

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

November 24, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Covenant Sunday

**A Celebration of the Covenant Among Congregations
And the PNE Conference**

Prelude: "Thank You, Lord"

Burgess

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Adapted from Revelation 1:4-8)

One: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

All: To him who loves us and freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

One: Jesus comes to us still, so every eye will see him and count on his presence.

All: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

One: May we experience the ever-present Jesus in this worship and this time of community.

All: May it be so. Amen!

Invocation (unison)

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny. You call us into your unending

work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hopefilled action. Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

p.435

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.

Brief period of silence

All: Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. Amen.

Words of Grace

Scripture tells us if we are "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us". Rest assured, my friends, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

*Hymn of Meditation: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

see insert

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

p.881

Reflection: A Story

Today is PNEC Covenant Sunday. This is the Sunday set aside to help congregations understand more deeply the covenant we share among the settings of the United Church of Christ. We often think of ourselves as autonomous, when in fact, we are interdependent in covenant with each other. The local congregation is the center of our denomination, and as such makes decisions for itself. Yet, it is in relationship with the conference and the national setting which strive to support the local congregations in their work. On this Sunday, we honor that covenant and ask individuals to become a Friend of the Conference. This means that you will donate as an individual to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Your congregational budget likely has an amount included for OCWM, but this Sunday we are asking people to become Friends of the Conference and offer an additional gift as an individual. We hope you will consider providing support to the Conference as it strives to support your congregation through programs, search and call, crisis intervention, and ongoing coaching for improving the congregations outreach and ministry. The Generosity Team of the Penn Northeast Conference thanks you for your gift.

*Offertory Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" p.816

Invitation to Generosity (Luke 6:38)

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Offertory: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" Schulz

*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)

Loving Creator, whose reign is everlasting, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. May they serve to proclaim your truth and extend your kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Transform our offerings and our lives to bear witness to the hope and promise of Christ, our king. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthem

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: "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of the day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Benediction

One: Finally, siblings, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

All: Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

One: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and communion with the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" Bourgeois

Come outside to the shredder to present your written words on paper for shredding as we give them all to God and end this church year.

Remember the Thanksgiving Concert: A Cornucopia of Thanks at 3 p.m. at the Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church up the hill this afternoon. Come hear their new organ.

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Worship Service adapted from the Penn Northeast Conference prepared service of the covenant.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are from Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Latshaw in memory of Lee and Jean Latshaw and Edna and Theodore Eck.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of Dorothy Scholl.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Millie Kohler.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Pat Sajkowicz.

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.



When parking in the side lot next to the church, please be aware that spaces are not exactly spaced out for easy exit. Please be careful when backing up, especially if someone is parked in the handicapped spots along the lawn of the parsonage. Thanks.

I **thank you** that I could take my last vacation Sunday of the year on Nov. 17 and visit with my friends at Flicksville UCC in Bangor, my previous congregation, for their celebration of 175 years. It was a lovely day of seeing these folks from 10 years ago. Special thanks to Kathy and Carolyn for leading worship that day. Lori

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be Monday, November 25 at 10:00am. If you can help or have any questions, call or text Millie Kohler. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry.



As of November 17, \$5,274 has been contributed towards the new \$6,000 Matching Gift Challenge. We have successfully met the four previous challenges. Let's do it again! We need \$750 today. Thanks for your help.

**Poinsettia orders are due next Sunday.** Order forms can be found at the entrances to the church and in your newsletter. You have a choice of Red, White or Pink Poinsettias at \$13.00 each. You may drop your order in the offering plate, call or email the church office by Sunday, December 1, 2024. Thank you.

Our regular Fall **Annual Congregation Meeting** will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 immediately following worship. At this time, we will discuss the budget, elect new Consistory members and consider any other business that may come before the congregation. Our Consistory is looking to fill four spots this year. If you would like more information, please speak with Kathy Latshaw, Sharon Trexler or Pastor Lori. Terms are 2 years and on the job training is provided. Previous experience is not necessary however if you would like to sign on to serve again, that is terrific. Each member of the church may serve after not having been on Consistory for one year. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

The **Cemetery Association Annual Meeting** will also be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

This year for the **Angel Tree** we will be collecting **SOCKS** for the **Warming Station in the Allentown YMCA**. The Warming Station provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in our community. It is open from November 15 through April 15 to individuals 18 and older. You will not need an actual angel. You can donate **any size socks for men and/or women....** a collection box will be located outside Pastor Lori's office **until December 8.**

**White Gift** Service for the Bethany Home children will be on Sunday, Dec. 8. Your generosity will bring many smiles. Gift list can be found at the entrances to the Church and are in the November Newsletter. Monetary gifts are also accepted to the Faith Fund. Checks may be sent to Bethany Children's Home, c/o Development Department, 1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Bethany can only use NEW items to give to the students living there.

**Wooden Crosses** are available for sale for \$30. Or you can just order an attachment for the one you have already purchased. Christmas arrangements are now being put together for \$15. Order yours today. See Richard Yeakel or Pastor Lori. Proceeds go to our Building Fund.

Need a **holiday gift**? We are selling lottery number calendars for January 2025. Each calendar costs \$20 and the number of the day wins! A portion of the proceeds goes to our Mission offering (OCWM) and calendars are available at church. Please see Cheryl Martucci or Amber Kriebel to get yours.

**December Soup** will be Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup. Order forms are available at the entrances to the church for ordering quarts of Chili, soup and/or Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Orders are due Sunday, December 8. Profits are split between the Cemetery Association and paying of church bills. Thank you.

## **Week of November 24, 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)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm  
Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm  
Choir – Wednesday @ 7:30pm

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

## **Total Offerings from November 17:**

General Offerings: \$1,102.51  
Window Fund: \$245.00  
Mission: \$10.00  
Building Repair: \$10.00  
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$30.00  
Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 36