

**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

June 11, 2023

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Second Sunday After Pentecost**

**“Mercy”**

Prelude: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Glyncannon

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: This month we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride as we work toward greater inclusion in every church, workplace, and family.

**All: We gather today to be refreshed, renewed, and strengthened in our faith and in our resolve for the work we must do together.**

One: Listen, there is a voice calling us.

**All: It is the voice of our Divine Beloved.**

One: The one who loves us invites us to mingle our voices together.

**All: We call out in worship and praise together.**

One: Bring your hopes, expectations, and longings that you have carried with you throughout the week.

**All: Here they are. We speak them in our spirit and with our words.**

One: Come and worship. Come and praise. Come and pray.

**All: We commit ourselves to this sacred time of celebration.**

\*Opening Hymn: “We Are Called to Be God’s People”

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: We acknowledge our suffering, brought about by queerphobic rhetoric in politics and in many churches.

**All: So many of us are sick, scared, dying, or trapped.**

One: Holy Love, we can’t hold this alone.

**All: We are discouraged and calling out to you.**

One: We acknowledge racism and the increase in violence toward our black and brown siblings.

**All: This is unacceptable and sinful. We examine ourselves first for any prejudice which contributes to this violence.**

One: God of Mercy, change us where we need to be changed.

**All: God of the Resistance, we stand with you and with our black and brown siblings in rebellion against our racist system.**

One: Divine Beloved, we acknowledge that it is hard to see ourselves as you see us.

**All: Too frequently we put ourselves down or feel shameful about our personhood.**

One: We malign your excellence and creativity when we try to fit into boxes not made in our shape.

**All: Remind us of our goodness when we praise Your goodness.**

One: The extent of Your image is a mystery to us. Help us to see this great mystery in ourselves.

**All: Give us strength to claim our inherent sacrality.**

One: We become scared that others will mock us for seeing Your image as our intrinsic nature.

**All: Find us, O God, in the midst of our fear. Give us strength to proclaim, "We are made in the image of The Divine!"**

Words of Grace

All that The Creator made is good. Rest assured; The Creator made you. You are good. You are holy. You are sacred. Sometimes we have to be careful how we present to others and with whom we share our authentic selves. While not all people can be trusted, we trust God to love us and celebrate us for who we really are. Lift up your head. Be proud. Allow yourself to know who you are. We praise God when we celebrate the diversity of humankind. Let us glorify God by celebrating the beautiful mystery and diversity that we each hold in ourselves. May your mind be at peace, your spirit soar, and your body be elated, as you feel Holy Love surrounding and uplifting you.

\*Hymn: "Spirit" see insert

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-9

**12** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**4** So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. **5** Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set

forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, **6** Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. **9** And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

#### Matthew 9:9-13

**9** As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. **10** And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. **11** When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **12** But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **13** Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

#### Reflection

Commissioning of Dan and Kathy Latshaw for their  
Journey to the UCC General Synod

see insert

#### Invitation to Generosity

We are called to build a community. One beyond the status quo. Beyond our own expectations. This comes at a cost of time, talent, and treasure. Just as Moses stirred the hearts of his people, we are called to be stirred to give toward this Kin-dom we are creating. They brought blue, purple, and crimson linen. They brought fine metals and gems of all kinds. Our gifts are likewise varied. Likewise valuable in the sight of God and each other. It is our willing hearts that make our gifts precious. In our giving, no matter how much or what kind, we connect our spirits and continue the work of Kin-dom Creation.

Offertory: "In Christ There is No East or West"

Reinagle

\* 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.**

\*The Offering Prayer (unison)

**We are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love. Teach us to weave our lives together. We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good. In this way, each day, we begin again in love. Amen**

Choir Anthem: "Jacob's Ladder"

Newbury

Recognition of our Graduates

\*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: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

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\*Benediction

One: Go forth when the light is too bright be comforted in the shadows

**All: When the dark is too dense be illumined by the light**

One: When the road is too rocky be soothed by the grass

**All: When the chill is biting be warmed by the breath of God**

One: Go forth carrying with you and within you the strength of God renewed  
the power of God assured and the wisdom of God embedded within your  
Spirit and inspired from God's Spirit

**All: Go forth in the Name of Love. Amen**

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Hughes

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**Mercy: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Pentecost** was written by Rev. Mak Kneebone, who is passionate about creating wholeness in our broken world by following the path of Jesus as Christ.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Peter Yeakel.

