

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 28, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Dedication Sunday

Prelude: "Fellowship Medley"

Leatherman

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship (from Mark 8: 27-30)

One: Jesus asks the disciples:

Many: "Who do people say I am?"

One: They answer,

"Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets."

But Jesus presses them:

Many: "Who do you say I am?"

One: Peter answers,

"You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Many: Now Jesus pushes us:

"What about you?"

Here, in this moment, in this community,

One: Who do you say I am?"

Many: Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Holy Wisdom of God

You call to us from the depths of our hearts,

where we long for connection with you and with one another.

You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,

Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.

You call to us from our sacred stories,

**where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.
Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and
help us see with your eyes
the ways which lead to beloved community
where Christ Jesus is at the center. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: "He Lives"

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Confession

One: Christ calls on us to "lose our life in order to save it";
To "take up our cross and follow"
in the ways of justice and peace.

**Many: Like the disciples before us,
we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command.
We close our ears to such challenge and
our hearts to such risk.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's words and actions are never careless;
In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion,
A source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom.
In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again.
Amen.

*Hymn: "Give to Our God Immortal Praise"

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Scriptures: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Page 1036-1037

The Reflection

Dedication of things of the church that have been new since 2023 (See insert)

Call for the Offering

The psalmist declares, "The heavens are telling the glory of God.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge."
Let us share our gifts
so that we can also partake in telling others of God's glory!

Offertory: "No Other Name but Jesus"

Christian

*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 (unison)

**All-knowing God, teach us to use these gifts
to create greater access, insights, and wisdom
for people within and outside of these walls. So be it!**

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: "How Great Thou Art"

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*Benediction

Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:
–Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?
Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering,
and lead us to recognize and serve our Risen Savior in all our encounters.
Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Majesty"

Hayford

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**Wisdom Calls: Service Prayers for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO.

**TODAY'S Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Henry and MaryAnn Heil in memory of MaryAnn's mother, Mary Harry.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Lee and Susan Hoch.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jan Strobel.

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 Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, September 29 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please do not block the chair path when leaving donations in the stairway. Any questions, call Millie Kohler.

**Choir Rehearsal.** Thursday, October 1, 7:30pm. All welcome!!!

**Sunday, October 5, 12, 19** - join us at lunchtime after worship for a discussion of the parable of the Prodigal Son based on a book by Henri Nouwen. This study will be led by Tom Dilts, a resident of Chestnut Ridge, friend of Millie Kohler, and excellent discussion leader. Tom has led Henri Nouwen discussion groups from 2001-2014 and has led discussions with several of this author's books.

If you wish to purchase a copy of the book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, a story of homecoming, see Pastor Lori. The cost is \$10 each.

The book also uses the painting by Rembrandt based on this parable. Nouwen will take us deeper into the journeys of the older and younger sons and the love of the father for both. It is not necessary to read the book, but it would be helpful.

Immediately following worship, we will adjourn to the lower social hall to enjoy a buffet lunch and the study will begin around 12:15 and conclude by 1:45.

**With the cooler weather brings Soup.** Our Social and Aid Committee is taking orders for Pepper Pot Soup with Homemade Noodles and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Order forms can be found at entrances to the Church. Orders are due Sunday, October 12. Proceeds will be divided between the Cemetery Association and our General Fund. Thank you for helping with this fundraiser.

**Supper Club,** Wednesday October 8, 2025, 6:00 PM  
Carriage House Restaurant & Pub  
745 Gravel Pike, PA-29, East Greenville  
RSVP by Sunday 10/5/2025

**Sunday Brunchers,** there will be no Sunday Brunches in October due to the Luncheon and Book Study after church on Sunday 10/19.

**Lunch Bunch,** Friday October 31, 2025, 12 Noon  
Perkins  
3400 Lehigh St., Allentown  
RSVP by Sunday 10/26/2025

**Harvest Home** will be displayed during Worship on Sundays, October 19 and October 26. You may bring items for Harvest Home and place on the pew outside of Pastor Lori's office. Mark them Harvest Home please.

