

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



September 22, 2024

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!*

Centering Music

“The Gift of Love” #397

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Invocation:

One: Lord of all creation, as we gather to worship You, we ask for hearts that are open to
Your Holy presence. Fill this place with Your Spirit and fill our souls with Your
peace.

All: Amen!

One: Gracious God, we know that you are the God of the first, and of the last. Give us the
strength of mind that we might walk the path of humility, rather than the path of
ambition, and the path of wisdom instead of the path of frivolity. Help us to guide
our ambitions in the direction of building Your Kingdom and receiving your love.

**All: Your Word is the Wisdom that gives us insight, strength and courage. May we
seek our direction from You and not be distracted by the chaos of the world. In
the name of Your Son Jesus, we pray. Amen!**

*Hymn

“Great Is the Lord” #50

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true by his mercy he proves he is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you Lord, and worthy of praise.
great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice. I lift up my voice:
Great are you Lord! Great are you Lord!

***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.

Reading

The Letter of James 3:13-4:3

¹³ Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. ¹⁵ This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness^[a] is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it, so you commit murder. And you covet^[b] something and cannot obtain it, so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Responsorial

Psalm 1

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

All: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

One: The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

All: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. 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

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the People of God!

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

Children's Message

Song

"Seek Ye First" #349

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you; Alleluia, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Alleluia, alleluia!

Message

Checking our Ambitions

Pastor Joy



Hymn

“Take my Life and Let it Be” #466

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love,
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee:
take my voice and let me sing,
always, only, for my King, always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee;
take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever,
only, all for thee, ever, only all for thee.



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] ... Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

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

Our offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

**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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Congregational Response (BLUE) #147

***“Praise God, from whom all blessing 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 we endeavor to truly place ourselves last, and be servants of all, for in doing so we will know that we are welcoming Jesus and following His Word.

All: May we have the loving hearts of children so that we can truly be humble and unselfish, even as we strive for excellence in using the gifts and abilities that have been given to us. In Jesus name we pray...Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" #569

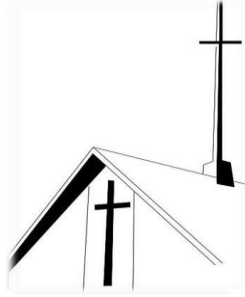
God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.
for the living of these days.

Heal your children's warring madness, bend our pride to your control.
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

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



Next Week – September 29, 2024:

9 AM Praise and Prayer Service!

**11 AM Worship Service
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Assigned Scriptures:

James 5:13-20

Psalm 19:7-14

Mark 9:3-50

Theme:

Cutting Out, Adding In

***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 Dina Johnson in Celebration of Joy & Dina's Anniversary & in Celebration of Janice & Wilma's 45th Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24: Ladies Lunch – Meet at Odis 12 at noon
September 29: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
September 29: Worship Service 11:00 AM
October 2: Supper & Study
October 8: Liberty House
October 9: Spirits & Spirituality 6:30 PM – Calamari's

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY:

The Ladies Outreach Group is collecting FULL SIZED bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash, as well as new or GENTLY USED bath towels. We will be donating the items to the Church of the Covenant where they have a women's shower ministry. We will collect the items through September and October.

Thank you for your support!

Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please see 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), Samantha McHenry (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),

Matthew Anderson (Army), Jaden O'Hara (Army) & Toby Charlton (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier, Dave Wooledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Sharon Cooper, Mary Ann Schmeisser, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah, & Linda Foll-Johnson.

Council Members:

Debbie Anderson (President), Angel Conrad (VP), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, Michele Vahey, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Bob Martin

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