

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 7, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Apostle: Matthias

Prelude: "O Lord Most Holy"

Franck

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship (Inspired by Jeremiah 18 and Psalm 139)

One: We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are your clay.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Mold us again!

One: We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and dreams, our doubts and our delights.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!

One: We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our path.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Rebuild and replant us!

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Sovereign God, you are the Potter who has fashioned us into being as a community. Dwell in our midst. Share your wisdom and open every point of receptivity within us. You are holy, gracious, and kind. As we gather, we recommit to accept the joys and the costs of discipleship. May you be glorified in our worship, and may we be transformed as we encounter you and your way anew this day. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "We Will Glorify" (David will play optional 4th verse setting - please wait to sing until he plays the transition notes) pg. 105

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us.

All: And, we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction, apathy, and overwhelm so that we may be your instruments of redemption, reparation, and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, God's mercy is available and so is God's power at work in us. We do receive the grace of the Potter to be used to break down what needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed and to support what needs repair and restoration. A new world that reflects the realm of God is possible through us.

*Hymn: "He Giveth More Grace"

pg. 707

Scriptures: Acts 1:12-26

pages 947, 948

Reflection: The Apostle Matthias

Invitation to Generosity

Discipleship importantly includes sharing of our financial resources in support of the ministry of the gospel. Let us share materially in meeting the obligations of this church community.

Offertory: "O Savior Sweet, O Savior Kind"

Bach

*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 Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of this church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our contributions. Amen.

Special Music

Pastoral Prayer

Service of Holy Communion: (page 19 in the service of holy Communion booklet)

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

*Closing Hymn: "God Will Take Care of You"

pg. 692

*Benediction

Go, ready and committed
To accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
To be servants in the service of the whole human family
To proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil
To be the church in the world. Amen and Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Praise the Lord"

Franck

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***Estimate the Cost:** Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

**TODAY'S Altar Flowers are sponsored by BettyLou Hartman in memory of Francis Hartman**

**TODAY'S Chancel Flowers are sponsored by Bobby Schmeltzle (godson) in memory of Paulette Shankweiler**

**TODAY'S GREETERS are Donna & Michael Mikolajczyk**

**TODAY'S LITURGIST is Lee Hoch**

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.

**All Things Free (ATF) Giveaway** Monday, September 8, 4:00-6:00pm and Saturday, September 13, 10:00am-12:00pm. Help is always needed. Please stop in.

**A Message from ATF:** We continually look for new and/or regifting items throughout the year that can be used as gifts at our November giveaway when food pantry clients shop for Christmas gifts for their family (all ages). Please consider helping us accumulate a variety of items. If you prefer not to shop but are willing to support us with a monetary donation, we will gladly do bargain shopping for you. Thanks in advance for helping any way you can!

**Supper Club** will meet on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ Capo. & Co. in Emmaus. Please RSVP to Mark or Linda by Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday Brunchers** will meet at the Merc after worship, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**September Sandwich.** Order forms are found in the bulletin. Orders must be received by today, Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Pickup date is Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 pm.

**Choir Rehearsal.** Thursday, September 11, 7:30pm. All welcome!!!

**Youth Group.** Friday, September 26, 6:00-8:00pm lower social hall.

**Dedication Sunday.** Sunday, September 28 during the 10:15am service

**The Chosen**, season 4, will begin to be shown again, one episode each week in the lower social hall on Wednesdays starting at 1 p.m. with snacks on Sept. 10 and concluding on Oct. 29. All Welcome! You do not need to have seen previous episodes but if you wish to see them, we can make arrangements.

### **St. Francis Day Animal Blessing and Fire Pit Fellowship**

When: Saturday, Oct 4, 2025 6-8pm (raindate: Oct 11)

Where: Parking Lot of Zion's Lutheran, Old Zionsville

What: Join us as we commemorate St. Francis of Assisi's feast day with a gathering celebrating God's creation. We'll say a few prayers and sing a few songs and then roast a few marshmallows together. Pets on leashes/harnesses are welcome to come for a spoken blessing. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket, and your favorite sticks for roasting marshmallows.

Questions, ask Pastor Lori.

**Week of September 7 through September 13:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.  
Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Thursday & Friday 10am-3pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 4-6pm ATF Giveaway

Tuesday: 6:30pm Personnel Committee

Wednesday: 1pm The Chosen (lower social hall)

6pm Supper Club @ Capo

7pm Finance

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

Friday: 5pm Wedding rehearsal

Saturday: 10am-12pm ATF Giveaway

3pm Beth Oswald & Tyler Miller Wedding

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

**Next Sunday**—10:15 am worship 9:50 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Treats

9:00 am Sunday School

**Total Offerings from August 31<sup>th</sup> , 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2260.00

Mission: \$75.00

Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$20.00

Attendance – 39

## Happy Grandparents Day!

(As found on the internet:)

The golden rule for grandparents is to provide unconditional love and emotional support to their grandchildren, while not interfering with the rules and family dynamics established by the grandchild's parents. Grandparents do not make the rules, their child and their child's spouse/partner—the grandchild's parents—do. One of the most important things grandparents can do is to create memories with their grandchildren. Those who are actively involved with their grandchildren can also provide consistency and stability for those kids by showing up and being a reliable presence the grandchild can count on for love and support, and even discipline if it aligns with the parent's disciplinary guidelines.

That's not to say grandparents can't have certain rules at their house, like taking shoes off when inside, being respectful to guests or helping with the dishes. Grandparents just need to keep their adult children's rules in mind and help establish consistency in expectations for the children involved. The bond between grandparents and grandchildren is a beautiful thing. While a healthy parent-child relationship can provide the love and solid foundation children need to cope with challenging times and flourish as they grow, grandparents can reinforce both, while providing insight and added security to help shape a child's sense of self, wellbeing and confidence.