

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 1, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude: “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Gordon

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 15)

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: Those who want to journey with you, who may have missed a turn, and who may struggle with rocky patches and rough terrain.

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: Those who seek and search for you and for community with doubts and hopes, joys and fears, smiles and tears.

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: Those who try and those who sometimes give up. Those who are beautifully, wonderfully, and imperfectly human—all of us!
Thanks be to God!

Invocation (unison)

Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold trust that hope is our portion and assigned position in your everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story"

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Prayer of Transformation and New Life

One: Eternal God, may we break from the bonds of unaltered, unexamined, and unimaginative traditions.

Many: At the same time, may we be released from the compulsion to discount everything that has been a source of life and faithful formation across generations. Help us to discern what needs to be left in our past with honor, recognition, and gratitude, what needs to be eradicated with lament, repentance, and repair, and what needs to be envisioned, imagined, and created for the future. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, the Holy One renews, redeems, and restores through continuing creative acts. God has not concluded the good work begun in you or in our faith communities. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive courage, counsel, and conviction to do the new thing God is calling us to do while holding fast to those things that build, sustain, and encourage.

*Hymn: "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

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Scripture Reading: Daniel 5

p.766

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

James 1:17a reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above." May we receive all the gifts from God with gladness, share the gifts with hospitality and compassion, and celebrate the kingdom of God's abundance with boldness.

Offertory: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Peace

* Presentation of 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)

Generous God, bless these gifts that we share for the flourishing of the kingdom. Prosper the work of our hands, order the steps in our days, and align the balance of our resources. In our time, talent, and treasure, may you be glorified. 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 in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

*Closing Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

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*Benediction

May the everlasting love of God give you peace,
The surprising grace of God give you courage,
And the creative will of God give you joy,
As you release the traditions that have served their time,
Hold the traditions that inspire new life,
And create traditions for a future promising and unknown.

*Postlude: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Hustad

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*For Tradition: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by BettyLou Hartman in memory of Francis Hartman.

**TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS** are in memory of Colby Hoch's Birthday from Len and Judy Hoch and in memory of Paulette Shankweiler from Godson Bobby.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Anna and Joseph Benner from their daughter Linda.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Chris Schell.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Robin Yoder.

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.

**Ham and Cheese Sandwich** orders are now being taken. September brings back these delicious sandwiches from our Social and Aid Committee. Orders are **due next Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**; pick up will be on Thursday, September 19 in our

downstairs social room from 3pm until 5:30pm. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church. Thank you for your support.

First **Choir Rehearsal** for the fall is on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> with singing in Church on Sunday, September 8. All are welcome to join in, rehearsal will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will meet in the Sanctuary. Consider making choir part of your life this Fall!



**Supper Club** will be Wednesday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Alburtis Tavern, 106 S. Main St., Alburtis. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark by Friday, August 30. **September Sunday Brunchers** will be after Worship on Sunday, September 15 at the Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad St., Emmaus. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark by Tuesday, September 10. **Lunch Bunch** is planned for Friday, September 27, 12 noon at Perkins, 3400 Lehigh St., Allentown. RSVP to Linda or Mark by Tuesday, September 24. All are welcome!

**Help** is needed for the next **ATF Giveaway** on **Monday, September 9** between **4-6 p.m.** and on **Saturday, September 14** between **10 a.m.-12 p.m.** Set up for the Giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please do not block the chair path when leaving donations in the stairway. Any questions, call Millie.

**Wooden Crosses** are available for sale. They are being decorated for Patriotic Holidays. You can also buy the flower/ribbon portion to attach to the cross you have previously purchased. The attachment costs \$15. The whole decorated cross costs \$30. See Richard Yeakel or Lisa Talecki.



**Next Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. will be our first day back with Sunday School and our Fall schedule!** Communion Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. 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.

On Wednesday, September 18 in our lower social hall we will be showing **"The Chosen, Season 2"** beginning at 1:00 p.m. Snacks included! Please join us every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. through Wednesday, October 30.

**Youth Group** will meet on Friday, September 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the lower social hall. All young people are invited to participate. There is something

for everyone at Youth Group! Questions? Speak with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller. If you would like to serve as a leader, speak with Pastor Lori. We could use one more leader at this time. Thanks in advance. See you all in there!

Final plans are underway for the **Dedication of the Windows on September 29 at 3 p.m.** Be sure to join us for this exciting celebration. And, there is more to celebrate. Four members have offered to challenge the congregation to a \$5,000 Matching Gift Challenge that will take place from September through November. Your support of this fifth annual challenge could mean adding another \$10,000 to the windows fund and bringing us closer to completing the project. Let's make this another successful year!



**Phoebe Allentown's 25th Annual Basket Social** on September 26 and 27. Please help spread the word! The event will be open to the public and will take place at 1925 West Turner Street in Allentown. This annual event raises funds for their Community Life Program, which provides daily activities that keep their residents active, engaged, and in good spirits. These activities include visits from miniature therapy goats, musical performances, arts and crafts projects, recreational programs, holiday celebrations, and technology platforms to help residents get involved in games and connect with loved ones. Thanks to our generous supporters, the 2023 Basket Social featured 101 baskets and raised \$12,333 to support Community Life activities.

## **Week of September 1, 2024:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesdays from 10am-3pm.  
Other times by appointment. **This week Pastor Lori will be in her office on Thursday from 10am-3pm instead of Wednesday.**

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm  
(please call before coming)

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Tuesday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Wednesday @ 6pm @ Alburtis Tavern

ATF Setup – Saturday @ 10am

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

10:15am Communion Worship

Ham & Cheese Sandwiches Orders Due

## **Total Offerings from August 25:**

General Offerings: \$2,218.00

Window Fund: \$107.00

Mission: \$135.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$105.00

Cemetery: \$40.00

Attendance: 38