



# Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

[www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

Email: [ozuccnewsletter@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccnewsletter@ptd.net)



## January 2024

### Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436

Cell: 610-393-3522

[MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com](mailto:MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com)

[ChocoLori@hotmail.com](mailto:ChocoLori@hotmail.com)

### Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday, Jan. 3-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Jan. 10-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Jan. 17-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Jan. 24-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Jan. 31-10am-3pm

### Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

(please call before stopping in)

### Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601

[ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net)

Secretary

Brenda Seitz

Organist

David Carlson

Choir Director

Carolyn Rhoads

Sexton

Richard Shoemaker

Social Media Coordinators

Beth Massa

Angela Stahler

### Consistory Officers

President

Kathy Latshaw

Vice President

Jan Strobel

Secretary

Mark Weaver

Treasurer

Robin Yoder

## From Pastor's Desk...

T'was the night before Christmas  
 God glanced over the earth.  
 He looked to and fro,  
 All over it's girth.  
 They missed it again He said with a sigh,  
 A heavy heart and a tear in his eye.  
 I gave them my son,  
 So they could be free.  
 My greatest gift,  
 To them from me.  
 They traded me in,  
 For a man in red.  
 A little tree,  
 And horse drawn sled.  
 How do I save them,  
 And make them see.  
 My love is complete,  
 My grace is free.  
 How do I help them,  
 When all they know  
 Is a talking snowman,  
 And a box with a bow.  
 Maybe next year,  
 They will stop and see.  
 The biggest gift of Christmas  
 Is the little child from me.

- found on Crazy for Christmas on Facebook 2023

Peace,  
Lori



Friday, January 5 – 6:00 p.m. Supper Club at PC Pub

Sunday, January 7- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Epiphany Bible Study

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

**Orders due for Soup and Sandwiches**

Monday, January 8 – 4:00-6:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway

Saturday, January 13 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway

Sunday, January 14 – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
Brunch at the Merc after Worship

**Thursday, January 18 – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Pick up Soup and Sandwiches Orders**

Friday, January 19 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, January 21 – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Study about Being Remembered as a Grandparent  
(free booklet as part of our study)  
9:45 a.m. Third Sunday Treats  
10:15 a.m. Worship, Loose offering goes to Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
Installation of Consistory Members

Friday, January 26 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch at Macungie Diner

Sunday, January 28 – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship

## Looking Ahead 😊



Sunday, February 4 – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Communion Worship  
**Orders due for Soup and Sandwiches  
Souper Bowl after Worship**

Sunday, February 11- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship

Monday, February 12 – 4:00-6:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway

Wednesday, February 14 – 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Communion Worship

**Thursday, February 15 – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Pick up Soup and Sandwiches Orders**

Saturday, February 17 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway

Sunday, February 18 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 a.m. Third Sunday Treats  
10:15 a.m. Worship, Loose offering goes to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Sunday, February 25 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship

### OZUCC Mission Statement

**The mission of our Church is to be a congregation devoted to our community where we experience and share the loving presence of God by teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, by celebrating God's Word in the Bible, and through loving service to all people.**

## News from Christian Ed...

**Sunday School** is open to all children who would like to participate. Children can start at the age of two or when they are potty trained. Classes are held in the lower level of the church. If you have other questions about Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori, Susan Jacobs or Deb Schoenberger.

Would you like to purchase a new **Bible** that has an interactive feature that can work with your cell phone, iPad or other electronic device? We presented our confirmands with these Bibles and purchased extras in case YOU or a person you know may like one too. The holidays are coming and this could make a lovely, affordable gift. The cost is **\$16 each**. By setting it up with your device, the program can actually "read scripture to you." So for someone who drives lots or prefers to listen to the Holy Word, this could be very appealing. The Filament app is very simple to use. You simply scan a page number in the Bible to instantly access study notes, devotionals from famous authors, interactive maps, teaching videos and worship music. If you have a loved one who likes to hear scripture before they go to sleep, this would be perfect for them too. Please **let Pastor Lori know** if you would like to purchase any number of these Bibles. There are two cover styles: black and floral, they are zipper case protected, and are very small - about the size of your hand. Print is small, but these other features bring the Bible to life in a whole new way. See Pastor Lori for more information.

## News from Computer and Media Committee...

If you can't attend worship on Sunday, not to worry! We livestream our service every Sunday at 9:30am on YouTube and Facebook! Both of these options are available on demand, as well... can't watch on Sunday morning? No problem; watch when you can!



To find us on YouTube, you can visit our channel at <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpux8b>. Or just search for Old Zionsville UCC.



