

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 15, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Just Peace Sunday

Prelude: "God Leads His Dear Children Along"

Young

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Today, we are grateful to gather and worship God in peaceful conditions.

All: While some congregations are rocked with bombshells, our service can exist in calm.

One: While some communities are rife with discord, our neighborhoods are primed for dialogue.

All: We are provoked to bring God's peace and praise wherever we go.

One: We hold fast to the vision of Shalom throughout all of God's creation.

All: We believe that peace is possible.

*Opening Hymn: "Open My Eyes That I May See"

p.563

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Christ, forgive us for harboring discord in our own hearts. At times, we hold unresolved anger in our bodies, in our families, and institutions. We forego confessions that would release us from silent stalemates. We are often quiet during the proliferation of warfare and buy into cultures of violence as if there is no peaceful alternative. We need your model and Spirit to lead us ever into fearless dwelling and loving communion. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends and peacemakers, "Just Peace is not a destination, but a path...may God grant us the required awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves and our communities." May we be inspired by the serenity of creation, the reconciliation of Christ, and the breath of the Holy Spirit to dwell in and share Shalom. Help us recognize the 'things that make for peace' in our world.

*Hymn: "Open Our Eyes, Lord" p.633
(*David will play through one time and then we will come in singing vs 1& 2*)

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38 p.875

Reflection

Invitation to the Offering

God's teaching surrounds us. If we wish to know love, to understand justice, or to embody wisdom, we must only pay attention. The gospel is always coming alive somewhere. For every new way God reaches out to us, takes on flesh and manifests within and around us, let us bring our offerings with gratitude. We can share with the church and the world our time, our talents, or our wealth, all for God's love and justice.

Offertory: "My Heart Is Filled With Jesus' Love" Akers

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**

*Offertory Prayer (unison)

Incarnate One, especially in these times of uncertainty, we hope to be companions of righteousness. We hope to divest from all that destroys. We hope to live into the Spirit of Christ that sets the captives free. With these offerings, we pray that our gratitude will manifest in acts of radical love and peace where and when they are needed most. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Pastoral Prayer Litany of the UCC Just Peace Sunday

One: On this Sunday, we celebrate the United Church of Christ's Just Peace commitment of our denomination, Conferences, Associations and local congregations

All: who are grounded in hope for our world, and proclaim that 'peace is possible' when rooted in Justice for all.

One: In this moment, let us rejoice on behalf of our belonging to the belief that God, who is creator of all that is,

All: has created us equally in an abiding and everlasting love.

One: As the Body of Christ, we praise you, God, for creating us with a diversity of cultures, racial compositions, genders, languages, nationalities, theological perspectives, and socio-economic levels,

All: Help us so that we can better understand the call for humanity To become as one, by joining our spirits together with the Spirit of God.

One: Trusting in your faithfulness, we humbly seek your guidance to have a stronger living relationship with you,

All: being the light which shines amongst your kingdom here on earth as instruments of your peace, now and forevermore.

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: "Like a River Glorious"

p.737

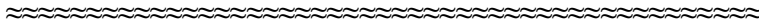
*Benediction

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us; May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us; And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation & hope be with us; from now into eternity. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "The Church Triumphant"

Gaither



Compilation of litanies and prayers from Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, Rev. Denise Andersen, and Rev. Alice Harper Jones.

Just Peace Sunday 2024 Litany "Things That Make for Peace" Grounded in UCC polity and covenantal theology, the Just Peace Pronouncement and resulting church movement has at its core a call to alleviate systemic injustice of all kinds using non-violence, challenging us to explore the intersections between peace and justice, offering to the world the prophetic message, grounded in the hope of reconciliation in Jesus, that "Peace is possible!"

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of our Church's Children sponsored by Millie Kohler.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Roger and Mishelle Miller.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Jan Strobel.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.
Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

Today we will have a **Joyful Noise** collection to support the Chestnut Ridge Team in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 21st held at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks, 101 Founder's Way in Bethlehem beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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.



Sunday Brunchers will be meeting after Worship **TODAY** at the Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad St., Emmaus. **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!

All Things Free Room (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, September 16th at 10:00am. 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.



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.

The **2024 Matching Gift Challenge** benefiting the Windows Fund is underway. Your donations through November 24 will be doubled up to \$5,000. Thank you to this year's four challengers for their generous gifts and to the congregation for your continued support of the restoration of the windows.

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!

Wooden Crosses are available for sale. 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.

Third Sunday Treats is moving to the 2nd Sunday starting in October. Join us in the lower social hall for treats and drinks at 9:45am on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Sometimes we meet after Worship too! Check it out!

Harvest Home will be displayed during Worship on Sundays, October 20 **and** October 27.

All Saints Day is Sunday, October 27 at our 10:15am Worship.

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 15, 2024:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesdays 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 & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Ordered Ham & Cheese Sandwiches Pick Up – Thursday from 3-5:30pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Worship

Total Offerings from September 8:

General Offerings: \$2,259.00

Window Fund: \$256.00

Mission: \$15.00

Electric: \$30.00

Communion: \$42.00

Building Repair: \$105.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 57