

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

May 28, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Pentecost Sunday

**Read before Worship and Ponder: "Passing of the Peace"
(Speaking of Jewish and Samoan Diaspora)**

Welcome to the last Sunday of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! However, in the Church, today is Pentecost Sunday, a celebration of the Holy Spirit, affectionately thought of as "the birthday of the Church". It is a day when we recount how our faith ancestors though scattered throughout the world, were all represented in Jerusalem and able to hear the apostles speaking in the tongues of their new homelands.

There are approximately 70 Samoan Churches affiliated with the United Church of Christ. We know firsthand what it means for our people to be dispersed around the world as the Samoan population is dispersed throughout the whole Pacific including Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, and the USA. The initial migration of Samoans to the United States was driven by the U.S. Navy (military movement) shortly after WWII, particularly settling in Hawaii and then in Southern California. Of course, the migration then established local gatherings that gave birth to the beginnings of the indigenous congregations.

Would you believe that of the approximate total Samoan population of 700,000, over two-thirds live outside the Samoan Islands? So, as Jews might have opportunity to reassemble in Jerusalem for important festivals like Pentecost (Shavuot), we Samoan sometimes, if we are fortunate, may also have opportunity (or obligation) re-assemble back in Samoa for special occasions.

This morning, we invite you to greet one another by "speaking in tongues"; that is, with the simple Samoan greeting "Talofa!" or even more politely "Talofa lava!"
***Sidenote: The word talofa comes from an old Samoan phrase, "si o ta alofa" which means, "my love for you". "Talofa!" from Faaaliga o le Alofa "FOLA" Church in Las Vegas

Prelude: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Akers

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

Many: Today, followers of the Way gather in many places,

One: From Jerusalem to Galilee, from Pago Pago to Apia.

Many: From Rome to Arabia, from Las Vegas to Cleveland.

One: God's Spirit still blows like a mighty wind

Many: Breathing new life into the sails of our canoes.

One: God's Spirit still burns like tongues of flame

Many: Dancing over the heads of our Toa* [TOH-ah] (brave ones).

One: God's Spirit still flows like currents of living water

Many: Connecting hearts and islands of all believers.

One: Praise God! Viia le Atua! [vee-EE-ah leh ah-TOO-ah]

Many: Viia le Atua! Praise God!

All: Let us worship God, from whom all life's blessings flow!

- Cultural note: Toa – defined as 'brave one(s)'
In ancient Samoa, warriors may demonstrate prowess and bravery through artfully twirling, throwing and catching, and dancing with war clubs: these exhibitions were known as Ailao. At night, twirling of lit torches may have been added to the ritual. This developed into the modern Siva Ailao Afi (fire knife dance) that is performed in many Polynesian cultures.

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

O Holy Spirit, come and blow through this gathering space as Mighty Wind as you did with the apostles at the beginning of the Church. Pour your Spirit upon us all, both colonized and colonizer, of all ages, all genders, to speak your words, see your vision, dream your dreams toward your great and glorious day when everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Flow like rivers of living water from the hearts of believers through the songs of praise, words of worship, and prayers of devotion. Amen!

*Opening Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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Prayer for Transformation

One: Dear God, le Atua e (leh ah-TOO-ah eh) God of oceans and land and all life contained therein. You created this world by the power of your word. By your own hands and breath, you formed humankind in every conceivable shade of brown. You gave us islands and continents as a gift and charged us

to be the stewards of what you have made.

Many: Creator God, we have failed you and abused your gift to us. We have offended you and defiled your creation, including seeing fellow human beings as being less than created in your very image. Forgive us for betraying your trust. Forgive us for our greed and arrogance.

One: Hear the cries of islands drowning in the rising seas, oceans that rise with the melting of the ice. Hear the cries of our world in distress through storm and drought.

Many: God of Life, heal your wounded earth. Embolden us to choose the path that leads to life so that we may renew your Shalom in land, sea, and sky. This we ask in the name of the one who came that we way have life in abundance, your Son, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

Le alofa o le Atua (leh ah-LOW-fah oh leh ah-TOO-ah), God's love does not belong to one person or group of people. God's love and forgiveness is available to all, even those who do not ask for it. You can also be agents of God's love and healing, so let us strive to receive and give this gift of God's restoration with Creation and with each other. Be God's love and healing for people and planet. Amen.

*Hymn: "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

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Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. **5** Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15** Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. **16** No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: **17** 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. **18** Even upon my slaves, both men and women in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. **19** And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. **20** The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. **21** Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity (Call for the Offering)

At the birth of the Church, all who believed were together and had all things in common: they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. The work of le Agaga Paia (leh Ah-NGA-nga Pah-EE-ah), the Holy Spirit, flows like living water from the hearts of believers. Shall our confidence in the mission of our congregation and the wider church also overflow freely with the generosity of the faithful? May each of our families give without measure so that the larger family of faith may be a vessel of Good News to the world! (Cultural Note: On special occasions, traditional Samoan money dance may be used as a gift to the church.)