Have you checked out our Facebook page recently? On January 1, 2023 we started a new series aimed at reading through the Bible in one year. We are providing a chronological reading plan, which lays out the readings in the order in which events happened. We hope you find this series a meaningful way to move through the year. Connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/OldZionsvilleUCC/>; be sure to "like" our page so you get our posts on your newsfeed!

Here are the readings for December in case you want to catch up:

1-Dec	Day 335: 1 Corinthians 9-11	12-Dec	Day 346: Acts 20:4-38; Acts 21; Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35	22-Dec	Day 356: Hebrews 7-10
2-Dec	Day 336: 1 Corinthians 12-14	13-Dec	Day 347: Acts 24-26	23-Dec	Day 357: Hebrews 11-13
3-Dec	Day 337: 1 Corinthians 15-16	14-Dec	Day 348: Acts 27-28	24-Dec	Day 358: 2 Timothy 1-4
4-Dec	Day 338: 2 Corinthians 1-4	15-Dec	Day 349: Colossians 1-4; Philemon	25-Dec	Day 359: 2 Peter 1-3; Jude
5-Dec	Day 339: 2 Corinthians 5-9	16-Dec	Day 350: Ephesians 1-6	26-Dec	Day 360: 1 John 1-5
6-Dec	Day 340: 2 Corinthians 10-13	17-Dec	Day 351: Philippians 1-4	27-Dec	Day 361: 2 John; 3 John
7-Dec	Day 341: Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	18-Dec	Day 352: 1 Timothy 1-6	28-Dec	Day 362: Revelation 1-5
8-Dec	Day 342: Romans 4-7	19-Dec	Day 353: Titus 1-3	29-Dec	Day 363: Revelation 6-11
9-Dec	Day 343: Romans 8-10	20-Dec	Day 354: 1 Peter 1-5	30-Dec	Day 364: Revelation 12-18
10-Dec	Day 344: Romans 11-13	21-Dec	Day 355: Hebrews 1-6	31-Dec	Day 365: Revelation 19-22
11-Dec	Day 345: Romans 14-16				

## News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

**Supper Club** will be Friday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. at PC Pub (Pizza Como), Route 663, Pennsburg. **Sunday Brunch** will be on Sunday, January 14 after Worship at Mercantile Club (cash only), 427 Railroad St, Emmaus. **Lunch Bunch** will be held on Friday, January 26, 12 noon at Macungie Diner, 202 E. Main Street, Macungie. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark Weaver. All are welcome!!!!

**Again for 2024, Mark Your Calendars!!!** We have reserved 50 tickets for the IRON PIGS!!! The date is Saturday June 22, 2024. It is a night game with Fireworks, and we will again be doing the "Picnic Patio", this time with all seats at the Patio Tables (not in the overflow). As last year, this is on the Third Base side, so we will not have the sun in our eyes while viewing the game. It is again the 2 ½ hour Food Buffet, as well as unlimited soft drinks through the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. You can get a glimpse of the menu by finding the Picnic Patio Page on the Iron Pigs website. We have locked in pricing for the next 3 years and it holds our price at \$28.00 each, including the Food Buffet, Soft Drinks, Ball Game, and Fireworks. Once again, I know this is a long way off, but I wanted to make sure we have tickets for the Picnic Patio on a fireworks night and of course together. As always with our outings, car pooling will be available! The money will be due a month before the game (May). If anyone would like to go but the money is an issue, please speak to Pastor Lori, as help is available. ....Mark Weaver

**GriefShare** - Our next round of GriefShare will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on May 1, 2024. Please speak with Pastor Lori for more information or to register.

## News from the Food Pantry...

**The Zionsville Area Food Pantry is open** the **2nd Monday** of the month 4:00-6:00 PM and the **Saturday** of that same week 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Zionsville Area Food Pantry is located at Zion's Lutheran Church. Their email address is ZAFP5901@yahoo.com and their mailing address is P.O. Box 56, Old Zionsville, PA 18068. Phone number is 610-554-8340.

Remember you can bring items to our Church for the Food Pantry at any time. The Pantry is always in need of personal care items, paper products and all kinds of non-perishable food.

## News from the ATF Room...

Reminder, ATF is still looking for a sturdy clothing rack. Thank you! If you know anyone that could use a Wedding Gown, ATF has a very pretty one, brand new with tags still on, size 14.



**Help** is needed for the next Giveaway on Monday, January 8 between 4-6 p.m. and on Saturday, January 13 between 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church. For more info please contact Millie.

## News from the FUN Group...

# Faith Uniting Neighbors

## 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.

**Beginning in December** and 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)

## Angel Tree

Thanks to everyone who purchased items for The Kindness Project. The website is available year-round for any donations you wish to make.

