

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 27, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“Identity”

Prelude: “The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Irvine

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We bow down in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation for the Sovereign One remembers God’s people.

Invocation (unison)

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you. You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love. May our time together in this space, online or onsite, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love. We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you.

Many: We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting.

One: We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life.

Many: Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.

Words of Grace

The One who created you knows your struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming. God's grace is still sufficient and made new each and every day. God has faith in you and abides with you in the journey of new life and transformation. Amen.

*Hymn: "Nothing but the Blood"

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Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. **9** He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. **12** But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. **13** The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude **14** and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. **15** The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, **16** "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." **17** But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. **18** So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" **19** The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." **20** So God dealt well with the

midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. **22** Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. **5** The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. **10** When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reflection: "Was it a Stroke of Luck?"

Special Music

Invitation to Generosity

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Offertory: "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Hustad

* 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)

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. 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: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

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*Benediction

As you go, take the keys of heaven with you. Unlock hope in a world in need of encouragement. Loose joy where there is despair. Give peace room to grow. Release love with every encounter. And the God of hope, joy, peace, and love will be with you.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "The Solid Rock"

Bradbury

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**Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** were written by  
The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of her parents, Anna and Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Len and Judy Hoch in memory of their son, Colby.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are John and Nancy Civitts.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Nancy Weitzel.

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 Monday, 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. ATF Room also needs **clean bubble wrap and/or brown wrapping paper** for wrapping fragile items. Thank you!

**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 forms can be found at the entrances to the Church.

**Window Fund** - The sixth and final handmade quilt will be auctioned off at the Basket Bazaar on November 11. Tickets will be available throughout the fall for purchase at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. See Pastor Lori, Ruth Stansfield, Beth Massa or call the church office to purchase your tickets. Proceeds will benefit the windows fund.



GriefShare will begin meeting this week on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in our downstairs Social Room. They will continue to meet each Tuesday until the 13th session on November 21, 2023. You are welcome to join in anytime, but please register with Pastor Lori so we can have enough books on hand.

**Supper Club and Lunch Bunch** will be starting up again in September. Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 8 when Supper Club will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Delizioso Italian Grill on Brookside Road, Macungie. Lunch Bunch will meet at 12 noon at Perkins on Lehigh Street on Friday, September 29, 2023. Sign up in church or let Linda and Mark know if you are planning to come.



Choir practice will start up again on Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Consider making choir part of your life this Fall!

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.

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

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.

**Monday, October 2 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** you can pick up your pre-ordered **Chicken Dinners** at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2623 Brookside Road, Macungie. Get your tickets from Cub Scout Corbin Trexler by calling the church office. The cost is \$14.00 per meal, checks made payable to Ashley Trexler or Cub Pack 431. **Orders must be in by September 20, 2023.**

**Week of August 27-September 2, 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

GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Elders – Tuesday @ 7pm

**Next Sunday – LAST 9:30am** Worship for the season

**Total Offerings from August 20, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1,093.00

Communion: \$5.00

Mission: \$130.00

Electric: \$25.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$10.00

Window Fund: \$40.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$5.00

Attendance: 44