

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



September 4, 2022

11:00 AM

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost.

But having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months:

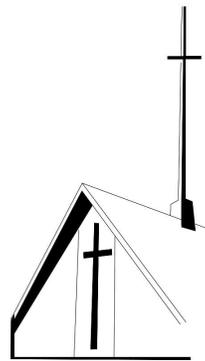
Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church calendar when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.

Today's Readings:

Philemon 1:1-21

Psalm 1

Luke 14:25-33



Theme: “The Cost of Discipleship”

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor
Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

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

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

All: And also, with you!

One: Extravagant God, you pour out blessings upon us and lead us on the path of true life.

All: Help us to choose your way again and again, that we might revel in your love and reflect it to all we meet. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen!

*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 with-hold.

 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.

***Opening Prayer**

The Sign of 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.

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

First Reading

Philemon 1:1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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**

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

One: This is the gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Lord I come to you
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace that I've found in you
Lord I've come to know the weakness I see in me
Will be stripped away by the power of your love

Chorus:

Hold me close let your love surround me
Bring me near draw me to your side
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with you your Spirit leads me on
In the power of your love

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see you face to face
The knowledge of your love as you live in me
Lord renew my mind as your will unfolds in my life
In living every day by the power of your love (***Chorus***)

COMMUNION LITURGY

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. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. We come to the table as 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: *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 who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that you would bring refreshment to their hearts through Christ.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For your creation, that you would convict us of the ways in which we break down and destroy the fabric of your world, and give us the will to amend our ways, as we seek to live in harmony with the goodness you have created.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For the leaders of this world, that you would give all a clear vision of life on earth as you intend and the will to realize that dream of justice and peace for all.

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.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

www.communityunited.church/donate/

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 Music and Time for Contemplation

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.

*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: Abiding God, awaken our hearts to greet you and open our mouths to sing your praise.

All: May we follow the way of Christ even more fully this day, and while we are aware of the cost of discipleship, may we be more mindful of the cost of doing too little to advance the reign of God. And may we rejoice in the gift of living, every day, in your presence. Amen.

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” #504

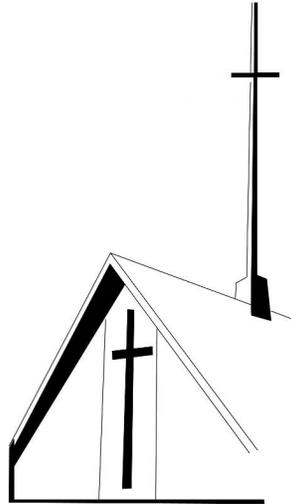
I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Through the world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

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



**Next Sunday, September 11: Fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

11:00 AM

Readings:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Psalm 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

“Theme: The Extravagant Mercy of God”

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
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 CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS FROM MARTY SAWYER

September is CROP WALK month. With participation waning, we are going to try something different this year. We will take a free will offering for the next three weeks. You can find the donation jar on the bulletin table outside of the Sanctuary doors. Please see Nancy or Tracy with any questions.

Coming Up:

- September 7th- RESONATE 7 PM
- September 12th- Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- September 13th- Liberty House Dinner with Veterans
- September 14th- Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM at Calamari's Squid Row
- September 18th- Service Sunday
- September 21st- Concert with Andrew Rainbow
benefitting Liberty House for Homeless Veterans
- September 25th- Breakfast Sunday
- September 27th- Ladies Lunch 12 noon

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR: Rod and Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Diane Walker, George Churley, Rose, Dick, JoMarie, Skinny, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams, Joannie, Brandie, Kathy Koziol and Ralph Kester.

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall