

LUKE 11:9

**" So I say to you,
ask, and it will be
given you; search,
and you will find;
knock, and the door
will be opened
for you."**

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

247 South Market Street Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Founded 1743

A Creation Justice Church

An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation



Christ Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST





Christ Church United Church of Christ

July 27, 2025

WORSHIP at 9:30 AM



GATHERING

Gathering Music

Justin McLaughlin, pianist

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship, Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"Then Sings My Soul"

arr. Kline/McDonald

Cris Dinsmore, Tom Downing, Jim Keesey, Brian Ressler, and Justin McLaughlin, piano

PRAISING *(Please rise whether in body or in spirit.)*

Opening Words *(responsive)*

based on Psalm 138

One: We give you thanks, O God! From deep within our hearts, we sing your praises. We sing of your ways, for great is the glory of the Lord!

Many: We bow our heads reverently in your presence. Thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. We exalt you above everything.

One: You answer us when we call, even though we may not fully understand that.

Many: The strength within our inner lives increases, even though we may not fully understand that, either.

One: But, we are grateful for the words of life we receive, for we can ask for what we need, and you respond.

Many: Even though you are holy and above everything in our lives, you regard those who are poor in spirit, those who are lowly and spiritually in need, those who seek your deliverance. This is all of us some of the time. So, we come into your house, ever seeking you. Please open wide the lovely door! Amen.

Hymn

"Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling" (vss. 1 and 2)

No. 67

Prayer of Praise *(unison)*

With one voice we thank you, O abundant, life-giving God! We receive your bread of life and friendship which inspire our faith and hope. We can ask you for anything and everything, and you nourish us with what we need. With these signs of your word, bread, and juice, we know your life is given to

us. We know your love is made known, and our whole lives are sanctified and lifted up. We sing our praises to you, O living God! Amen.

Hymn	<i>“Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling”</i> (vss. 3 and 4) (Please be seated.)	No. 67
------	--	--------

SHARING

Children's Moment

Offering our Gifts, Tithes, and other Offerings

Offertory *"On Eagle's Wings"* arr. John Carter
 (Please rise whether in body or in spirit.)

Response	<i>"Take My Gifts"</i> (vs. 2)	No. 562
----------	--------------------------------	---------

Prayer of Dedication

(Please be seated.)

AFFIRMING

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*unison, on screen*)

Men's Quartet "*Ain't a That Good News!*" arr. V. T. Courtney
Cris Dinsmore, Tom Downing, Jim Keesey, Brian Ressler, and Justin McLaughlin, piano

LISTENING

Christian scripture reading Colossians 2: 6-19

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,

¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

Gospel reading

Luke 11: 1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us into temptation.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ **“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.** ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?

¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Sermon

Pastor Galen Russell

"Asked and Answered"

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Moment of Silent Reflection

COMMUNING

Call to Commune

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking of the Bread, Lifting of the Cup

Holy Communion is open for all who wish to know the presence of God in Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Gluten free bread is in the tins. Wine is in the center rings, grape juice in the outer rings. Please have your bread and juice/wine ready at home, if desired.

Response

"Eat This Bread"

No. 788

(Please sing twice during the sharing of the bread.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPONDING *(Please rise whether in body or in spirit for the remainder of worship.)*

Hymn

"I Will Lift the Cloud of Night"

No. 482

Blessing

Postlude

"Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee"

arr. Cindy Berry

End of Worship - Beginning of Service



Our Church in Action

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!! If this is your first time to Christ Church, please fill out a "Connection" card found at the entrances to the sanctuary or pew racks, and put it in the box. Or visit <https://2hac.page.link/mdHS>. Please visit our website: www.etonuucc.org for more information. Welcome!!

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY Scott and Sue Miller in their grateful and thankfulness for all of God's blessings.

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK FOR OUR JULY FOCUS: Bethany Children's Home, because of Bethany's unique and specialized programs, youth have access to a variety of therapeutic, spiritual, and cultural services in addition to recreational activities, and are provided a place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. It's a community where all youth and staff are safe in their environment and feel safe within themselves. To bring this vision into reality, we provide the resources needed for children and families to work through their losses, enabling them to have a brighter future.

OUTREACH FOCUS FOR AUGUST: The Lancaster County Food Hub, which addresses food insecurity through the Food Hub along with fresh produce, it also coordinates the Food Hub Clothing Bank. In addition, it runs the Food Farmacy by partnering with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health to provide free nutrition counseling. And it also collaborates with the Lancaster Emergency Medical Services Association to coordinate Refresh Lancaster, which offers showers and medical consults for unhoused neighbors. Learn more on their website lancasterfoodhub.org. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Lancaster Food Hub!

