

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

October 6, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

World Communion Sunday

Prelude: "Communion Prayer"

Riggs

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 26)

One: The Holy One dwells within and beyond the congregation and makes a home among us.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

One: The glory of the Sovereign One abides with us, illuminating our journey, energizing our gathering, and warming our spirits.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

One: Bless the Name of Names, the God of Truth, and the Giver of Life with songs of praise, prayers of hope, and moments of connection.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

Invocation (unison)

Majestic God, your realm encompasses the universe, the earth, and our community. All creation declares your glory. May we unite with our kin around the world in celebrating you and the connections we share. As we gather in your name, may we remember those we join in faith, hope, and worship on every continent representing every tradition. May we declare in spirit and in truth...one bread, one body...the church striving to one as you, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Spirit are one. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

p.446

(verses 1, 2, & 3)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy One, we come to this gathering, the table, and your presence mindful that this day particularly celebrates our human connectedness.

Many: The reality lies far from the idea and your vision of beloved community. You call us to remember the poor, the marginalized, the immigrant, the isolated and abandoned. You command us to love our neighbor and have blessed us to live in an era in which we may know our neighbors from across the world to amazing degrees. Yet, we cling to our echo chambers and isolationist tendencies. We place our desires and comforts over the good of the world. We demonize difference rather than dignify diversity. Forgive us and have mercy on us while propelling us to new life. Extend your grace to transform our attitude and actions and infuse us with openness, curiosity, and love.

Words of Grace

Beloved, God's grace and power reside in you in mutual support of a transformed life. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and [God] will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing [God] will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." Allow the testing to strengthen you, to build your endurance, and to do a new thing in you and through you for the glory of God. Amen.

*Hymn: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*verses 1 & 4*) p.447

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:13-16 p.877

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

When we consider the gifts of God, stewardship of our resources rises among them. The psalmist marveled, "What are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet." The Sovereign God has given us responsibility and care of our sibling, creation. May we respond to the call to glorify God by the work of our hands, the allocation of our resources, and the generosity of our hearts.

Offertory: "Look Down on Us"

Mendelssohn

* 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)

**Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share
in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts
and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision,
sufficiency, and renewing power. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

The Pastoral Prayer

Communion Liturgy

Words of Invitation

Faith communities around the Earth gather to observe World Communion Sunday. Some call it Holy Communion, others refer to it as the Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist) or Lord's Supper. Some place elements on an altar. In the Protestant tradition, we approach the Table. Every language and tongue, every tribe and nation, every continent and hemisphere represented as the Body of Christ accepts the invitation to unity around a meal prepared by the One who entered a body, the human condition, and the brokenness of the world. Let us join together in the name of Jesus the Christ to commune as one.

One: God be with you.

Many: The Holy One is with us.

One: May our hardened hearts be softened.

**Many: We lift them up to the Holy One with thanksgiving and in
hopeful expectation.**

Words of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Gracious God, you are holy, and you make us holy. We declare glory
and honor due to your precious name. Like generations before us
and the heavenly chorus beyond us, we cry, Holy, holy, holy, God of
power and might. All realms are filled with your glory. Redeem us,
restore us, renew us. Blessed by your Holy Name and hear us as we
sing Our Lord's 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 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

Words of Remembrance

We join in remembrance of your incarnation. Your humble beginnings affirm that the strength of God is perfected in weakness. The years of obscurity left unrecorded and unknown to us remind us that good things benefit from preparation and patience. The record of your baptism reminds us of our own baptism as we entered the waters of life and community with you. Recalling your ministry encourages us to engage in the work of healing, teaching, and presence. Revisiting your passion challenges us to expand our capacity to love generously, sacrificially, and relentlessly.

Words of Institution

For it was the night of betrayal when Jesus enjoyed a meal with his community of faithful disciples. Imperfect people committed to follow his way encircled that table. The one who would deny him was at the table. The one who would betray him was at the table. Many who would flee in fear of the risk to their own lives sat at that table. All were welcomed. All were known. All were loved. All were nourished as Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it. As he offered the bread to the gathered, he declared, "This is my body. Take and eat in remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and blessed it. As he offered the cup to the gathered, he declared, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Take and drink in remembrance of me."

One: Ministering in the name of Jesus, we offer bread and cup as we proclaim
All: Christ lived, Christ died, Christ rose, and Christ lives again.

Receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

{Bread and gluten free wafers are provided. Purple wine and white grape juice is offered. We receive the elements and hold them to partake together.}

Words of Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

Communal God, we give you thanks that as you shared in life and death, you lead us into the resurrected life. At this table, we acknowledge your abiding presence among us. You offered us bread and cup, which we receive in remembrance and expectation of your movement in human history. Form us as your faithful community and shape us as servants and stewards of your realm. By your Holy Spirit, may your covenant reign within our hearts and manifest in the witness of our lives now and forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" (verses 1 & 5) p.450

*Benediction

May the Holy One be an ever present companion and partner as you encounter the tests of life. May your softened heart break over the pains, pangs, and problems of the world. May the strength of the Spirit fill you, the power of the Spirit embolden you, and the leading of the Spirit guide you as co-creators of the kingdom of God...now and forever. Go in abundant hope, peace and love.

*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: "Recessional" Hughes

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**Hardness of Heart: Service Prayers for World Communion Sunday, the Twentieth 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 GREETERS** are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Mark Weaver.

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.

**Sunday Brunchers** will be Sunday, October 20, 2024 after Worship at the Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad St, Emmaus. **Lunch Bunch** this month will be on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 12 noon at Chestnut Ridge at Rodale, 400 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Emmaus. Swimming after lunch. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark. All are welcome!

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, October 7th at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. **Help** is needed for the next **Giveaway** on **Monday, November 11** between **4-6 p.m.** and on **Saturday, November 16** between **10 a.m.-12 p.m.** This will be our Christmas Giveaway. Any questions, call Millie.



The **Windows Dedication Service** was attended by about 100 members, family, and friends from the community and nearby churches. The committee presented an overview of the project over the past five years, Jessica Yothers and Jen Goudsward provided exceptional and heartfelt music, and Bryan Lerew, owner of Cumberland Stained Glass, filled in the blanks about stained glass restoration. The service is available on Facebook and YouTube. Windows booklets are available in the narthex.

During September, \$2,037 was received toward the \$5,000 Matching Gift Challenge. The challenge will run through the end of November, so let's keep the momentum going!

Please join us next Sunday for **Second Sunday Treats** in the lower social hall at 9:45am. Sometimes we meet after Worship too! Check it out!

Orders for Pepper Pot Soup and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches are due **TODAY**. Order forms can be found at entrances to the Church. Pick up will be on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> between 3-5:30pm in our downstairs social room. Proceeds will be divided between the Cemetery Association and our General Fund. Thank you for helping with this fundraiser.

**Harvest Home** will be displayed during Worship on Sundays, October 20 **and** October 27. You may bring items for Harvest Home and place on the pew outside of Pastor Lori's office. Mark them Harvest Home please.

**All Saints Day** is Sunday, October 27 at our 10:15am Worship. Join us as we light candles for others who have died this past year.

It's officially fall, which can only mean one thing, it's time for **Light in the Night!** This year the event is October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at the Township Building. The planning committee is looking for the following items/things:



- Bagged Snacks – Like pretzels, chips, cheese curls  
(snack size please)
- Desserts/baked goods – Hand held and individually wrapped, please.
- Candy
- Juice boxes
- Cider – Gallons
- People to volunteer day of – run games or decorate your trunk!

We ask that all items be brought to church by next Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Lori has volunteered to help with this, so any items can be given to her or questions too. Please let Pastor Lori know if you are willing to offer some assistance by running a game, leading a craft or helping in the kitchen. This is a great event for local families to have a safe and Happy Halloween experience together.



Our annual **Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction** is scheduled for Saturday, **November 9<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. this year. Please contact Jan Strobel if you would be able to help solicit prizes in the Macungie, Emmaus, or Zionsville areas...a copy of the letter to solicit items from local businesses to be used to fill baskets for the auction can be found in the October Newsletter. She will coordinate solicitation so that we avoid approaching the same business multiple times.

We would love to have some homemade goodies for our Bake Sale. Also, we could **really** use some help **setting up tables on Friday night** (November 8) and **cleaning up on Saturday** after the basket auction. If you can help with either set-up or clean-up, please sign up with Patti Mittl.

**Calling all musicians!** The Zionsville Ministerium is planning a gathering **Sunday, Nov 24, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.** called "A Cornucopia of Thanks." The event will be held at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church on King's Highway, Zionsville. We are inviting local musicians to come and share their talents as we gather to support the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. A free-will donation will be taken. Zion's brand new Allen organ will be revealed to the community. Pies and desserts will be served afterwards. Come and participate or just come and enjoy the beautiful music making and dessert!



