

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

February 23, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

“A Good Measure”

Prelude: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Lemmel

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 37)

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

Many: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

Many: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

Many: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

Invocation (unison)

Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire. In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “They’ll Know We Are Christians” (vs. 1, 2, 3)

p.429

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms.

All: Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. Amen.

Words of Grace

I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

*Hymn: "I Love You with the Love of the Lord" p.422
(David will play through one time, then sing two times through)

Scripture: Luke 6:17-38 p.895

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Jesus reminds us that God works by a different economy. He tells us, "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High." Friends, by this, joy is given space to rise. May we discover it growing in us as we bring our gifts to God.

Offertory: "Follow, I Will Follow Thee" Brown

* Presentation of Our 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, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied

into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. 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: "The Greatest Thing" (vs. 1 & 2) p.644

*Benediction

One: May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love.

Many: May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others.

One: May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One.

Many: And may the love of God, empower you to help change the world with forgiveness.

One: Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Neander

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*A Good Measure: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C* was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Julia and William Yeakel from Tony and Deborah Gurgick.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Millie Kohler in honor of family and in memory of loved ones.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Larry Stahler.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Christopher Schell.

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.

Today we kick off our **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. We will receive offerings until March 30 at which time we will dedicate them and send them on to make a difference in the world. For more information, see the flyer included in this bulletin. Thanks in advance for your support. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC.

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, February 24 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you can help or have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler.



**Windows to the Future** - Many thanks to those who faithfully empty pockets and wallets of loose change (and sometimes bills) and contribute it to the Change for the Windows Jar. Another \$66 has been raised for the windows, bringing the total raised close to \$1,500 since the jar first appeared in 2020. Great Job!

The FINAL windows fundraiser is underway. Another handmade quilt has been donated and will be awarded to the highest bidder in a sealed bid auction. The quilt is available in the upper social hall. Bids must be a minimum of \$375 and must be submitted in writing by **February 28**. The winner will be announced on Sunday, March 2. Drop your sealed bid in the box located below the quilt.

**Lunch Bunch** will meet on Friday, February 28 at 12:00 noon at Chino's Place, 7567 Chestnut Street, Zionsville. Be sure to let Linda or Mark Weaver know if you are planning to come. All are welcome! The next **Supper Club** will be on Wednesday, March 12 at Hunan Springs.

**Youth Group** will meet on Friday, February 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday** Communion Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

**Church Fundraisers** - Our Social and Aid Committee will be making **Corn Pies** with local grown potatoes for the month of March. These will sell for \$8.00 each along with our monthly **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** at \$5.00 each. Orders must be received by Sunday, March 9. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church.

Our Outlook Committee is selling various flavors of **Fruit and Nut Rolls**. They are \$18.00 each and orders must be received by Sunday, March 23. They will be here in time for Easter. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church.

**The Chosen, Season 3**, will be shown in our lower social hall on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. starting on March 12 and concluding on April 30. All welcome to share in viewing this very moving series on the Life of Jesus.

PNEC will be having Zoom Town Halls for **Keystone Constitution and Bylaws Discussions**. Dates will be March 18 at 6:30pm, March 19 at 1:30pm, April 1 at 6:30pm or April 2 at 2pm. For more information and to get the zoom link please contact PNEC at 610-826-3113 or go to their website at [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org).

**Lenten Services** – Register for Pennsylvania UCC Weekly Lenten Prayer Time Join us at noon every Thursday in Lent beginning March 6 for a short time of prayer led by Conference Staff from the Pennsylvania Conferences. To register and receive a Zoom link call the PNEC office at 610-826-3113.

Picnic Patio tickets have been purchased for an **Iron Pigs Game** scheduled on Saturday, June 21, 2025 with first pitch at 6:35 p.m. We will be seated in the Picnic Pavilion and have the buffet dinner (included in price). This is also a Fireworks show after the game. Tickets are \$28.00 per person. **Signup by Sunday, March 30** along with your payment to Linda or Mark Weaver.

The next round of **GriefCare** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, May 28 and run till July 23. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

**Church Closed?** In case of bad weather we will again be posting any cancelations with Channel 69 – WFMZ-TV under their Storm Center Updates. We will announce on WFMZ but always use your own judgment and stay safe.

## **Week of February 23-March 1, 2025:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday 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

Music and Worship – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday @ 12pm @ Chino's Place

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

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

## **Total Offerings from February 16, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$3,270.00

Window Fund: \$260.00

Mission: \$60.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$137.00

Utilities: \$20.00

Communion: \$10.00

Building Repair: \$40.00

Parking Lot: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 48