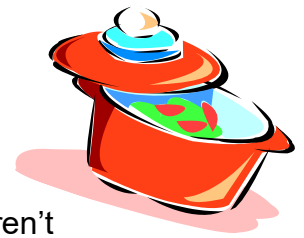
### "Souper" Bowl Covered Dish Social

Come join the FUN Group for our "Souper" Bowl Sunday immediately following Church on **Sunday, February 4.**

We are looking for a couple of people to volunteer to bring a crockpot of soup. If you can help us, please let a member of FUN Group know by Sunday, January 28 (including what type of soup you will be bringing). If you aren't bringing soup, please bring a dessert to share.

Also, please bring a couple of cans of soup for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry...they distribute hundreds every month!

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out!



### News from Music and Worship Committee...

**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.



**Third Sunday Treats** will be available at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 21.

**Third Sunday Treats is for Everyone! Coffee pot is always on and we would love to fellowship before Worship on these Third Sundays! All come to the lower social hall.**

**Be sure to check out** the newly created bulletin boards in our lower social hall while you are getting your Third Sunday Treat! And then tell the talented Wendy Yeakel what a fantastic job she did!!

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.

### News from Social and Aid...

**The next Ham and Cheese Sandwiches and Soup sale orders are being taken right now!** This sale is by the Social and Aid Committee with proceeds going to General Fund and Cemetery. **Chili** is on the form this month at \$8 a quart with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches at \$5 each. Order yours at church on Sunday or by calling/emailing the church office or Annie Souder. Orders must be received by Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Pick up will be Thursday, January 18 between 4-6 p.m. in our downstairs social hall. Order forms are included with this newsletter.



Profits from our November sale were \$708; profit from our December sale was \$571 due to more supplies needing to be purchased. Thank you to Social and Aid!

## News from the Youth Group...

Youth Group will be meet 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.



**In order to be reimbursed**, or to receive credit as a church donation, **original** receipts for labor and materials purchased on behalf of the church must be **received in the office within 60 days of date from purchase** or by January 9, 2024 for purchases in November and December, 2023.

**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!

Approved **Consistory Minutes** can be found posted on the bulletin board at the side entrance to the Sanctuary for anyone wishing to take a look!!

**Offering Box** - A secure box is located in the rear of the sanctuary for you to deposit your offering **or** other important papers if you happen to be in the church when the office isn't open. It has been secured to the floor and is locked. It will be opened on a Sunday morning so the offerings in there can be combined with those in worship that day. Thanks for your continued support of our church.

Our Church is now 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.



There are two **Bulletin Magnifier Sheets** available for you to use in worship. They are the size of a full sheet of paper and can be found in the side pocket on the sound system. Pick one up and try it out, then return it to the sound system after worship.

**Church Lost and Found Box** – is located on top of the mailboxes next to Pastor's Office. There is always something in it. Check it out and see if you lost anything! Or call the church office.

**Recently found: phone charger. Did you drop yours while at Church?**



### Offerings and Donations Received from Dec. 1-28, 2023

General Use.....	\$14,726.60
Sunday School.....	19.00
Benevolence.....	170.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund.....	77.00
Windows to the Future.....	794.00
Building Repair.....	0
Parsonage Rental.....	1,645.00
Parking Lot Maintenance Fund..	105.00
Cemetery.....	210.00
General Expenses.....	\$11,016.78
includes gas.....	\$1,095.41
includes electric.....	\$ 274.06

**Please remember** there is a third box on your offering envelopes should you wish to give offering toward our Parking Lot Maintenance, Cemetery, Window Fund, Building Repairs or any Property Expenses. Just designate in what area the money should be placed. Thank you.

## **Thank you to our Worship Helpers!**

	<b><u>Liturgist</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Head Usher</u></b>
January 7	Wendy Yeakel	Gisela Thiel	Jan Strobel
January 14	Nancy Civitts	Ruth Stansfield	Kathy Latshaw
January 21	Millie Kohler	Cheryl & McGwire Martucci	Mark Weaver
January 28	Lee Hoch	Larry Stahler	Millie Kohler

	<b><u>Altar Flowers</u></b>	<b><u>Bulletins</u></b>
January 7	Bennett Kohler	
January 14	Charles & Susan Jacobs	John & Miriam Fisher
January 21	Michael & Jane Bedell	
January 28	BettyLou Hartman	Linda Benner

Chancel Flowers – January 14 – Chris Schell

If you wish to sponsor Bulletins or Flowers, please call the church office, 610-966-3601 or email at ozuccoffice@ptd.net. Bulletins are \$10.00, Altar Flowers are \$40.00, our Seasonal silk arrangement is a donation of \$30.00 to our Windows Fund. If you are already signed up to sponsor Altar Flowers and would like us to use our silk arrangement please let the office know **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so Brenda can cancel our arrangement with Phoebe Floral for that Sunday. Thank you!

