

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

November 27, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday of Advent/Hope
“Stay Alert”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

All: We come today with eager expectation. Our feet are standing within God’s gates.

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

All: We come today with holy expectation. Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

(Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us, God of the hope that the present has brought us, We call on you in this hour of worship. We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us—Emmanuel, even before the child was born. We open our hearts to receive your gifts, for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, the Giver of joy, the Giver love. Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

1 Watcher, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, O a wondrous sight!
See that glory-beaming star!
Watcher, does its beauteous ray
News of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel!

2 Watcher, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth!

3 Watcher, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, I rejoice today,
For Emmanuel has come!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

(Moment of silence)

One: In a world full of hopelessness,

All: We have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God. Consumed by the chaos of the world, we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace. We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods felt in days when unborn hope had died; We've forgotten that you promised us hope for a future. So, stimulate our memory, dear God. Remind us of that hope you assured us of. Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.

Words of Grace

Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of God.
Amen.

*Hymn: "Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless"

1 Let us hope when hope seems hopeless,
When the dreams we dreamed have died.
When the morning breaks in brightness,
Hunger shall be satisfied.
One who sows the field with weeping
Shall retrace the sorrowing way.
And rejoice in harvest bounty
At the breaking of the day.

2 Faith and hope in love's compassion
Will survive though knowledge cease,
Though the tongues of joy fall silent,
Dull the words of prophecies.
Faith shall see and trust its object;
Hope shall set its anchor sure;
Love shall bloom in Love eternal.
Faith and hope and love endure.

3 Like a child outgrowing childhood,
Setting childhood things away,
We will learn to live in freedom,
In the life of God's new day.
Now we see as in a mirror.
Then we shall see face to face,
Understand how love's compassion
Blossoms through amazing Grace.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, **39** and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. **41** Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. **42** Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43** But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Reflection

Choir Anthem

*The Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Generosity

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

*Presentation of Our Offerings and 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

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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*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.

*Closing Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand,
may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

*Benediction

One: Go forth with the gift of hope

All: Guiding you toward the path of peace.

One: Go forth with the gift of joy

All: Guide you toward the path of love.

One: Go forth with anticipation,

All: Trusting that God will bless and keep you,

One: God's face will shine upon you,

All: And God's grace will never leave you. Amen

*The Sung Benediction

**The Lord Whom we love, Whom we worship and Adore,
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us
Together And He it is who sends us apart. To be God's people, be
God's people. Amen.**

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude



Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of Lee and Jean Latshaw and Edna and Theodore Eck from Kathy and Dan Latshaw.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Mark Weaver.

TODAY'S GREETER is Nancy Weitzel.

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.

Our **Annual Congregation Meeting** will be held next Sunday, December 4th immediately following worship. At this time, we will discuss the budget, elect new Consistory members

and consider any other business that may come before the congregation. The Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held that same day.

Windows to the Future - As of November 20, \$3,751 has been contributed to the \$4,000 Matching Gift Challenge. The challenge continues through November and with your generous support, the goal will be reached.

The remaining two **Quilts** are on display in the upper social hall. The asking price is \$350 each or best offer. The holidays are coming and they would make great gifts for a special family member or friend. They will also be offered for sale during the bazaar and basket auction, so don't wait and miss this wonderful opportunity. All proceeds go to the windows fund. See Pastor Lori, Beth Massa or Ruth Stansfield.

Poinsettia Order Forms can be found at the entrance to the Church. Orders are due by Tuesday, November 29.

All are welcome to Supper Club Friday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad Street, Emmaus. Remember this is a cash only venue. If you wish to bring a gift please select something for Bright Hope. RSVP to Linda or Mark Weaver before November 28.

Gifts will be received in the box outside Pastor's office until December 4th. List of items needed can be found on the Sound System.

Lunch Bunch will meet Friday, December 16 at 12:00 p.m. at Superior Restaurant, 102 State Avenue, Emmaus. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark no later than Monday, December 12.

Don't forget to check out the **Angel Tree** before leaving today. This year the angels don't have specific items to purchase. Instead, they have information where you can purchase items needed by The Kindness Project, which assists foster families. You can go on The Kindness Project website and purchase an item through Amazon Smile, or if you prefer, you can donate money to FUN Group, and we will purchase items on the Amazon list.

White Gifts will be collected for the young adults (ages 10-21) who live at Bethany Ministries on **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10:15 a.m.** Their Wish List can be found in the Newsletter.

Christmas Eve Worship – This year we will have a 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and a 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service. Our 3pm service will be candles and carols in a shortened service.

Week of November 27-December 3, 2022:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz, hours Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

10:15am Worship, Congregation Meeting & Cemetery Association

11:30am Confirmation Class and Mentors

Total Offerings from November 20:

General Offerings: \$1,548.00

Mission: \$145.00

Windows to the Future: \$165.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$27.00

Heat: \$20.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

PNEC: \$29.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$45.00

Cemetery: \$50.00

Attendance: 51



Bethany Children's Home

Christmas Wish List

Thank you for helping create new, positive memories in our youth's lives!
Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age.

We kindly ask that all items are new and unwrapped.

We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.

Clothing

bath robes: young women and men • athletic shorts: men's small • sports bras: M-XL • low-cut white athletic socks: men and women • sweatpants • men's athletic shorts • underwear • sports bras • men's gloves • men's pajama bottoms • women's pajamas

Cottage Needs

Zippered waterproof mattress cover – twin • tower fans • comforters for girls • lightweight twin-size blankets • towels • washcloths • pillows • all-plastic hangers • mp3 players • flat irons • Dust Busters • bagless vacuum • air fryers • plastic laundry baskets • deodorant • cocoa butter

Recreation

indoor basketballs 29.5 inch • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • mechanical tool set • 2-stage or 3-stage locking carabiners • Nerf guns and ammo • Roller blades or skates sizes 4-13 • multi-tools for fishing • 5-gallon water cooler • Mylec floor hockey balls - orange • knee hockey sets • 2-part resin for casting and pouring • adult beach volleyballs • footballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • screwdriver sets • allen wrench sets • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • yoga blocks • hand wraps or MMA gloves

Music Education

earbud headphones • ukuleles • drum sticks • clarinet reeds (strength 2.5 and 3) • acoustic guitar strings • ukulele strings • guitar picks • hand percussion instruments • area rug • bean bag chairs • Menchey Music gift cards • iTunes gift cards • boomwhackers • hand drums

Art Studio

Michael's, JoAnne Fabric, GoggleWorks, and Shutterfly gift cards • wrapped canvases • canvas boards • canvas paper • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • acrylic gel medium • acrylic modeling paste • Gesso (White, Black, & Clear) • clear semi-gloss finish spray paint • spray paint, assorted colors • fabric paint • paint pens • tabletop easels • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and inks • Pony Beads (including numbers and letters) • Masonite Board • gold leaf • Stabilo pencils • artists' pens • rubber stamps & ink pads • rub-on transfers • 3D string art kits • Diamond Art kits • dream catcher kits • sand art supplies • macrame cord • stencils • letter & number stickers • origami paper

Gift Cards

TJ Maxx, Ross, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ulta, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's and Kohls, Boyer's and Redner's markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, gift cards for local greenhouses, Sheetz, Wawa, Foot Locker

Questions regarding gifts? Please call 610-589-4501, ext. 305.

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs and activities throughout the year. www.bethanyhome.org
The official registration and financial information of Bethany Home Inc. and Bethany Children's Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.