



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

September 13, 2026

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Spirit Sunday

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Deb Dillane, musician

Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Community Cupboard

Ariana Wheeler

Call to Worship, Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Paul Manz

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

Sound of the Shofar

Opening Words *(responsive)*

based on Psalm 103 assorted verses

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul! Worship God's holy name!

Many: With all that is within us, let us bless God's holy name!

One: Let us remember what God has done and is doing in our lives.

Many: Yes! God forgives and renews. God redeems and restores!

One: Our lives, our church, our hopes and dreams are satisfied, filled with God's spiritual goodness and love.

Many: Let the Spirit of the living God blow through this place, calling us, stirring us, moving us to rise on new wings!

Song *"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"* (refrain, vs. 1 and refrain)

No. 286

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Please be seated.)

AFFIRMING

Children's Moment

Commissioning of Faith Formation Teachers

Questions and Promises (*unison*)

We share our joy as partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Commissioning

Song “*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*” (refrain, vs. 2 and refrain) No. 286

Joys and Concerns

May the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

LISTENING

CollectiveSpirit “*World on Fire*” J Smallbone, L Smallbone, Hill, and Tjornhom
Hebrew scripture reading Exodus 15: 1-2, 11-12, 17-21

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

²The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

¹¹“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? ¹²You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

¹⁷**You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O Lord, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.** ¹⁸The Lord will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. ²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

“Grounds for Rejoicing”

*“You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your
hands have established.”*

Moment of Quiet Reflection

COMMUNING

Song *“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”* (refrain, vs. 3 and refrain) No. 286

Call to Commune

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking of the Bread, Lifting of the Cup

Sharing the Bread and 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 paper cups. Wine is light in color; grape juice
is dark in color. Please have your bread and juice/wine ready at home, if desired.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SHARING

Offering our Gifts, Tithes, and Other Offerings

Offertory *“Reflections on the Spirit”* Joel Raney

(Please stand whether in body or in spirit.)

Response *“Doxology”* No. 780

Prayer of Dedication

(Please be seated.)

RESPONDING

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Chancel Choir *“Joy in the Morning”* Natalie Sleeth

Introduction

Song “*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*” (refrain, vs. 4 and refrain) No. 286
 (As we sing the song’s refrain, please move outside to the Memorial Garden.)

¹⁷ My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ But the Lord said to my father David, ‘You did well to consider building a house for my name; ¹⁹ nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ ²⁰ Now the Lord has upheld the promise that he made; for I have risen in the place of my father David; I sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. ²¹ There I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul! Worship God's holy name!

Voice 1: For the ancestors of our church whose ministry was vital and whose vision helped shape our way forward.

Many: Thank you, Lord, for those who have gone before us, for it is on their shoulders we stand.

Voice 2: For the resources that we and others before us have contributed.

Many: Thank you, Lord, that their voices and ours are still speaking!
Each of us hears your call to minister, and above all, to share
your love with one another.

Voice 3: Thank you, Lord! We are breaking ground on this project that will make our building accessible!

Many: For everyone, with different abilities and different levels of mobility,

One: For ministry to take place, Lord, we have grounds for rejoicing!
For you are present with us.

ALL: Thanks be to God! We rejoice! Let's break ground! Amen!!

Ceremonial Groundbreaking

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing

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 at the entrances. Or visit <https://2hac.page.link/mdHS>. You can also scan the QR code in the pew racks to access our website: www.owntownucc.org for more information.

WELCOME TO DEB DILLANE as our church musician today! She is no stranger to our worship services, and she is filling in for Justin who is on vacation. Welcome, Deb!

ALTAR FLOWERS: are offered by Elise Moran in memory of Jim Fecko.

“GROUNDS FOR REJOICING!” SPIRIT SUNDAY—TODAY! Welcome back, Christ Church! We begin our fall program on this great day by commissioning our Faith Formation leaders, sharing Holy Communion, taking part in our Groundbreaking ceremony outside at the end of worship, and enjoying our potluck picnic at the Pavilion!

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC at the Pavilion follows our Groundbreaking ceremony. Everyone is welcome!! Share good food, fun, fellowship and the joy of this momentous day!

THE CEREMONIAL CHAIRS that are part of our Groundbreaking ceremony today commemorate the major gift contributors to our Accessibility Vision project.

ACCESSIBILITY VISION PROJECT UPDATE! Our partners at Horst Construction are targeting tomorrow, Monday, 9/14/26 as their beginning day. In lieu of a construction trailer on our parking lot, Horst will use our church library as their temporary office.

A LARGE PRINT VERSION of the architect's 3D drawings shows what the new entrance, elevator tower, and ramp will look like. These drawings are on display in the sanctuary. Have a look!

CHRIST CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN DURING THE CONSTRUCTION! During the next several months of construction, our church office will strive to remain open with regular office hours. The doors under the portico will be our main office entrance for the time being. Please come into the church using these doors.

FAITH FORMATION FALL CLASSES for all ages began at 9:00 AM today and will continue through Spring. Children's classes meet upstairs. For the adults, the Contemporary Christian Conversation class meets downstairs, and the SHARE class meets in the Library.

MISSION TRIP SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 20th: Our Mission Trip team will lead us in worship by sharing the highlights of their trip to Philadelphia! This is a ONE WORSHIP Sunday at 10:30 AM. Faith Formation begins at 9:00 AM, followed by Cookie Time (aka Snack n Chat), and then we worship together at 10:30 AM.

OUR TWO-WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE begins on Sunday September 27, 2026. Worship and Faith Formation classes are 9:00 AM. Cookie Time (Snack-n-Chat) and choir rehearsals are at 10 AM, followed by Worship at 10:30 AM.

