

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

July 23, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
“The Seed”

Prelude: “Near to the Heart of God”

McAfee

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer, may we relish in the fruit of our labor,

Many: As we harvest the fruitful seeds of nature and God’s Garden, let us share in the bounty with our neighbors.

One: While we channel resources – water, light, fertile ground to the produce we desire in our gardens,

Many: May we also recognize that the weed, the rabbit, the caterpillar also has needs for sustenance.

One: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through sharing.

Many: For what our land grows with our tending, is only ours for a moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need.

All: May we share the harvest by tithing back to nature, feeding the hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and setting enough seed aside for the next season of planting.

Invocation (unison)

God of many names, mother of all creation, father of all that is, womb of life, and wellspring of all that we can ever know, we invite your presence here as we seek to embody your loving spirit and create your presence among us. We are in need and we turn to you to be with us as we practice creating the kin-dom of heaven here on earth. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God of creation and plenty, it can be easy for us to forget the abundant nature of your love.

Many: We forget that there are ample riches from this earth if we manage your resources you and we share generously among all your beloved children.

One: We forget that we are all created in your divine beauty, perfect specimens of your holy vision for a people who can love without bounds, share without tallying, and celebrate among the great diversity you created to thrive together.

Many: Guide us to give of that abundance, to receive with grace and gratitude, and to turn our hearts from the perception of scarcity. We confess that we fall short; and we ask that you show us the path again to your fruitful garden where all things grow and flourish.

Words of Grace

Let us know that God has always provided us with growth and abundance and will continue to guide us in the care of bounteous fields that spring forth with plant and animal, both weed and seed. We are all worthy of this enduring joy and sustenance as beloved children of God.

*Hymn: "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

insert

Scriptures: Genesis 28:10-19a

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" **17** And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." **18** So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Reflection

Special Music: "You Are the Seed" by Gabarain

Invitation to Generosity

As recipients of the many ways in which God provides, let us share this generosity with others whose seeds have not yet taken root, whose plots need tending.

Offertory: "Blessed Be the Name"

Hudson

*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 Dedication and Thanksgiving

One: We dedicate these resources to doing God's work among God's people.
All: May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God's children who seek it; may they remind us to love more mercifully; may all walk humbly as we learn to tread gently upon this earth. Amen.

*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: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

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*Benediction

One: God's people, you are called to go forth and appreciate the weeds among us, as we have each been in the wrong place at times.

Many: Go from this place during this harvest time and taste the ripeness of a plump tomato, the sweetness of fresh steamed corn, the crisp coolness of cucumbers.

One: Please go in the knowledge that there is enough for all, be it God's earthly blessings that are so delicious and nourishing or God's love that connects us.

Many: Share in these gifts and know that we are all enough.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "The Solid Rock"

Bradbury



The Seed: Serviced Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost was written by Dr. Sherry Warren who serves as Minister of Women's and Gender Justice for the National Ministries of the UCC. She loves to garden and grow things.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Les and Deb Schoenberger.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Pat Sajkowicz.

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.

Pretzel Sale TODAY!! Pretzels will be sold after Worship for \$2.00 each.

Youth Group will meet on Friday, July 28 from 6-8 p.m. in our downstairs social hall.

Confirmation Class Serves the Lord! Fellowship fun after church **NEXT Sunday**, July 30. Instead of the car wash originally scheduled, we will have hot dogs, baked goods/desserts and soft pretzels for sale plus breakfast casserole, coffee and Bingo. We will meet downstairs in the air-conditioned social hall to raise money for the general fund.

Calling all bakers/dessert makers – Could you please make something for the confirmation sale after Worship on Sunday, July 30? Bring to Worship and plan to stay to see what others have made.

Zionsville Area Food Pantry is in need of boxes of Macaroni and Cheese and canned pasta meals, any variety. Thank You.

ATF Room help is needed Mondays, July 24 and July 31 for sorting and storing. If you would like to help come anytime, we will be at the Church by 10:00 a.m. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

We will be participating in the **Annual Vera Cruz Homecoming** again this year with the ever popular coin toss. If you have items to share for that, feel free to bring them to the bench outside of Pastor Lori's office. We will need help to "staff" the booth between 12 noon and 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. If everyone just decides to hang out for about an hour we can have a great time together. Our brothers and sisters from the Lutheran Church and the Mennonite Church plan to join the fun too! See you then.

Kids, get ready for **Vacation Bible School**, coming **July 31—August 4 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.** at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie! Pirates will be running around as we learn and play with our "Shipwrecked" theme. It will all happen on a deserted island where we learn that Jesus takes care of us wherever we are. Parents and guardians - pick up registration forms at church, or go to their website gracemacungie.org and click on "classes and interest groups", you will see the link for VBS. Turn completed forms into the church office, or drop them in the mail. Get ready to have a good time with some old and new friends at Shipwrecked!

GriefShare will start again on Tuesday, August 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the lower social hall. Our last session will be November 21. Each session will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It was very helpful to our spring participants. I know it will be helpful for you! Suggest this ministry to anyone who has had a death of a loved one. These 13 weeks of learning and growing closer to God will help everyone who is looking for closure and peace. You may participate in as many Grief Share Programs as you like and may join in at any time during the course of the program. All Welcome. Please speak with Pastor Lori.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott Street, Allentown is having Worship on Wednesdays evenings at 7 p.m. for those interested. They will have special music each week outside under the pavilion across the street (inside if bad weather). This Wednesday, July 26, "The Blend" from The Barn Faith Community will be there. Next Wednesday, August 2, music will be from "Union Praise Band", Union Evangelical Lutheran Church. Bring your own chair, Free Will offering will be collected each week for a chosen organization.

Week of July 23-July 29, 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)

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

Next Sunday – 9:30am Worship, BINGO & food after Worship

Total Offerings from July 16, 2023:

General Offerings: \$3,111.00

Windows Fund: \$110.00

Building Repair: \$60.00

Lancaster Seminary: \$191.51

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$15.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 39