**As Thanksgiving is approaching, the Food Pantry is looking for participating churches to contribute appropriate items to the client's meal.** Rather than packing a bag to share with all the usual standards, we are again providing the clients with a choice. Like last year, we will have a table full of all sorts of foods. With this approach, no specific requests are being made of each church. When you shop, feel free to select anything that might be included in a Thanksgiving meal. (some shopping ideas: stuffing mix, gravy, vegetables, pumpkin, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, biscuit mix, bread mix, cookie mix, or anything) Please shop and bring your contributions to church by **NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Any questions, call or text Robin Yoder.

**Wooden Crosses** are available for sale. You **can order attachments** to place on your cross for **fall holidays and the Christmas** season. Please order now so Rich can have the supplies to provide you with beautiful attachments. You can let Pastor Lori know or speak with Rich any Sunday. Attachments are \$15 each. Proceeds go to support the Gas line project. A new whole decorated cross costs \$30. See me, Lisa Talecki or Rich Yeakel for more details.

**HELP!** Is anyone or any family willing to help with an ongoing ministry in our church? It requires **a total of about an hour a month** on the **Communion Sunday** of worship. You can select just one month to help or several months to help. Maybe you would like to do this in memory of a loved one? Or do it for service hours needed for Scouts or school. Anyone can do it and instructions and on the job training are included. Thanks for considering to enrich the life of our church!

Angela Stahler is selling, for a donation of \$5 each, **Shopping Passes for Boscov's**. One day only, Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The discount is 25% off lowest sale price and 15% off some merchandise and 10% off other merchandise. Details are on the flyer you get when you give Angela \$5. The coupon can be used online and in store. There is also a drawing for a \$100 Boscov's gift card. The \$5 "cost" for the ticket is a donation that will go to Grace United Church of Christ in Allentown where Angela works. Help support our sister church and get some great deals on early Christmas Shopping! Please see Angela today or you can email or call her.



**Annual Report** – Committee Chairs please have your Reports in the office no later than Sunday, November 3, 2024. Information to include should be from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. Reports will be handed out at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2024.



*The following **Prayer** comes from our National Offices of the United Church of Christ. We have been encouraged to pray it every day during these 40 days before the election. Perhaps you want to cut this out and place it where you will see it each morning.*

**Our scriptures challenge us to love our neighbors as ourselves. To love our neighbors, we need to see and understand them as they really are. Creator God, inspire us all to see the goodness in our neighbors, whoever has their vote. Amen.**

**Week of October 6, 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

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

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

9:45am Second Sunday Treats

10:15am Worship

**Total Offerings from September 29:**

General Offerings: \$1,145.00

Window Fund: \$472.00

Mission: \$5.00

Communion: \$5.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$30.00

Attendance: 48

**Hurricane Helene Appeal**

**Subject:** UCC Disaster Ministries Response to Hurricane Helene

Dear UCC Congregations of the Penn Northeast Conference,

I hope this message finds you well. As you all realize by now, Hurricane Helene has caused significant devastation, impacting countless lives and communities. In response to this disaster, UCC Disaster Ministries has mobilized to provide immediate and long-term support to those affected.

**Impact of Hurricane Helene:**

- **Lives Lost: Over 150 fatalities reported.**
- **Displaced Individuals: Approximately 50,000 people have been forced to leave their homes.**
- **Property Damage: Estimated damages exceed \$2 billion.**
- **Infrastructure: Hundreds of roads and bridges have been destroyed or severely damaged.**

The efforts of the UCC Disaster Ministries teams, as part of the National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), are focused on holistic community recovery, which includes emergency relief, long-term recovery, and preparedness for future disasters.

If your congregations are compelled to help, monetary donations should be directed to UCC Disaster Ministries.

Even before this event, Church World Service (CWS) was low on disaster clean-up buckets. This is an opportunity to help locally in your own congregation. UCC congregations assembling Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets, CWS School and Hygiene Kits and now CWS Backpacks may apply for UCC Matching Grants of up to \$250 from UCC Disaster Ministries. Matching Grants for CWS Buckets, Kits, Backpacks - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)

We are calling on all congregations within the Penn Northeast Conference to join us in these efforts. Your support, whether through donations, volunteering, or prayer, is crucial in helping us make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared mission of compassion and service.

In faith and solidarity,  
Rev. Gary M. Barraco  
Emotional and Spiritual Care Team Coordinator, Penn Northeast Conference, UCC