**All Saints Day** is Sunday, October 26 at our 10:15am Worship.

**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. 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.

### **Week of September 28 through October 3:**

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

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Monday 10am-3pm, Friday 12-5pm or 1-6 pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts (lower social hall)

Tuesday: 7pm Cub Scouts (lower social hall)

Wednesday: 1pm The Chosen (lower social hall)  
7-10:30pm Healing Sound Meditation (Sanctuary)

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

Saturday: 6-8pm St. Francis Animal Blessing and Fire Pit Fellowship  
(Parking Lot of Zion's Lutheran, Old Zionsville)

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

**Next Sunday**—9:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship, World Communion Sunday

After Worship: Buffet Lunch (lower social hall)

12:15-1:45pm Prodigal Son Study

**Total Offerings from September 21, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2925.00

Mission: \$25.00

Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$120.00

Communion: \$3.00

Flowers: \$40.00

Sunday School: \$7.00

Heat/Electric: 10.00

Attendance – 42

## **Dedication of Gifts to the Church October 23, 2023 to October 1, 2025**

We give thanks to God for (in no particular order):

- Upgrades to the parsonage as needs arise and our Parsonage Liaison, Robin Yoder
- Carriage House painting and doors of the church painting
- Replaced the broken camera that is outside Pastor's office window in Jan. 2024
- Completion of Windows to The Future project, 2020 - 2025 - a big dedication service was held with special speakers, musical guests, and a slide show to describe the project and how far we came through the period with the help of Cumberland Stained Glass Windows
- SonShine group was added to our roster of groups and committees to sell soft pretzels, other food and miscellaneous items including wooden crosses decorated with bows and silk flowers with proceeds going to the General fund or specified needs
- Permanent caution signs at the cross walk were added with the help of the Township
- Grab bars at the entrance to the choir loft and the sanctuary from the sacristy were installed
- The money from the sponsorship of Silk Flower Altar arrangements instead of real flowers was designated for the Windows Fund. Since completed, we decided upon designating our Mission Fund as the recipient.
- The compressor on the big silver refrigerator was replaced
- The All Things Free Storage space was enlarged to include a portion of the large Sunday School room and previous Village School/Nursery rooms. Shelving units were donated from the Food Pantry. Phil Rhode had them cleaned and delivered to the church.
- Phil Rhode donated pipe and installation of the curtain rod that separates the room to be Sunday School space during the school year and ATF space year long. ATF paid for the curtain material purchased, altered and installed by Robin Yoder.
- The window high above the Village School entrance was repaired
- Awning at the front sanctuary door was provided by the Outlook committee in memory of Bob and Darlene Schmeltzle plus a light was installed to shine under the awning illuminating the front door
- Two new Microphones for the Bell Choir were received in October 2023
- The new Windows 11 Sound System PC was installed 10/3/2024.
- The new Windows 11 Office PC was installed 6/27/2025.

- A new roof on the cemetery shed was installed, new siding put in place and 2 new signs for 2 of the cemeteries were posted on site.
- Big boiler repair was completed.
- Parking lot across the street and the horseshoe in front of the building were upgraded and striped
- Brenda Seitz, our Administrative Assistant of 22 years, retired in June of 2025. We hired two people to replace her! - an office administrative assistant and a financial Administrative Assistant.
- We thank Diane and Mike Berger, who for 20 years volunteered their time in church grounds maintenance!!
- Church Grounds Maintenance person was hired.

And of course, there are so many things that have been done behind the scenes that we can't even list them all.

We thank all of those who love this church and give of themselves so freely for the betterment of our community and our world.

Thanks be to God for these amazing gifts.  
Amen.

**Old Zionsville UCC**  
P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

**October Soup and Sandwich Sale**

Our Social and Aid Committee is going to keep us warm during the winter months again this year. Each month they will be offering a Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser to help the Church and Cemetery. Pickups will be on a Thursday so you will be able to sell soup and sandwiches at work and deliver them for lunch on Friday! This month they are offering **Pepper Pot Soup with Homemade Noodles and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches**. Soup will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday during worship service; call or email the Church office (610-966-3601), [ozuccoffice@ntd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ntd.net); or Annie Souder: \_\_\_\_\_ to place your orders. Keep the bottom of this form for your records if you sell to others.

**Orders must be received by Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**Pick up will be Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of Ham & Cheese Sandwiches:**

at \$5.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of Quarts of Soup:**

at \$8.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Owed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



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Pick up Thursday, October 23, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall  
between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

| Name | Phone | Sandwiches |
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