Offertory: "Holy Spirit, Fill Me Now"

Smith

* Presentation of Our Gifts 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 Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)

Heavenly God, even as the first believers did in the early church, we lay our gifts at the feet of the apostles. May these gifts support the ministry of our congregation as well as strengthen the wider United Church of Christ and ecclesial partner, the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, as well as the whole of the Samoan ecclesial family here and everywhere. Give our leaders gifts of

discernment for wisest possible use of these resources which we dedicate to you today. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you! Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Spirit of God"

Besig

*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

*Closing Hymn: "Spirit of the Living God"

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*Benediction

Dear Siblings, Sisters and Brothers, God's Holy Spirit goes with you, blows with you, and flows with you. So let us be as Vai Ola, Living Water, flowing from within this worship service out to a thirsty world. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Hear Now, the Heavens Rejoicing"

Denton



Flow Out from Within: Service Prayers for Pentecost Sunday was written by Rev. Mikey Kelemete, Senior Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa (Vision of Grace) Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, affiliated with both the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano Amerika Samoa) and the United Church of Christ and Rev. Samuelu "Sam" Tialavea, Associate Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa. Pastor Sam also serves as secretary for United Samoan Ministries of the UCC and in the Southern California Nevada Conference as Vice-Moderator for the Eastern Association as well as secretary for SCN Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries. Would you like to see what worship in a Samoan church in the USA looks like? Visit us on facebook: (20+) FAAALIGA O LE ALOFA – VISION OF GRACE CHURCH in Las Vegas, NV USA | Facebook

TODAY'S GREETER is Larry Stahler.

TODAY'S ACOLYTE is Addison Trexler.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Sherri Farrell.

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

Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.



Supper Club will meet on Friday, June 2 at 6:00pm at Casa Catrina Mexican Restaurant, 1905 Brookside Rd, Macungie. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark by tomorrow, Monday, May 29. The next **Sunday Brunchers** will be Sunday, June 11, 2023, Noon (RSVP no later than

Monday 6/5) Mercantile Club (Cash Only), 427 Railroad St, Emmaus, PA 18049. **Lunch Bunch** will meet Friday, June 23, 12 noon at Hamilton Family Restaurant. Please RSVP no later than Monday, June 19. These events are open to anyone wishing to join us for good food and conversation!

Soup Sale!! The Social and Aid Committee will be making Ground Beef Vegetable Soup and selling it by the quart. **Orders need to be in by Thursday, June 1st.** Order forms can be found at the entrances to the church. Proceeds will go to our General Fund.

Youth Group!! Starts on Friday, **June 2 from 6-8 p.m.** at the church, meet in our downstairs social hall. Join OZUCC "Youth" Group for Friendship, Reflection, Experience and Discovery (FRED) with God.

Next Sunday:

- is the last day to bring in your **Peanut Butter & Jelly** for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. Thank you for your contributions.
- is the **last day of Sunday School**. The children will be singing in Worship, please plan to be here to support them. Classes will resume in September. And there is always room for more teachers and more helpers!
- our **Covered Dish Lunch immediately following worship to celebrate our Sunday School Children!** No sign ups. Social and Aid will be making plenty of hamburger barbecue. You bring the side dishes, veggies, fruit, pickles, chips, desserts, etc. Just a good old fashioned covered dish lunch! Y'all come! All welcome.

Attention Soon-to-be Grads! Please let the church office know if you or a loved one will be graduating from High School, College or a Military program this year. We would like to honor you for all your hard work by putting your name and the name of the school in next month's newsletter. We would love to hear any future plans you would like to share with your church family also. You may call the church office or send us an email. **We will be celebrating all of our graduates in worship on Sunday, June 11**

Mark your calendars: **June 11** - Sunday after worship - we will have a **Lunch and Learn** seminar with Financial Advisors from Oaktree Advisors, LLC

Save the Date for the upcoming events at the Dillingersville Schoolhouse (7226 Schoolhouse Lane, Zionsville) Saturday, **June 24, 2023** – come and hear "River of Grace" Gospel Quartet at 6:30 p.m. **Sunday, June 25, 2023** will be our 77th Annual Pilgrimage combined church service with Rev. Bob Gerhart speaking. Following a buffet lunch will be offered for a donation. Bake sale at both events (donation of baked goods appreciated).

The International Meeting of the UCC - General Synod will happen on June 30-July 4. Please keep all of the delegates and leaders in your prayers. Our own Kathy Latshaw will be attending as a delegate from PNEC. Daniel will be there as a visitor too.

Week of May 29-June 3, 2023:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm. Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm (please call before coming)

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

Last GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Elders – Wednesday @ 7pm

Outlook – Thursday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 6pm – Casa Catrina

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

All Emmaus Yard Sale – Saturday at Pastor Lori's, 27 W. Berger St., Emmaus – 8am-12p

Next Sunday – 9:00am Last Sunday School and Confirmation Sunday Morning Class

10:15am Communion Worship, Covered Dish Lunch

Total Offerings from May 21, 2023:

General Offerings: \$1,733.00

Mission: \$110.00

Communion: \$10.00

Windows Fund: \$100.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$7.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$25.00

Cemetery: \$5.00

Attendance: 43