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

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org Church Office: 610-966-3601 Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger	Pastor
David Carlson	Organist
September 4, 2022	9:30 a.m.

\*those who are able may stand

# "Like Clay"

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: Like clay, we arrive at this time of worship:

All: Shapeless and full of potential, we arrive.

One: Like clay, we prepare for this time of worship:

#### All: Stretched and twisted into formation, we prepare.

One: Like clay, we enter this time of worship:

#### All: Formed and ready for warmth, we enter.

\*Opening Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" (vs. 1 & 2)

Prayer of Invocation

One: Let us pray.

#### All: Loving Creator, maker of everything good, we are in your hands. Be with us now as we gather ourselves to seek your wisdom and strive to become the people you would have us be.

p.690

Prayer Transformation and New Life

Unlike clay, we actively resist the diverse ways you shape us into what the world needs. We frequently struggle to trust in your vision for who we could become. We anxiously avoid facing the heat that protects and sustains us. We humbly confess to these and all our shortcomings.

(moment of silence)

### Words of Grace

God graciously chooses us despite our self-destructive ways. God repeatedly mends our broken places and unceasingly delivers us from harm toward wholeness. All thanks be to God! \*Hymn: "Abide with Me" (vs. 1 & 3)

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

**18** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2** "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. 4 The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 6 Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. **7** At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, **8** but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. 9 And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, 10 but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. **11** Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reflection

Special Music

\*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

The cost of discipleship is bold and radical. It requires a countercultural giving of possessions and self. Let us risk the safety of ordinary and choose to build with God by sharing our tithes, offerings, and our very selves.

\*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

Holy Giver of all Gifts, we thank you for this opportunity to share our gifts and participate in the various ministries you've placed before this faith community. Bless these monies and each one of us as we go back out to continue your work in the world. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (all verses) p.139

\*Benediction

Before your birth, you were wonderfully and fearfully formed. Like clay, may God continue to reform and reshape you into your truest self, now and every day after. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles \*Postlude

*Like Clay*: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Phiwa Langeni, the Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement for the UCC's CARDD and the Founder of Salus Center in Lansing, MI.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Francis Hartman from BettyLou Hartman.

# TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS are from

Len and Judy Hoch in memory of their son, Colby's Birthday

And

in memory of Paulette Shankweiler from Godson Bobby.

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

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Les Schoenberger.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

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.

**Windows to the Future:** Going, going, almost gone! Four quilts have been sold, raising \$1,900 to benefit the windows restoration. Details on the sale of the remaining two quilts will be announced soon. Sincere thanks to the donor of the quilts and the folks who generously purchased them.

The 2022 Matching Gift Challenge kicks off in September and runs through the end of November. The challenge currently stands at \$3,000, but there is still time to add to this number. For more information on being a challenger, please contact Pastor Lori, Ruth Stansfield or Beth Massa. Our **Worship Service** with begin again at 10:15 a.m. next 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!

**Ice Cream and BINGO Social** – Join in for a night of fellowship and fun, Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in our lower social hall.

**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.

Join us on **Saturday, October 1** at the **Upper Milford Community Day** from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Upper Milford Township building. Our booth will have a coin toss! Do you have any extra dishes or odd pieces of glassware that you want to share for this cause? Extra plates or bowls? Old vases that you don't need? Please bring them to church and mark them coin toss. We will earn a little money for the church and help you clean out your cabinets. A win-win for all! Confirmation students, mark your calendars. This activity will count as extra credit!

## Week of September 4-10, 2022:

Boy Scouts – Monday @ 6pm Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm Grief Share – Thursday, 1-3pm Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:15am Communion Worship

# **Total Offerings from August 28:**

General Offerings: \$823.00 Mission: \$30.00 Windows to the Future: \$10.00

Attendance: 37

Ukraine Disaster Relief: \$40.00 Parking Lot Maintenance: \$20.00 Cemetery: \$145.00