

**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

December 1, 2024

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**For All The Joy**

Prelude: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Ritter

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.**

Reader One: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*

*Sing the Advent song from the video - God With Us*

Call to Worship

One: In the midst of night's shadows and anguish,

**Many: We pray earnestly to experience your presence.**

One: As dawn slips into the horizon and relieves night of its reign,

**Many: We pray earnestly to sense your presence.**

One: As daylight grows into noontime, filled with the glow of sun's light,

**Many: We pray earnestly to know your presence.**

Invocation (unison)

**Lover God, Creator of Our Hearts, Through your Spirit, our love grows for our neighbors. Our hearts are drawn to your expanding light as we see through the faces of our neighbors. May the joy of your Divine Love spill into each corner of your Realm as we anticipate your love and light in this season of longer nights and bleak days. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" p.245  
(verse 1 only)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Lover God, Creator of Our Hearts,

**Many: Through your Spirit, our love grows for our neighbors. Our hearts are drawn to your expanding light as we see through the faces of our neighbors. May the joy of your Divine Love spill into each corner of your Realm as we anticipate your love and light in this season of longer nights and bleak days. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Take comfort, dear friends, that God's grace will fill our hearts with joy as we know that light grows ahead. May we cling to the crumbs of hope as we step into the nighttime with faith, knowing Divine Bliss accompanies us in each step. Amen.

\*Hymn: "He Is Our Peace" p.614

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36 p.915

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

God continues to increase love in our hearts for our neighbors within our congregation, community, and world. Through our various gifts, we are able to strengthen our connections and grow with our God, Holy Crafter of Gifts.

Offertory: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Helmore

\*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)

**Joyous God, Originator of all Gifts, This day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our firstfruits to loving you and your children. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

The Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

p.17

\*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father, which 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 forever. Amen, Amen**

\*Closing Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

p.244

\*Benediction

As we open the doors to the dawn of this season, May the Creator of Our Hearts fill us with Joy, May the Light of Christ fill our hearts with Hope, And may the Spirit of Tranquility assure our souls with Strength. Amen.

\*Sung Benediction: "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.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

Blake



**Join us next Sunday for White Gift and Congregational Annual meetings for Cemetery and Church at 10:15 a.m.**

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

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Cheryl Martucci.

We thank Ruth Stansfield for Lighting our First Advent Candle today.

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.



**POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY.** Order forms can be found at the entrances to the church. You have a choice of Red, White or Pink Poinsettias at \$13.00 each. You may drop your order in the offering plate or put in the office mailbox. Thank you.

**No Supper Club or Lunch Bunch in December. Sunday Brunch** will be after Worship on Sunday, December 15 at the Merc in Emmaus (cash only). Please RSVP to Linda or Mark. **All are welcome!**

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be Monday, December 2 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.



Congratulations congregation! For the fifth time, the windows annual matching gift challenge has been met! From September through November, \$6,150 was contributed to the \$6,000 challenge. We are grateful to the five challengers for their generosity and to all of our members who supported this year's fund raiser. Since 2020, the challenges have raised \$47,500, 25% of the total restoration cost. With the income from this year's challenge and your continued support, the committee projects sufficient funds to complete the project in the spring. Much to celebrate!

Please join us next Sunday for our **Annual Congregation Meeting** held 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 next Sunday, 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.

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

**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.

## **Week of December 1, 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

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Wednesday @ 7:30pm

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

9:45am Second Sunday Treats

10:15am White Gift Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Congregation and Cemetery Annual Meeting

## **Total Offerings from November 24:**

General Offerings: \$2,400.00

Window Fund: \$900.00

Mission: \$120.00

Communion: \$25.00

Utilities: \$40.00

Building Repair: \$10.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$120.00

Attendance: 51