**Deadline for material to be included in our February Newsletter is  
January 28. Please place all info in the Secretary's mailbox  
or email to the office at ozuccoffice@ptd.net**

***To add names to our Prayer List please call or email the church office.***

## **New Year's Day in the older Julian calendar**

In Christendom, 1 January traditionally marks the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ

The Julian calendar, proposed by Julius Caesar in 46 BCE, was a reform of the Roman calendar. It took effect on 1 January 45 BCE, by edict. The calendar became the predominant calendar in the Roman Empire and subsequently, most of the Western world for more than 1,600 years. The Roman calendar began the year on 1 January, and this remained the start of the year after the Julian reform. However, even after local calendars were aligned to the Julian calendar, they started the new year on different dates. The Alexandrian calendar in Egypt started on 29 August (30 August after an Alexandrian leap year). Several local provincial calendars were aligned to start on the birthday of the Emperor Augustus, 23 September. The indiction caused the Byzantine year, which used the Julian calendar, to begin on 1 September; this date is still used in the Eastern Orthodox Church for the beginning of the liturgical year.

At various times and in various places throughout mediaeval Christian Europe, the new year was celebrated on 25 December in honour of the birth of Jesus; 1 March in the old Roman style; 25 March in honour of Lady Day (the Feast of the Annunciation, the date of the conception of Jesus); and on the movable feast of Easter.

### **Christian observance**

As a date in the Christian calendar, New Year's Day liturgically marked the Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus, which is still observed as such in the Anglican Church, the Lutheran Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and in Traditional Catholicism by those who retain the usage of the General Roman Calendar of 1960. The mainstream Roman Catholic Church celebrates on this day the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

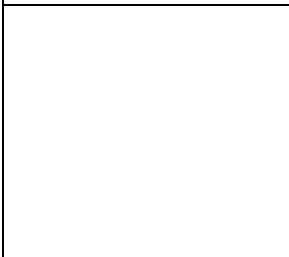




# Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

## January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm  Computer & Media Sound 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Supper Club 6pm at PC Pub	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15 am Communion Worship <b>Soup &amp; Sandwich            Orders Due</b>	<b>8</b> ATF Giveaway 4-6pm  Scouts 6pm Property 7pm	<b>9</b>  Cub Scouts 7pm FUN Group 7pm	<b>10</b> Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm  Finance 7pm	<b>11</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  ATF Giveaway 10am-12pm
<b>14</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship <b>Brunch at the Merc</b>	<b>15</b>  Scouts 6pm	<b>16</b>  Consistory 7pm	<b>17</b> Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	<b>18</b> <b>Pick up Soup            &amp; Sandwich            Orders            4-6pm</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>19</b>  Youth Group 6-8pm	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Study 9:45am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Treats 10:15 am Worship Loose offering goes Pastor's Discretionary Fund Installation of Consistory Members	<b>22</b>  Scouts 6pm	<b>23</b>  Music & Worship 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	<b>24</b> Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	<b>25</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>26</b>  <b>Lunch Bunch            12noon at            Macungie Diner</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	<b>29</b>  Scouts 6pm	<b>30</b>  Cub Scouts 7pm	<b>31</b>			





December 13, 2023

Rev. Lori Esslinger  
Old Zionsville UCC  
PO Box 215  
Old Zionsville, PA 18068-0215

Dear Pastor Esslinger and Old Zionsville UCC Congregation,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach the holiday season. I wanted to reach out and thank you for your generous donation to our Christmas Wish List for the youth cottages.

Your donation of Gift Cards in the amount of \$60.00 will help make this Christmas special for our cottage residents. From your monthly donations as well as the general wish list items, your thoughtfulness allows our youth to celebrate the holidays with joy.

We are incredibly grateful for partners like you who support Bethany's life-changing work. If I can provide any other information about our mission, programs, or residents this holiday season, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are always happy to host you or a group to do a tour and learn more about the Home and our mission.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas season. Bethany's youth and mission are stronger thanks to you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Koch  
Development Coordinator & Historian  
Bethany Children's Home

**Please retain a copy of this letter for your tax purposes.**

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift. The official registration and financial information of Bethany Home Inc. and Bethany Children's Home Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567 · [bethanyhome.org](http://bethanyhome.org) · 610-589-4501