

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



September 21, 2025

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**The International Day of Peace**

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

International Day of Peace

*The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.*

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 All)*

Invocation

**One:** You engage us, O God, in the work of peace, that all may know respect, value, acceptance and all may experience unconditional positive regard in this world. This worshipping community is a place and experience of your power and love, in the midst of the entire human family.

**All:** **May our presence together in community during this hour of worship be an activity of peacemaking. May our hearts open in awareness to the movement of your Holy Spirit, in love for each of us and all of us, that we may rejoice in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen!**

\*Opening Hymn

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #393

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, each other's burdens bear;

And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

**\* 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 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

## Responsorial

Psalm 113:1-3 (The Message)

One: Hallelujah! You who serve God, praise God!

**All: Just to speak God's name is praise!**

One: Just to remember God is a blessing—now and tomorrow and always.

**All: From east to west, from dawn to dusk,**

One: Keep lifting all your praises to God!

**All: Hallelujah!**

## \*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 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

<sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**One:** This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

**All:** **Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!**

## **Children’s Message**

After the children’s message our youth may return to their seats to be with their family or friends.  
Children’s time in the youth room will resume next week.

**Song of Preparation**

“Peace Train”

Aimee DeYoung and Shelly Conrad

**Message**

*The Creation of Precious Community*

Rev. Evon Lloyd



## Hymn

### “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” #587

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

#### Refrain

*Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand, to be love, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*(Refrain)*

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*(Refrain)*



## 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

“Let it Be”

Brad Stewart

## 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](http://www.communityunited.church)**

*Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:*  
1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

**Offertory/Ministry of Music**

**"We Are the World"**

**Ensemble**

## 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: Precious God, you have entrusted us with the riches of your grace, the very life of this planet, and the lives of all creation. By your Spirit, you are making us increasingly aware of our need for one another, so that we may intentionally be creative, generous, and kind.

**All: In the manner of Christ Jesus, may we be faithful with all you have entrusted to us. May we seek and work for the wellbeing of one another with unconditional positive regard. May we participate in your creation of this particular community as a community of peace, trust and encouragement, that we may go forth to love. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn                      “We Shall Overcome” #512 Vv. 1, 3, 4, 6

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome someday!

**Refrain**

**Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday!**

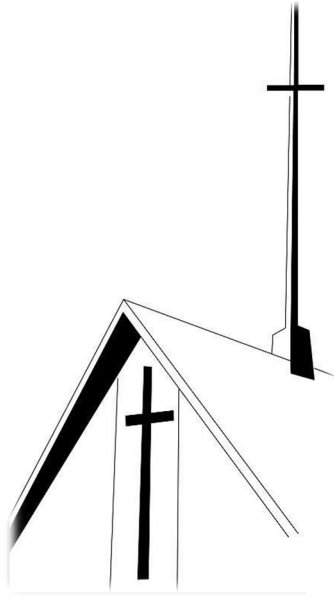
We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand someday!  
*(Refrain)*

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
We are not afraid today!  
*(Refrain)*

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace someday!  
*(Refrain)*



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



**Next Week:**

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Readings:*

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

Luke 16:19-31

**Theme: “Does the Love of God Win?”**

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect  
online with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of Patrick's birthday by Dave Wooledge, and the purple and white are given by Wilma and Janice Skelly in celebration of their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- September 23: Ladies Luncheon –Noon “Brown Bag” in Fellowship Hall
- October 1: Love Wins Book and Bible Study #1 – 6:30-8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall  
*(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)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

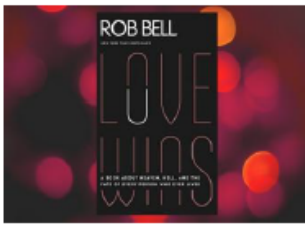
Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,  
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Wooledge, Dorothy Moyer,  
The Vadzemnieks Family, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck,  
Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family

### **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](mailto: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
October 29:	Evening Small Group Discussion
October 30:	Morning Small Group Discussion

### November 2025

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