POSSIBLE YARD SALE: LiFT is considering hosting a yard sale in the Church parking lot (date to be determined). Church family and community members would purchase a space for a nominal fee. The seller would manage his/her own space and keep all profits from the sale. If you have an interest in such an event in the fall, please write your name on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in the hallway so that we can gauge the interest before making a decision. Thank you for your support!

MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS:

- ✝ **Bertha Coffman** has several health issues
- ✝ **Calli Heslop**, one of our Confirmation youth, recovering from surgery
- ✝ **Terry Sorozan's niece Cathrine McKellar**, is now in rehab
- ✝ **Mary Valenzuela**, Peg Berrier's daughter, Cheron Groff's mother has cancer
- ✝ **All our Members at Home** value our prayers as they are unable to attend worship

SPECIAL CONSISTORY MEETING: Today, July 27th after worship at approximately 10:45 a.m. On the agenda are two motions helping to move us forward with our “Building Together in Faith—All are Welcome” project:

- 1. Motion to form Construction Committee
- 2. Motion to solicit bids from construction companies



OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY on our front lawn is in need of more books. If you have books you’re willing to donate, children’s books, novels, books of interest, please help restock the library. Donations may be placed outside the church office.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: We have met twice. Our first meeting was to learn and understand the scope of what we have been asked to do. Our second meeting was to organize ourselves, and to begin writing the profile of the position and of our church, to be publicized and posted. We plan to meet two times in August and hopefully complete the profile. Our committee is hopeful to post and publicize our Associate Pastor position early to mid-Fall. Our committee consists of Calli Heslop (tech specialist), Kim Wolgemuth, Dave Andrick (co-chair), Allison Downing (chaplain), and Steve Stouffer (co-chair).

FIRST REFORMED MEAL Christ Church will be going back to Lancaster to serve a meal at First Reformed on Tuesday, July 29th. We are needing 6 volunteers to help serve the meal. We also need 6 volunteers to help with baking brownies. Brownies will need to be in zip lock baggies as a single serving. Servers should plan to be at the church no later than 3:00PM to travel to First Reformed. If interested, please contact Dori Heisey at 717 -653-5353 or email at dsheisey@hotmail.com.

This Week at a Glance

<u>SUNDAY 7/27</u>		<u>TUESDAY 7/29</u>	
Worship—Communion Sunday	9:30 AM	First Reformed Meal	3:00 PM
Cookie Time	10:45 AM	Contemp. Christian Conv. (ZOOM)	8:00 PM
<u>MONDAY 7/28</u>		<u>SUNDAY 8/3</u>	
Church Office Closed		Worship , Dale Mease preaching	9:30 AM
Boy Scouts	7:00 PM	Cookie Time	10:45 AM
Social Justice Team (Zoom)	7:00 PM	Compost Bucket exchange	
Green Team (Zoom)	7:30 PM		

APPRECIATIONS FOR SUNDAY JULY 27TH:

Lay Leader: 9:30 Abe MacDerment
Acolyte: 9:30 TBD
Ushers: 9:30 Terry Black, Jim Keesey, Ryan Best, Kendra Snyder
Nursery: 9:30 Helpers needed please
Sound/Video Tech: Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels
Musician: Cris Dinsmore, Tom Downing, Jim Keesey, Brian Ressler, and Justin McLaughlin, piano
July Cookie Time: Sponsored by the Green Team
Cover Art: Used with permission. door_20319
Holy Communion Prep: Spiritual Council

APPRECIATIONS FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD:

Lay Leader: 9:30 Tom Downing
Acolyte: 9:30 TBD
Ushers: 9:30 Bill Ansalvish, Deb Ansalvish, Sue Eurich
Nursery: 9:30 Kim Wolgemuth
August Cookie Time: TBD

MINISTERS: ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Our Church Staff

Lead Pastor Rev. Dr. Galen E. Russell, III
Associate Pastor
Director of Music Conner Ulrich
Organist Justin McLaughlin
Director of Carillon Choir Ruthann Ressler
Director of Youth Choirs Ali Spayd
Director of *CollectiveSpirit* Jan Stouffer
Office/Business Administrator Diane Walmer
Treasurer Cris Dinsmore
Facility Manager Josh Larkin
Church Phone: 717-367-1208 **Office Hours:** Mon. - Thurs. (9 AM - noon & 1-5 PM)
Website: www.etownucc.org **Email:** christchurch@etownucc.org