trombone

Mikel Stull, Trumpet

Chris Wagler, Clarinet II

The “Firehouse 4” Dixieland band was formed in 2022, with a saxophone and then brass instruments added in subsequent years. It is an ensemble of the Concert Band of Northwest Pennsylvania and is fostered under a program that encourages small group performances. Community support is the mission of the all-volunteer Concert Band and ensembles. Today, the “Firehouse 4” group is joined by three members of Community United Church. Friends and members of CUC are appreciative of the time and talent that has been given to our congregation for this “Dixieland Sunday.”



*Community United Church musicians

