

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

September 17, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Confirmation Sunday
"Forgiveness"

Prelude: "Freely, Freely"

Owens

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 103)

One: Bless the Holy One with our whole selves. Praise the Maker of our being!

Many: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

One: The Sovereign One endows us with many gifts and equips us to do good work.

Many: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

One: Holy Love entered the world without condemnation but with grace and forgiveness, mercy and compassion, redemption and restoration.

Many: Hallelujah! We give thanks for the mighty deeds and the good works of our God!

Invocation (unison)

God who calls, it is you who gathers us together and forms us as a community. It is you who makes us uniquely individual and who designs us for companionship. Let us journey together this day in your presence reminded of our interdependence with one another. May we see your glory and be inspired to demonstrate your goodness and care through our lives. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"

p.401

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgemental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends.

Many: We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, grace has always been part of God's relationship with humanity. God does not want you condemned or held captive by unresolved anger leading to bitterness. Rather, Creator desires you to be released as both forgiven and forgiver so that all may live a life that is whole, free, and flourishing.

*Hymn: "What Grows Here?" insert

Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31 p.58

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Romans 14:7 tells us, "We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves." We are in covenant with God and joined in community with one another. Let us give of our resources as those who live for the good and well-being of all.

Offertory: "A Perfect Heart" McGuire

* 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)

Merciful God, receive our humble offerings as a testimony to your provision and a demonstration of our love. May they be magnified and multiplied for the benefit of our community and all creation. Amen.

Choir Anthem

The Pastoral Prayer....The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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 Confirmation (see insert)

*Closing Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

*Benediction

May the love of God assure you, the hope of God guide you, and the peace of God sustain you as you go receiving and extending God's grace in the world.

*Three Fold Amen

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" Zundel

Greet Our Newest Members with their families in the sanctuary!



Forgiveness: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth 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 Millie Kohler in honor of our Church's children.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Chester Yeakel in memory of his wife, Martha and brothers, Charles and Howard, parents and grandparents.

TODAY'S GREETER is Gisela Thiel.

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.

The ATF Room **needs** clean bubble wrap and brown wrapping paper (no newspapers) for wrapping fragile items. If you have any to spare, or receive packages in the mail with packing, please bring to church and put on bench marked ATF outside of Pastor Lori's office. They could also use gift tags and tape. They always need **NEW** items for men and boys. And if anyone has a sturdy clothing rack they are not using anymore, ATF can use it. Thank you!

Sausage Sandwich Orders Are Due Next Sunday! Pick up will be on Saturday, October 7 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the downstairs social room. Get your order in today. 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.

The 2023 Windows Matching Gift Challenge is underway. Six challengers have pledged to match your donations of up to \$5,000 through the end of November. A successful challenge will keep Phase 3 moving forward and will bring us closer to the project's completion.



GriefShare has begun meeting on Tuesdays, 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.

Sunday Brunch – the next Sunday Brunch will be held after Worship next Sunday, September 24 at Topton Rod and Gun Club. Sign up today!



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 by Monday, September 25.

These events are open to anyone wishing to join us for good food and conversation!

Third Sunday Treats - We are looking for someone or a group of people to **help** serve Third Sunday Treats when Jack and Wendy can't make it. On the job training available. You would need to arrive at church around 9:30 a.m. to get things ready to go. Thanks for prayerfully considering this ministry. The Sunday School children look forward to this every month. See Pastor Lori for details.

Youth Group!! Youth Group will be meeting again on Friday, September 29th from 6-8 p.m. The topic this month will be "How can you believe in Heaven and Hell?" Please join us!!

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.

Committee Chairs please have your Reports in the office no later than Sunday, October 15, 2023 for our Annual Report. Information to include should be from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. Reports will be handed out at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Thank you!

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 while at church or 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 Wednesday, September 20, 2023.**

Week of September 17-23, 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
GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm
Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm
Choir Practice – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Worship
Sausage Sandwich Orders are Due

Total Offerings from September 10, 2023:

General Offerings: \$2,369.00
Communion: \$3.00
Mission: \$35.00
Electric: \$25.00
Building Repair: \$60.00
Window Fund: \$92.00
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0
Cemetery: \$10.00
Attendance: 60



**Old Zionsville UCC
Confirmation Sunday
September 17, 2023**

Order for Confirmation

Affirmation of Baptism

Invitation

Scripture Sentences

Questions of the Candidates:

Pastor: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Prayer of the Congregation

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these Your servants to the church, forgave their sins, And promised them eternal life, increase in them The gifts of Your Holy Spirit. Grant love for

others, joy in serving You, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil time, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the World; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Pastor: The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray to God that your body, soul and spirit be preserved blameless until the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The God of mercies multiply grace and peace in you, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you to the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

Strengthen, O God, this your servant with your heavenly grace that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in them your Holy Spirit, until you receive them at last in your eternal home. Amen.

O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant through the water of baptism. Nourish in them the power of your Holy Spirit that they may serve you in the world. Amen.

Prayer of Confirmation

Reception into Membership

Consistory President: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the Church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of Old Zionsville UCC as we serve this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Consistory President: Let us, the members of Old Zionsville UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Our Risen Savior.

Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Welcome to our Newest Members of Old Zionsville UCC and thanks to their mentors.

Piper Lynn Miller.....	Megan French
Jacob D. French.....	Sharon Trexler
Addison Sage Trexler.....	Alyson Miller
Owen Robert Trexler.....	Laura Miller
McGwire David Martucci.....	Maynard Schaffer and Phil Rhode

And Thank You to Teaching Assistant – Amber Kriebel.