

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 14, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude: "A Perfect Heart"

McGuire

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 51)

One: Let us enter the presence of our God with a renewed heart and a right spirit.

Many: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

One: Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth and the wisdom of God.

Many: Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

One: Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our crushed spirits.

Many: Revive us again, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Maker of Heaven and Earth, we rejoice in your presence. In you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. Speak to us again. Reveal your power in and through us. Show us your glory and be glorified in our worship. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your kingdom. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongue Employ"

See insert

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy God, you seek us when we are lost. You do not turn away from those who others minimize and demean.

All: Help us to recognize the belovedness of every human being and all your creation. Give us courage and curiosity to engage with those that others would ignore or isolate. Let us rejoice on earth as you rejoice in heaven as we make restoration, redemption, and reconciliation abound among us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, the Holy One seeks you and rejoices when you turn from the ways of the world that minimize and marginalize the community God has prepared for us. We can be builders of a future that celebrates the kingdom of God alive and rejoicing on earth.

*Hymn: "This Is My Song"

See insert

Scriptures: Acts 9:1-19

pages 955-956

Reflection: The Apostle Paul

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology (unison)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Let us give generously and lovingly to support the ministry of the gospel—loving our neighbors as ourselves through sharing the abundant gifts of God.

Offertory: "Morning Has Broken"

Mickleton

*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)

**God our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people.
We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our
community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment
to being your church. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

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, forever. Amen**

*Closing Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

pg. 597

*Benediction

As you go,
Rejoice that God knows you, recognizes you, and communes with you.
Rejoice knowing that you have the power to do the same
With all you encounter.
Go, and rejoice!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Freely, Freely"

Owens



Joy in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth 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 the Richards-Brown Family in memory of Jack, Elizabeth, and Doris Brown.

TODAY'S Bulletins are sponsored by Maynard & Barbara Dreas in honor of the birthdays of their son, Jeff & grandsons Dan, Darren, and Tristan.

TODAY'S GREETER is a member of the Consistory.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Nancy Weitzel.

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 meet at the Merc after worship, September 21st.

September Sandwich. The Pickup date is Thursday, September 18th from 3:30-5:30 pm.

Choir Rehearsal. Thursday, September 18, 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, began showing on Sept. 10 and will conclude on Oct. 29, one episode each week in the lower social hall on Wednesdays starting at 1 p.m. with snacks on Sept. 10. 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 (rain date: 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.

From the United Church of Christ, Rev. Michael Neuroth, Director of the Washington D.C. Office, Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, **For Just Peace Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025**

"Since January 20th, policy changes have only exacerbated the strain on the Earth and escalated climate change. The U.S. is no longer part of the Paris Climate Agreement and "climate change" has been scrubbed from federal websites. Fossil fuel investments have been expedited and drilling/mining projects, including in Alaska approved. Critical EPA and FEMA staff have been fired and grant funding frozen. The Administration created an energy "dominance" council and rolled back EPA consideration of environmental justice in projects. And in the "Big Beautiful Bill", wind & solar tax credits have been cut along with IRA clean energy investments. The list could go on!"

For More Information, look up ucc.org - Just Peace Sunday

Week of September 14 through September 20:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Tues 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed. & Thurs. 10am-2pm
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store

Tuesday: 7pm Consistory

Wednesday: 1pm The Chosen (lower social hall)

Thursday: 3:30-5:30pm Sandwich Pickup

7:30pm Choir

Saturday: 11am Martin Bertie Celebration of Life

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

Next Sunday—10:15 am Worship

9:00 am Sunday School

Total Offerings from September 7, 2025:

General Offerings: \$1568.00

Mission: \$55.00

Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$40.00

Heat/Electric: \$30.00

Communion: \$35.00

Building Repair: \$70.00

Sunday School: \$9.00

Attendance – 45