

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 11, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

“A Blistering Wind”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: Come, Beloved of God, the blistering wind of life is not the end.

Many: May the eye of the storm still us into wholeness and hope.

One: May the wind of God, turn us around toward trust in Holy promises.

Many: May our promises to God be pressed anew into our hearts and minds.

One: May everything of excess be released and refined for Love's good work.

Many: May God's vision of a world made new arise from God's wind in and through us.

Prayer of Invocation (Remembering 9/11) (unison)

O Holy Wind of God, sweep through our lives. Pause us into your presence, slowing our breathless pace. Refine in us a renewed willingness to bear gracious goodness into the chaos of the world. Let our memories on this day, call forth an alternative to the easy response of violence for violence. Form instead a steady commitment to return love in the face of fear, hope in the midst of despair, and mercy for every brokenness of the world's design. By this, form anew the heart and mind of Christ in us, here, now, today. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “How Great Thou Art” (all verses)

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: O God, have mercy on me because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been my daily detour. Wash me inside and out with the shower of Your love because my life carries a residue of regret I cannot shake loose on my own.

Many: I know myself too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to me. Now take every burden that crushes and form in me a new creation. Take every iniquity and instill your sweet song of forgiveness. Let your wisdom rise in my mind and your mercy in my heart that I may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mend not only me but the world. And may Your loving truth form a new creation in us all.

Words of Grace

Hear this good news: God's memory of our misdeeds and misdirection is short. But God's loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ Jesus, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent, power. By this, God has forgiven us and invites you and me to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our life with others. Thanks be to God!

*Hymn: "My Tribute"

p.54

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, **13** even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, **14** and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **15** The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. **16** But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. **17** To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reflection

Choir Anthem

Update on "Windows to the Future"

*The Pastoral Prayer

The Service of Holy Communion

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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

Our lives are gifts not of our making. But by our consent to Love's deep desire we are indeed remade. God is generous in this way, searching out every lost sheep or coin or beloved child until the fullness of joy rises in celebration. So we are invited to share in the sacred savoring that comes with self-giving that begins and ends in God. May our yes of giving grow Love's delight in us.

*Presentation of the Offering.....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)

O Love, stretch wide my heart, open my mind, saturate my soul and form me anew in the gift of this day. Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in my path at every turn. Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all around and within this body not of my making, but given by You to steward Your love for a season short or long. "Yes...thank you...Love," let this be my prayer, even as words fail to capture You in me and in all creation seen and unseen and beyond what eye can see but which soul can sense in silences beyond words. Yes, Love, stretch wide my heart for this. And thank-you. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (verse 1 only) p.33

*Benediction

May the wind of God be strong in you. May it be neither too little nor too much for the gift of each day that is your life. May it be strong enough to deepen your root in God. May it be gentle enough for you to catch the breath of life. May it teach you how to breathe the grace and peace of Christ into the life of the world, multiplying this blessing over and over again. Blessings on you, beloved of God!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude



A Blistering Wind: Service Prayers for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 19 were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of Jack, Elizabeth and Doris Brown from the Richards-Brown Family.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Maynard and Barbara Dreas in honor of the Birthdays of their son, Jeff; grandsons, Dan and Tristan.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Lee Hoch.
TODAY'S GREETER is Peter Yeakel.

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 now 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 2002 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 see or call Pastor Lori, Ruth Stansfield, or Beth Massa.

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

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!

Special Congregation Meeting – October 2, 2022 after Worship to vote on By-Law changes. Copies of changes in September Newsletter and in back of Church on the sound system.

GriefShare sessions are being held in our lower social hall on **Thursdays** from **1:00-3:00 p.m.** each week. We will meet until Thursday, November 17th. You may join in at any time. Please register with Pastor Lori, call or text at 610-393-3522. This group is open to all!

Week of September 11-17, 2022:

Boy Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Grief Share – Thursday, 1-3pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 6pm at Ozgood's

Ice Cream & Bingo Social – 6:30pm in Lower Social Room

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

10:15am Worship, Loose offering will go into our

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Confirmation Orientation after Worship

Total Offerings from September 4:

General Offerings: \$1,433.00

Mission: \$35.00

Windows to the Future: \$160.00

Communion: \$36.00

Electric: \$50.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$15.00

Attendance: 40