**TODAY'S ACOLYTE** is Piper Miller.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Chris Schell.

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.

**Today** we celebrate two recent Graduates within our Church Family. **Lance Hoch** has graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He will be off to live in Stamford, Connecticut. **Chanellor Yenser** has graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. He will be working as a Project Mechanical Engineer at Lutron Electronics. Chanellor graduated Cum Laude. Congratulations to both of these young men and we wish them much luck in their futures.

**Help is needed as follows:** Monday, July 3 for sorting and getting ready for next giveaway. If you would like to help that day come anytime, we will be at the Church by 10:00 a.m. Set up on Saturday, July 8 from about 10 - 12 noon, Lower Social Hall. Give Away on Monday, July 10 from 4 - 6 p.m. Give away on Saturday, July 15 from about 10 - 1 p.m. (includes clean up time) Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

We were able to sell leftover items from the last giveaway the weekend of June 9, 10 and 11 at the Emmaus Community Yard Sale. Profit of \$186.25 has been placed in our General Fund. Thank you all for your generous donations. Please remember that everything donated should be gently used, clean and in working order. Also free of smoking odors due to allergies.

**Sunday Brunchers** will be meeting today at Noon at the 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!

**Sunday, June 25, Worship** will be at the Dillingersville Schoolhouse (7226 Schoolhouse Lane, Zionsville). Enjoy entertainment on **Saturday, June 24, 2023** – come and hear “River of Grace” Gospel Quartet at **6:30 p.m.** **Sunday, June 25, 2023** will be our 77<sup>th</sup> 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). See the June Newsletter for more information.

**Summer Worship begins Sunday, July 2 at 9:30am.**

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 June 11-June 17, 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)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

**Saturday – Iron Pigs Game**

**Next Sunday** – Last 10:15am Worship until September,  
Loose offering will go into our Pastor's Discretionary Fund

**Total Offerings from June 4, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$3,064.00

Mission: \$30.00

Windows Fund: \$240.00

Communion: \$44.00

Church Lawn: \$25.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 83

Commissioning of Kathy Latshaw, Delegate to General Synod from PNEC and Daniel Latshaw, visitor of General Synod #34, June 30 - July 4, 2023, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The United Church of Christ gathers as a body at General Synod with representatives from all settings serving as delegates and visitors. During that gathering, worship provides a central role in forming us as a faith community dedicated to remember our past, to celebrate our present, and to envision our future.

**Leader:** Each of us is connected to God. When we welcome one another, we are welcoming God. A Prophet is a messenger of God like: Moses or Jeremiah, MLK or Greta Thunberg. Prophets may offer messages to: Stop oppression and injustice, Love one another, Feed my sheep, change your ways, care for creation. Sometimes the words are challenging and prophets are ridiculed, dismissed, or rejected. What does Jesus say? We will be rewarded if we welcome prophets. It is as simple as offering a cup of cool water.

**Kathy:** During the meetings, worship, messages, and many committee meetings, we will be focusing on the call of Jesus. "Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing."

**Leader:** One of the big things that will be decided and voted upon during General Synod this year is the change in leadership of the General Minister and President of the UCC, the Rev. John Dorhauer — whose tenure as the UCC national leader will come to a close at the end of this Synod. Associate General Minister the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson — whose candidacy to succeed Dorhauer will be voted on by Synod delegates. There will be many other issues discussed, debated and voted upon. Do you Kathy, agree to listen faithfully to the discussions, share your opinions as you see fit, and cast your votes based on your informed faith?

**Kathy:** I do with God's help.

**Leader:** Daniel, do you agree to support Kathy and listen to her as she discusses with you the issues brought up during Synod?

**Daniel:** I do with God's help.

**Leader:** As a covenant people, bound together across many churches, Associations and Conferences, we gather as the whole body of the United Church of Christ for General Synod 2023. We come together under the promise of covenant to do the business of the whole church and to bear witness to the work of individual churches, Associations and Conferences. Do you, the members and friends of Old Zionsville UCC, promise to pray for Kathy and Dan as they travel and represent us at this General Synod?

**All: We promise our prayers, our love and our care to go with them and the whole delegation from Penn Northeast Conference.**

**Leader:** It is in this light that we send them on their way with blessings as we anticipate their return with reports of what they experienced and how we can support the United Church of Christ Faith family in the future. Amen.

**Sing:** as they return to their seats: Because He Lives (first verse only)

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