

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



October 13, 2024

The Twenty-first 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!*

Prelude

Cheryl Strecker

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

“As We Gather” #646 (2X)

As we gather may your Spirit work within us,  
As we gather may we glorify your Name.  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,  
we'll be blessed because we came, we'll be blessed because we came.

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, Your Word is living, vital and active and is at the very core of our prayers, worship and praise!

**All: It is that same Word that challenges us as Your children to live according to Your will; by being deliberate in our actions as we seek success without hurting others and share our resources on earth with those who truly need our help.**

One: Grant that we might come to understand Your Wisdom and follow You in this life, as You guide our path to eternal life.

**All: Amen!**

\*Hymn

“Thy Word” #664

Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.  
(Refrain)

I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; and I will love you to the end.  
(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.

**Song**

“Light in the Hallway”

Bob Martin, Julie  
& Chris Moore

## Reading

## The New Testament Letter to the Hebrews 4:12-16

Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. <sup>14</sup> Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested<sup>[a]</sup> as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 90:12-17

One: Lord, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**All: Turn, O Lord! How Long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

One: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us and as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

**All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands! 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!



As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ” <sup>20</sup> He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money<sup>[a]</sup> to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is<sup>[b]</sup> to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another,<sup>[c]</sup> “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” <sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

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

### **Children’s Message**

#### **Song**

“When We All get to Heaven” #525 v. 1,2

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing his mercy and his grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed he’ll prepare for us a place.

#### Refrain

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory.

While we walk the pilgrim pathway clouds will over spread the sky,  
but when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

(Refrain)

Hymn

“The Summons” #350

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in 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**

“How Beautiful”

Bob, Julie, Chris

**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](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

Ministry of Music

“I’ll Stand By You”

Bob, Julie, Chris

**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: God of wisdom and hope, let this be a day when we feel freed from “stuff” that tethers us to the world, and not to you.

**All: May the prayers we have spoken, the songs we have sung, and the messages we have heard bring us closer to a broader understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, serve those who need us, and embrace the truth and reality of Your sustaining love. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn

“Lift High the Cross #287

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

(Refrain)

All newborn servants of the Crucified  
Bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

(Refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally.

(Refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

(Refrain)

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



**Next Week – October 20, 2024:**

**11 AM Worship Service  
SERVICE SUNDAY**

**The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

*Assigned Scriptures:*

1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 26-27

Psalm 139:7-12

Matthew 28:16-20

*Theme:*

*Our Baptismal Identity, Our Baptismal Destiny*

***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 by**

**The Churley family in celebration of Grace's (17<sup>th</sup>) and Avery's (14<sup>th</sup>) birthdays**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 16:	Resonate 6:30 PM
October 20:	Service Sunday
October 21:	Council Meeting 6:30 PM
October 27:	Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
October 27:	Diversity Sunday

### **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 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), 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 Woledge, 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.

### **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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## Resonate: Spirit Speaks

Have you ever wondered if you  
have heard God speak to you?

Do you wonder what your spiritual gifts are?  
Do you long to do what God is calling you to do?

Come to Resonate on October 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 for the pre-service social and  
stay for the service at 7:00 p.m.  
and for fellowship after the service!  
*Bring a snack to share if you can!*

Do you have a story you would like to share where you sensed Spirit/God speak to you  
or through you?

We would love to hear your stories.

Please share with us

prior to Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Please contact*

*Shelly at 814-520-3065 or s.conrad\_777@yahoo.com*

or

*Dina at 814-923-1823 or dinajohnson17@gmail.com*