

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net) Web page: [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

August 28, 2022

9:30 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**“Receive the Invitation”**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: Welcome to the banquet of hope, the open bar of prayer, the “anonymous” circle of acceptance.

**All: We come because we are invited.**

One: Welcome to a fiesta of joy or a mercy meal of tenderness, where every seat is a place of honor.

**All: We come because we are invited.**

One: Welcome to a party for God’s love-reveal, where all seating is a circle, and karaoke is never necessary because we sing our own stories.

**All: We come because we have an invitation, not on paper, simply our names.**

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

**God, we come this gathering of community where there are no barriers, and all our abilities are celebrated as gifts. We come to receive your hospitality of caring for each one of us and to learn from you how to offer such a celebration to stranger, friend, chosen family, those whose faces are unfamiliar to us, and the face who meets us in the mirror. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: “Pass It On”

Prayer Transformation and New Life

One: God, sometimes we say, “I’m too busy,” to invitations to kindness, friendship, or activism, or pretend to be “too busy,” and avoid being indebted, pitied, or rubbing elbows with those who make me uncomfortable.

Sometimes we accept an invitation to be involved, celebrate with someone, or just have coffee, but back out or “no-show.”

**All: Forgive us when we skip your parties. God, sometimes we are “imperfect guests,” wanting to be the center of attention, and other times we insist on always being host, giver, one in control, receiver of praise and gratefulness. Forgive us when we fail in gratitude or generosity. Amen.**

Words of Grace

God loves, invites, nudges, embraces us in all our resistance to simply hold a balloon of joy and clap at the candles of another’s cake. We are forgiven; a plate is set for us. Amen.

\*Hymn: “Oh How He Love You and Me”

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

**7** When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. **8** “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, **9** and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10** But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11** For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” **12** He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Reflection

Special Music: Way Maker

\*The Pastoral Prayer...The Lord’s Prayer

**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

\*Invitation to Generosity

We are invited to offer our resources, our time, our abilities, our compassion, on days when our lives are full and days when our lives feel empty. We are invited to offer what we have and accept what we need. Our practice of gathering our gifts together and presenting them for God's blessing is a profound "yes" to the invitation of God.

\*Presentation of Gifts.....The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

**God, we bring these gifts, our response to your invitation. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. Amen.**

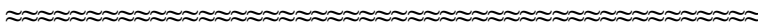
\*Closing Hymn: "Because He Lives"

\*Benediction

May you be blessed when you sit at fine tables of welcome and when you spread the picnic blanket of peace. May you be blessed in giving and receiving, not repaid, but your hearts repaired.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude



**Receive the Invitation: Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** were written by Maren C. Tirabassi, a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also lover of summer, the company of dogs, mystery novels and science fiction conventions.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Anna and Joseph Benner from their daughter, Linda.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Len and Judy Hoch in memory of their son, Colby.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Nancy Civitts.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Kathy Latshaw.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

**Mask Wearing** - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church. Thank you.

**Mark Your Calendar** for our Ice Cream and Bingo Social on Saturday, Sept. 17!

**The Windows Committee** is planning another Matching Gift Challenge in the fall to benefit Phase 3 of the restoration. Anonymous "challengers" are needed to make this a success. Please see or call Beth Massa or Ruth Stansfield to participate or for more information.

Our **Worship Service** will begin again at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> with Sunday School and Confirmation Class beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Choir** rehearsals will start back up again on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. Join us!

**Pancake Breakfast** fundraiser at Bally Mennonite Church, Saturday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-10:30am. Pancakes, French toast, scrapple, sausage, eggs and pastries. Benefits Mennonite Disaster Service.

### **Prayer List**

Shirley Dolly Nancy Michael Audrey Faye Julie Gerri Jim  
Barbara & Leon Michael Alan David Family of Susan Family of Dave  
MaryAnn & Family of John Jeff Clark Lagler Family Christoph Josh & Jen  
Kerrigan Family Nester Family Families in Berwick Students heading back to school

**Military** - Drew Stahler Chad Kichline Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser

### **Week of August 28-September 3, 2022:**

Boy Scouts – Monday @ 6pm  
Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm  
Grief Share – Thursday, 1-3pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Worship

### **Total Offerings from August 21:**

General Offerings: \$1,948.00  
Mission: \$100.00  
Windows to the Future: \$95.00  
Cemetery: \$10.00  
Attendance: 38