

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

August 6, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
“For Compassion”

Prelude: “Prayer”

Smart

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 adapted)

Leader: The Holy One is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: The Holy One is good to all, with compassion for all God’s creation.

Leader: The Holy One upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

Leader: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

People: The Holy One is just in all ways and always kind.

Leader: The Holy One is near to all who call on God, to all who call in truth.

People: The Holy One fulfills the desire of all who are in fear and also hears their cry and saves them.

Leader: The Holy One watches over all who love the Divine Presence and will make wickedness no more.

All: My mouth will speak the praise of the Holy One, and all flesh will bless God’s holy name forever and ever.

Invocation (based on Isaiah 55:1) (unison)

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and we who have need come, receive the abundance of substance provided freely for our bodies and souls. Incline our ears, and let us come to God to listen, so that we may live. Our Creator makes an everlasting

covenant with us as God has with our ancestors. We ask for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in this sacred space, so we can recommit ourselves through word, love and action to our everlasting covenant with our God in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "O Word of God Incarnate"

p.414

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession)

Leader: As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace. (Allow a short moment of silence.)

Leader: Dear God,

All: the creator of all things based on love, you created us in your image of love. There have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace (Assurance of Pardon)

Scripture tells us if we are "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us". Rest assured, my friends, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

*Hymn of Grace: "He Is Our Peace"

p.614

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. **24** Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." **27** So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." **28** Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." **31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity (Call to Offering)

We are grateful for the gifts that we receive in our lives. We invite you to participate in this opportunity of generosity to continue the mission of God's Love to the world. We are grateful and thankful.

Offertory: "Communion Meditation"

Dubois

* 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)

O Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ's Name. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

Leader: As we prepare to come to the table of Christ, let us lift the celebrations and concerns of our beloved community.

Leader: Dear God, we know that you have heard our prayers and we ask that the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with us today and every day. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray singing:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the wine.

We remember, the night before Jesus would be betrayed and crucified, that he sat among his friends and took bread, blessed, and broke it, and said "Take and eat for this is my body given for you. As often as you do it do it in remembrance of me".

After the supper had ended, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

My friends, whenever we share this bread and cup, we remember the compassion and love Jesus taught and the call to follow Christ in all we do.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Let us pray.

Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and justice to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as they are the symbol of Christ's essence in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

p.621

*Benediction

Dear friends, we have been nourished in the love of God who created us, God who redeemed us, and God who sustains us. Go in peace, sharing the Good News. Amen.

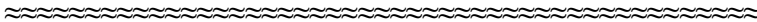
*The Sung Benediction

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: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Allen



***For Compassion: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH.*

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Joyce Nishnic.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Richard and Brenda Shoemaker in memory of loved ones.

TODAY'S GREETER is Chris Schell.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Kathy Latshaw.

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.



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

Thanks so much for your support of our BINGO event last Sunday. We added \$378.00 to the General Fund! The pretzel sale on July 23rd brought \$204.00 to the General Fund. Together we can do great things!

ATF Room help is needed for Monday, August 7 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.

Brunch after Worship Sunday, August 20 at Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad Street, Emmaus. This is a cash only venue.



Welcome all to the next round of GriefShare at Old Zionsville UCC!

We begin meeting on August 29, 2023 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. each Tuesday until our 13th session on November 21, 2023. You are welcome to join in anytime, but please register with us so we can have enough books on hand.

We will meet in the lower Social Room which is well heated and air conditioned. The group is free to participate but we ask a donation of \$15 or whatever you can share for the workbook. This is payable at the first session, cash or checks made out to Old Zionsville UCC.

Attending the first session does not lock you into the whole series, but we do hope to have a great group gathered to learn and support each other. Please invite your friends or others who may benefit from this group. You can participate in the program more than once. People who have done so say they have learned more going through it the second time as they continue to heal.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Lori. We are excited to offer this wonderful program for all in our community.

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, August 9, music will be from **The Cedar Routes**,

Orchard Hills Church, Breinigsville. Bring your own chair, Free Will offering will be collected each week for a chosen organization.

Week of August 7-August 12, 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

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Next Sunday – 9:30am Worship

Total Offerings from July 30, 2023:

General Offerings: \$2,035.00

Communion: \$2.00

Windows Fund: \$62.00

Mission: \$15.00

Electric: \$25.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$40.00

Attendance: 44