

**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 20, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**“For the Heart”**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

**All: A “yes” to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.**

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

**All: A “yes” to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you, O Heart-maker.**

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God’s table of plenty,

**All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Selah. Amen.**

Invocation (unison)

**Have mercy on us, O God of Healing. We call out to you for ourselves, our community, and our world that has so much suffering. At times we are discouraged to name what we need, by society or family expectations that were uncomfortable with needs. So often we were simply never taught how to hold this part of us with tenderness and boundaries. But your Word invites us in to name what torments us and to receive your love and acceptance. Grant us your grace to take in the strength of your belonging. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

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## Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Today, our scripture passage shows us the power of repentance. And how profound is it to see this embodied in Christ, who changed his perspective and actions because of an encounter with the force of mother advocating for her child and dignity.

**All: May we have the courage to admit when we've been wrong, the courage to ask for forgiveness, and the open heart to change our ways. Amen.**

## Words of Grace

What a blessing to experience metanoia, to have it offered by our God who made us to grow and change. In times when we struggle to make the turns we need in our lives, may God's grace and this community walk with us in the labyrinth of forgiveness. Amen.

\*Hymn: "God Will Take Care of You"

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## Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

**45** Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. **3** Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. **4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. **10** You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' **12** And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. **13** You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." **14** Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his

neck. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

## Reflection

### Invitation to Generosity

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that God's house is "a house of prayer for all peoples." And it is in such a place where offerings are acceptable to God. Here, in this place of extravagant welcome, may our offerings of time, energy, money, resources, skills, hope, and prayer be lifted up to our God. May they be discerned for the good that ripples out beyond our walls and felt by all who enter them. Amen.

Offertory: Jane Ellen Knotek

\* 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)

**Let us give thanks for all that we share, as well as the way that we share. May our gratitude for this community and the Spirit's presence in this space guide us in how to show up in our lives. May we know how to give but also how to receive, how to say, "yes" and when we need to say, "not today." Let us lift up, and take in, the gift of thanksgiving. 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 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.**

\*Closing Hymn: "I Will Serve Thee"

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\*Benediction

May God's extravagant welcome go with us wherever we go. May we learn what it means to belong as God's beloved and extend this acceptance out in the world. Let us remember that with deep love, the waters of justice flow. And with grounding in our own dignity, the fire of freedom lights up the world. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude

**For the Heart: Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry who serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at [chhsm.org](http://chhsm.org).

**Our sincere thanks today to Jane Ellen Knotek for substituting as our organist. May God continue to Bless You.**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Richard and Brenda Shoemaker in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Robert and Annie Souder in memory of loved ones.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Roger and Mishelle 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.



**Brunch** after Worship TODAY at Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad Street, Emmaus. This is a cash only venue.

**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. On Saturday, September 2, 10 a.m. we will need help setting up for our Giveaway on Monday, September 11 and Saturday, September 16. 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 TODAY** with the ever popular coin toss. If you would like to help "staff" the booth between **12 noon and 5 p.m.** you are more than welcome to come join the fun. See you there!



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, 2023. Order form enclosed with today's bulletin.

**Supper Club and Lunch Bunch** will be starting up again in September. Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 8 for Supper Club. We will be meeting at 6 p.m. at Fairgrounds Hotel and September 29 for Lunch Bunch. Lunch Bunch will meet at 12 noon at Perkins on Lehigh Street. Sign up in church or let Linda and Mark know if you are planning to come.

We will be offering a **New Member Class** on Sundays, November 5 and November 12 at 9:00 a.m. If you know of anyone interested in learning more about the church, please invite them to join us during both class times. If they wish to join, we will talk about it during the classes. We will meet in the Upper Social Hall.

The Upper Milford Historical Society will **host a program on Old Zionsville** at the Upper Milford Township municipal complex, 5671 Chestnut Sreet, 6 p.m. Thursday, August 31.

See Angela Stahler, our Social Media person in charge of Live Streaming, to get your shopping pass for **Boscov Days Friends Helping Friends event on Wednesday, October 18 (in store only). One day only. 8 AM to 11 PM.....The Pass donation is \$5 each** and the proceeds will go to the church where Angela works, Grace United Church of Christ in Allentown. The benefit for YOU is awesome. This one day pass gives you 25% off lowest sale prices at Boscov's. (exclusions apply) Plus you can register to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card. Think of upcoming birthdays and holidays that you can purchase items in advance to use. Consider getting some items for our Basket

Social and Bazaar (fill a basket!), or our ATF Christmas giveaway in November. We are always looking for gifts to give to men..... flashlights, tools, gloves, beef sticks and so much more!

**Week of August 21-August 26, 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 an Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Worship

**Total Offerings from August 13, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1,770.00

Communion: \$20.00

Mission: \$10.00

Disaster Relief: \$15.00

Electric: \$5.00

Window Fund: \$192.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$45.00