NURSERY: We have college students on board for our Nursery! Each have their clearances, background checks, and have experience working with children. Parents, bring your littlest ones and share in our community of faith!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is coming on Sunday, October 4th. We will recognize Christians around the world and share Holy Communion in a unique way.

MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS:

- † **Merrie Lee Anderson** receiving care for early Alzheimer's disease
- † **Pastor Patty Dodds** recovering at home after pancreatic cancer surgery
- † **Jennifer Hatala's brother Ryan Thomas** had emergency surgery after a stroke
- † **Justin McLaughlin's grandmother** Janice Orshan is undergoing rehab
- † **Arlene Myer, her brother James Berrier**, is home and is not doing well
- † **Cindy Reese** has transitioned to the Evergreen Hospice unit at Masonic Village
- † **Ruth Stauffer** is at Lancaster Rehab after suffering broken bones from a car crash

THREADS & TREADS—11:00 AM to 3:00 PM—OCTOBER 3rd! Come and support this fundraiser that benefits needy and disadvantaged students in the Elizabethtown School District. There will be lots of vendors, games, basket raffle, bake sale, and more. Please see the bulletin insert for more information.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: The confirmation class will begin on October 19 and run until Pentecost. This Faith Formation class is open to 9th to 12th graders. For more information, please contact Pastor Lisa.

COMPOST BUCKET EXCHANGE: The next exchange is today. Please bring your filled compost buckets to the church in exchange for a fresh, clean bucket. Thank you for your faithful devotion to this project.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: October 1, 2026, at TJ Rockwell's at 6 PM. Please sign up in the hallway.

"THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE" is our Stewardship theme this year. All during October we will hear stories of how our lives are touched by our church's ministries. Please prayerfully consider your faithful giving as we prepare next year's ministry spending plan (operating budget).

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH FOCUS: COMMUNITY CUPBOARD Please place donated items in the small grocery cart in the Sanctuary or the grocery cart in the Cookie Room. Thank you for helping us fill these grocery carts which will benefit those with food insecurity.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD CURRENT NEEDS:

Canned Fruit (Mandarin Orange Segments, Pears, Pineapple, Peaches)

Knorr Rice & Pasta Sides

20 oz Ketchup

24 oz jars of Applesauce

Unsweetened Applesauce Cups

Chicken & Beef Ramen

Snacks & Cookies

Cereal

16 oz cans of Tomato Sauce

16 oz cans of Diced Tomatoes

16 oz cans of Carrots

16 oz cans of Beets

16 oz cans of Potatoes

Pancake Syrup

Paper Towels

Diapers Size 3

Shampoo & Conditioner

Laundry Soap – 10 to 15 Loads

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: September is Suicide Prevention month. Please see the Weekly NET for vital information on 5 steps that are known to help someone contemplating suicide. We have several booklets on this topic and many others located on the wall in the Cookie Room. These are available for you to take with you.

PARKING SPACES with the wheelchair symbol are designated for those who need handicap access to our building. Thank you for not parking in those spaces unless you have a handicap sticker.

APPRECIATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Lay Leader:	Judy Guise
Acolyte:	Maddie Spayd
Ushers:	Cris Dinsmore, Kim Wolgemuth, Kendra Snyder, Laura Salick, and Jason Henry
Nursery:	Staffed
Musicians:	Deb Dillane, guest musician
Sound Media Team:	Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, and Dave Andrick
Altar Flowers:	Elise Moran
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Cookie Time:	Spiritual Council

APPRECIATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Lay Leader:	Bob Sorozan
Acolyte:	McKenna Moran
Ushers:	Terry Black, Amy Dickinson, Andy and Jo Brandt
Nursery:	Staffed
Musicians:	Justin McLaughlin, organist and pianist
Sound Media Team:	Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, and Dave Andrick

This Week at a Glance

Sunday 9/13 (Spirit Sunday!)

Faith Formation breakfast (children)	9:00 AM
Adult Faith Formation	9:00 AM
Cookie Time	10:00 AM
Worship with Groundbreaking	10:30 AM
All-Church Picnic	12:00 PM

Monday 9/14

Boy Scouts	7:00 PM
Marketing and Evangelism	7:00 PM

Tuesday 9/15

Staff Meeting	10:00 AM
Common Sense	6:00 PM
Worship Committee	5:00 PM
Carillon Rehearsal	7:00 PM
Contemp. Christian Conv. (Zoom)	8:00 PM

Wednesday 9/16

Etown Farmer's market	4:00 PM
Cherub Choir	5:30 PM
Carol Choir	6:00 PM
Credo Choir	7:00 PM
Chancel Choir	7:30 PM

Thursday 9/17

Pastor Galen away until Tuesday, September 22nd.

Sunday 9/20 (Mission Sunday)

Faith Formation	9:00 AM
Cookie Time	10:00 AM
Worship—Mission Trip participants	10:30 AM

MINISTERS: All the Participating Members of the Congregation

Our Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Dr. Galen E. Russell, III
Associate Pastor	Rev. Lisa Clark
Director of Music	Conner Ulrich
Organist	Justin McLaughlin
Director of Carillon Choir	Ruthann Ressler
Director of Youth Choirs	Ali Spayd
Director of <i>Collective Spirit</i>	Jan Stouffer
Office Administrator	Megan Devenney
Treasurer	Cris Dinsmore
Facility Manager	

Church Phone: 717-367-1208

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. (9 am - noon & 1-5 pm, call first)

Website: www.etownucc.org

Email: christchurch@etownucc.org

Christ Church Network: Christ Church Office-guest PW: TrustInGod1208

