

**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

January 7, 2024

10:15 a.m.

*NOTE: no church on January 7 due to weather; this bulletin used on  
January 14 when worship resumed.*

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Light's Wisdom: Service Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

**All: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.**

One: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

**All: We live into the Light's new wisdom.**

One: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

**All: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from  
Bethlehem's cradle.**

Invocation (unison)

**God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons.**

**Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope,  
restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ's call to  
discipleship. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn:        "As with Gladness Men of Old"

p.290

Prayer of Confession    (The leader stands in front of an un-lit candle)

One: Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness. We wonder if we are loveable. Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

**All: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

One: Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices. Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace? We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

**All: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*(The leader lights the candle)*

One: But in Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us, and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness; to courage and clarity.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" p.293

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6 p.639

Matthew 2:1-12 p.835

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

\* Presentation of the Offering 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.**

\*Offertory Prayer (unison)  
**Loving God, may these gifts reveal to us and to others the Light that is Jesus. And may this Light lead us on into new and challenging ways of living and serving. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

The Prayers of the People

The Service of Holy Communion p.17

\*Closing Hymn: "We Three Kings" p.288

\*Benediction

Now go surrounded by Christ's light, and the blessing of God Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit –be with you now, all those you pray for, and all those you remember. 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

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**Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany** was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, UCC.

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**We thank the Trexler Family for preparing Communion today.**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Ben Kohler in memory of his Grandparents, Kenny and Sarah Lorish and Emil and Ginny Kohler.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Gisela Thiel.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Wendy Yeakel.

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.

January Soup is **Chili** and will be sold by the quart (\$8) along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** (\$5). Orders forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew and must be received by **TODAY**. Orders may be placed in the Offering Plate, call Annie or the Church office, or email the church office. Pick up will be on Thursday, January 18 in our downstairs social hall between 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**ATF Room help is needed tomorrow, January 8** for the next Giveaway from 4-6 p.m. and on Saturday, January 13 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The All Things Free Room could use donations of cloth Christmas Tablecloths, especially red and green for future Christmas table displays. Donations of any unwanted Christmas gifts received that we can use as gifts for our clients at next year's Christmas Giveaway are also needed. We have a beautiful new size 14 gown appropriate for an upcoming school prom. See Millie or call her. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry.

**Sunday Brunch** – Next Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Merc after Worship for good food and conversation! Please let Linda or Mark Weave know if you are planning to attend. The next **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 12 noon at the Macungie Diner.

**Share the Warmth** - Again this year for Share the Warmth, we will be collecting items to warm someone from the inside. All items will be donated to support

local food programs, such as the Zionsville Area Food Pantry and Grace Lutheran Church's Food Cupboard. Through January we will be collecting the following items:

- Soup
- Hot chocolate
- Tea bags
- Coffee (regular and/or decaf --- NOT coffee beans, which need to be ground)

**Sunday, January 21** - A session on "How to help your grandchildren remember you and cope with grief." 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the lower social hall for all interested members. In case of inclement weather, we will attempt to meet the following Sunday, Jan. 28. Same time and place.

**Youth Group** will be meeting on Friday, January 19, 2024. All ages welcome. 6-8 p.m. in our lower social hall. Questions? Check with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller.

**Greeters and Liturgist!** Please consider being a Greeter or a Liturgist during Worship. Call the office or email to get your name added to our List. Thank you!

Are you interested in Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster's production of "**Daniel**"?? My home church, Greenawalds UCC has 30 seats reserved. As of now, there are still 20 seats to fill. So if you are interested, here is the information. Please see me to reserve your seat. You can give me cash or a check made out as listed below. I'm going with my mom. So come along. Lori

**Sight & Sound Theatre, Lancaster, PA**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024 - 11:00 AM**

Seats have been reserved for the above show!

Adult: \$75 pp; Child (age 3-12): \$42 pp

Contact Lori Esslinger for details or to reserve your seat.

A minimum of \$25 pp is required to hold your reservation. Balance is due by Sunday, March 17, 2024. Checks should be payable to Sandy Lakatosh and given to Pastor Lori. Invite friends and family. We have 30 tickets reserved. So far only 10 of them are sold.

**Note that you will be responsible for your own transportation to the theater. Carpooling is encouraged.**

## **Week of January 7-13, 2024:**

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 Giveaway – Monday from 4-6pm

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Bell Choir – Thursday @ 6:30pm

Outlook – Thursday @ 7pm

ATF Giveaway – Saturday from 10am-12pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Worship

Brunch at Noon

## **Total Offerings from December 24, 2023-10:15 a.m.:**

General Offerings: \$3,049.00

Window Fund: \$60.00

Mission: \$115.00

Communion: \$30.00

Utilities: \$25.00

Parking Lot: \$0

Cemetery: \$80.00

Attendance: 90

**Total Offerings from December 24, 2023-7:30 p.m.:**

General Offerings: \$2,142.00  
Window Fund: \$25.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$50.00  
Utilities: \$40.00  
Communion: \$10.00  
Parking Lot: \$40.00  
Cemetery: \$0  
Attendance: 130

**Total Offering from December 31, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$8,562.00  
Window Fund: \$62.00  
Mission: \$25.00  
Ukraine Relief: \$30.00  
Parking Lot: \$10.00  
Cemetery: \$60.00  
Attendance: 47

# Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

January 14, 2024

### GREETING

L Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

**P To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### INTRODUCTION

L Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**P There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

L There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

**P The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

L Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

**P It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

L If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

**P All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

### PRESENTATION

L These people have been called by God to serve in various ministries in God's world. They have accepted their call and desire to witness to that call in the presence of this congregation.

*The names of the people and their respective offices or ministries may be read. The duties of each person may be outlined briefly.*

## COVENANT

L Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities

of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**INDIVIDUALS I am.**

L Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**INDIVIDUALS I do, relying on God's grace.**

L (addressing the congregation) Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

*All who are able please stand.*

**P We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## PRAYER

L Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

**P Amen.**

## DECLARATION

L In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Old Zionsville of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are recognized and affirmed in your ministry in Old Zionsville UCC.

## GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

L In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

**P Thanks be to God.**



## **Please pray for our 2024 Consistory Leaders**

### **Elders:**

Diane Berger  
Cheryl Martucci  
Brenda Shoemaker  
Larry Stahler  
Jan Strobel  
Mark Weaver

### **Deacons:**

Kathy Latshaw  
Roger Miller  
Robert Schmeltzle, Jr.  
Ruth Stansfield  
Gisela Thiel  
Sharon Trexler

Robin Yoder, Treasurer

We give thanks to Millie Kohler for completing two terms of three years totaling six years.

### **Responsibilities of Deacons:**

The responsibilities of a deacon are not clearly listed or outlined; they are assumed to be everything that does not include the duties of an elder or pastor, which is to preach, teach, and exhort. But qualifications for a deacon's character are clearly outlined in Scripture. They are to be blameless, the husband of one wife, a good household manager, respectable, honest, not addicted to alcohol and not greedy (1 Timothy 3:8-12). According to the Word, the office of deacon is an honor and a blessing. "For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13)

### **Responsibilities of Elders:**

- 1) The elders help to settle disputes in the church.
- 2) They pray for the sick.
- 3) They are to watch out for the church in humility.
- 4) They are to watch out for the spiritual life of the flock.
- 5) They are to spend their time in prayer and teaching the word. Simply put, the elders should be peacemakers, prayer warriors, teachers, leaders by example, and decision makers. They are the preaching and teaching leaders of the church. It is a position to be sought but not taken lightly-read this warning: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1)