

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 13, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
“For Faith”

Prelude: “Bless This Earth”

Calkins

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: God moves among us.

Many: We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter by what means you arrive.

One: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with you.

Many: We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you are present when we fear or ache.

One: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it calms our hearts.

Many: May we rest assured that you are ever present with us, assuaging our worries as you love our anxieties into softness.

Invocation (unison)

God of so many names, you command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those whose need companionship. Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence.

*Opening Hymn: “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

p.688

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God our gentle parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us and blow us off course.

All: We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us, and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges in a complex world. Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence in order to focus on what is most important: love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Even when we doubt, God is with us. God walks beside us, through us, with us, in all that we do. Miracles are among us if we see ourselves with God's loving gaze.

*Hymn: "Bring Many Names" insert

Scriptures: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. **2** These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. **4** But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am."

14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, **15** and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" **16** "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock."

17 The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. **19** They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. **20** Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." **21** But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." **22** Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. **23** So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of

his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, **24** and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. **25** Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26** Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27** Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. **28** When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Reflection

Special Music

Invitation to Generosity

The gifts of faith come to us in many ways, and the miracles we witness are not always so obvious. May the manifestation of God's great abundance in our lives inspire us to generosity in as many ways as we see God's love unfurl.

Offertory: "Purer In Heart"

Ritter

*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 (unison)

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in ways both big and small, in ways miraculous and mundane. Use our gifts to further your loving justice in our communities near and far. 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: "There Is a Savior"

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*Benediction

As we go forth from this time of intentional community and ministry, let us practice replacing fear with faith and worry with a calm that is rooted in God's grace. May we more deeply connect with the freedom that comes from trust in something larger than ourselves. Go in peace and do God's work among all of God's people.

*Extinguishing of the Candles
*Postlude: "Praise and Exaltation"

Smith

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**For Faith: Service Prayers for the Eleventh 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.

***Our Organist, David Carlson, will be on vacation next Sunday. Plan to be with us to Welcome our visiting organist, Jane Ellen Knotek.***

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of Troy.  
**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of her parents.  
**TODAY'S GREETER** is Nancy Weitzel.  
**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Les Schoenberger.

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.

**ATF Room help is needed for Mondays, August 21 and August 28** 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.

**Do you enjoy eating Sausage Sandwiches?** The Outlook Committee will be making Sausage sandwiches in October!! Deadline to order will be September 24, watch for order forms coming soon!

**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 16, music will be from **Grace Notes Gospel Big Band**. Bring your own chair, Free Will offering will be collected each week for a chosen organization.

**Week of August 14-August 19, 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

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Worship

Brunch at the Mercantile Club, Emmaus

12-8pm Vera Cruz Homecoming

**Total Offerings from August 6, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1,672.00

Communion: \$97.00

Mission: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$100.00

Attendance: 40

BINGO Fundraiser from July 30: \$378.00

Pretzel Sale Fundraiser from July 23: \$204.00

Windows Fund: \$112.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$25.00