

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



September 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Enough for Today”

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music

“Sanctuary” #482

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.
(sing 3X)

Invocation

One: God of all provision, you hear the hunger beneath our complaints and meet us with bread enough for today.

All: **Teach us to receive what we need with gratitude, to trust your care in every wilderness, and to live as signs of your generous grace. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

“Sing a New Song” #10

Refrain

Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing, “Alleluia.”

Yahweh's people dance for joy; O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.
(Refrain)

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.
(Refrain)

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.
(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

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.' " ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' " ¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

Responsorial

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

One: O give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his deeds among the peoples.

All: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

All: Remember the wonderful works he has done, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

One: He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled. Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it. He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to give light by night.

All: They asked, and he brought quails and gave them food from heaven in abundance. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river. For he remembered his holy promise and Abraham, his servant. So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. 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**

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

"Spirit Song" #352 v.1 2X

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Hymn of Response

"Grace Alone" #436

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith;
Every difference we will make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine;
Every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain

Grace alone which God supplies;
Strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone,
We will go forth in grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach;
Everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away;
Every sorrow turned to praise
Is only by his grace.

(Refrain)



Celebration of Communion

Pastor: Beloved children of God, come to the table with open hands and love in your hearts, for this is Christ's table—a place where every person is valued, treated with kindness, and embraced in fairness and love.

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 we take the 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

Cheryl 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 draw on the Holy Spirit's power within us. We bring forward now the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether they be joys or sorrows.... *(prayer requests are presented)*. We also pray for all who have asked to be on our printed 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 now 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

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 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 "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" Amber Jarozewski

Offertory 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, send us from this time to work in love.

All: Let love guide our decisions and shape our actions.

One: Keep us trusting that Christ is among us.

All: May His love lead us in courage, mercy, and peace. Amen.

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” #72

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

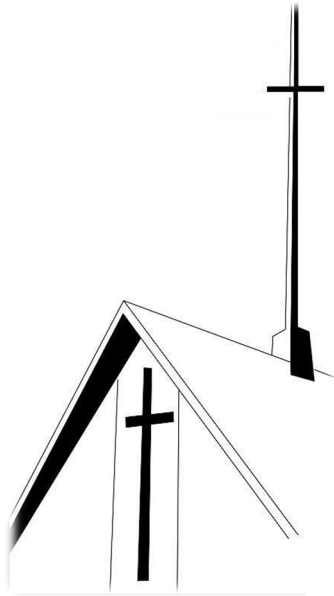
Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)

*Until we meet again, remember: you are
loved.*

Postlude

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



**Next Week:
Sunday, September 27, 2026
11:00 AM**

Readings:
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 25:1-9
Matthew 21:23-32

Theme: Living into Trust

***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

communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com



Community United Church

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Kathy Koziol
in honor of Granddaughter Cheyenne's 11th birthday,
and by Angel Conrad in loving memory of their mother's birthday.**

Thank you both for sharing the flowers with us this morning.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Today, September 20: Service Sunday /And Pastor Joy's Discernment Committee meets
- Monday, September 21: CUC Council 6:30 PM – Please notify Thea if you cannot be here
- Friday, October 2: **Firelight & Fellowship** 6:00 PM Outside!
- Wednesday, October 14: **Spirits & Spirituality:** Calamari's at 7:00 PM

***Need hearing assistance? We have four available devices to enhance your worship experience!
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),
Aran Maloney (Air National Guard), and Connor Bille (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin,
Toni Stevenson, Sandra Ganley, Dorothy Moyer, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Debra Jackman,
Zoey Cathie Witmire, Laura Will, Veronica, Joan Schultz, Michelle and Melissa, Tom and Thea Hyatt,
Randy Koziol, Barbara Thompson, Tanisha and Jaeda, Barbara Hickey, Sandy Gool, Jim Haglund, Ruth Zavaglia,
Brad Stewart, Cain Hickey, Zoey Foote, Earl Hall, Patty Brogdan, friends and family of Rosie Goss, friends and
family of Marilyn Pease, Lynn Oliver, Rowan Oliver, Katrina Strohmeier, Theodore, Bill and Marilyn.

Your 2026 Council Members:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Applebee Davis, Treasurer,
Juli Tonks, Secretary, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, and Chuck Becker

We have 2 open Church Council Positions:

Council Member who serves as the liaison to the Worship Committee

Council Member who serves as the liaison to the Education Committee

See any council member, contact the Church Office or just ask somebody about it!

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters
or use email: communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

Don't forget to check Facebook and our website: **communityunited.church**

Community United Church is committed to ethical and legal compliance
in our music and livestreaming:

CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 / Streaming License: 20856761

Please Join in CUC Community-Building Conversations

The Church Profile Committee requests your input as we develop Community United's Local Church Profile following a format recommended by the United Church of Christ.

A Local Church Profile is intended to strengthen the church and guide our future by assembling relevant data and discerning answers to key questions: WHO WE ARE NOW? WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR? WHO IS GOD LEADING US TO BECOME?

The first step in this work is a series of **Community-Building Conversations**. Here's what to know:

Who: You! Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate in one conversation session.

What: Community-Building Conversations are small-group discussions intended to collect your input and ideas. They're guided by *Grow Your Church*, a format developed by UCC. Participation is as simple as responding from your heart about the question you draw.

When: An initial round of Community-Building Conversations is scheduled after church on some Sundays at least through September. They begin at about 12:15 p.m. in the Education (Meeting) Room and last about an hour. Please choose a Sunday that works for you and add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Six participants are invited to join each week.

What if I can't stay after church: Opportunities to participate in a Community-Building Conversation will be offered on additional days and times. Those conversations will be announced in September.

What else should I know: The conversations are confidential. Ideas and input will be collected without names attached. They'll be analyzed for common themes. Next steps — such additional discussions or surveys — will be determined by the Church Profile Committee in consultation with Church Council.

Questions: Please reach out to **Thea Hyatt, Becky Pomeroy** or another member of the Church Profile Committee:

Jeff Hileman
Ginnie Burger

Juli Tonks
Cheryl Sealy

Tracy Applebee Davis
Sean Leonard

Aimee DeYoung

If you would like to email: please write to any member, or any church person for that matter, at:

communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

and the message will be forwarded directly to whomever you wish!
All feedback is reviewed and is valuable!

Wanted: Part-Time Administrative Assistant

Are you organized, welcoming, and ready to support the life of the church?

Community United Church is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant, about 15 hours per week, to help keep our church office organized, welcoming, and connected.

This role supports worship bulletins, church communications including social media, records, office tasks, Council needs, and coordination with ministry teams and volunteers.

The right person will be a member or friend who attends CUC often, is detail-oriented, experienced with email and office software, kind in communication, and committed to discretion and confidentiality.

Interested? Send your letter of interest and resume to:

communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com