

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

October 12, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude: "So Send I You"

Peterson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 66)

One: We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

Invocation (unison)

Loving God, Compassionate Architect,

You are the bearer of all our souls, the hope of all possibilities when walls surround us. You carve paths in mountainous regions when our roads appear blocked. You build bridges between people separated by gaps and distances. May we be ones who create channels so that your children continue to form relationships with one another and with you. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "I Cannot Tell"

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy One, Creator of All,

Many: As your Spirit nudges people from all experiences and lands into our lives, we often turn the sign from "Come In! We're Open!" to "Sorry, We're Closed." It's easier for us to draw the curtains and remain in the shadows than open ourselves up to the light, to healing, and all the possibilities that God sends our way. May your

Spirit swing open our souls to all possibilities of newness. May our unlocked minds notice the ways your presence fills our hearts with expanding love and hope. Amen.

Words of Grace

One: In each season of our lives, God's grace continuously transforms our hearts. May we return our gratitude and celebrate the glory of God in our Alleluias and Amens.

All: Alleluia and Amen! Thanks be to God!

*Hymn: Great Is The Lord

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Scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:8 - 15

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The Reflection

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Invitation to Generosity

God calls us to plant and build, heal and seek the well-being of all. As we share our gifts with the church and community, may we recognize that sharing our talents, treasures, and time benefits all of creation.

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 (unison)

**Divine Crafter of Joy,
Through your great works, we see your glory. Through our work together, we reflect your glory to a world of pain. May we deliver your dreams and build your Realm here on earth. Bless the work of our hearts as we move into a future filled with hope and living your visions. Amen.**

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: "He Touched Me"

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*Benediction

As we move about God's Realm this week,
May we recognize the Spirit's movement in forging new pathways
May we recognize the Christ's movement in shaping communities of gratitude,
And may we recognize the Divine's movement in fashioning a world in which
all have the means to thrive.
Amen!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Sullivan

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***Return to Give Glory: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*** was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Cheryl & McGwire Martucci.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Nancy Civitts.

**TODAY'S Chancel Flowers** are sponsored by Chris Schell in memory of his parents, Ruth-Ann and Carl Schell on their Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S Bulletin** is sponsored by Patricia Kuebler in memory of loved ones.

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, October 13 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.

Help is needed for the next **ATF Giveaway** on Monday, November 10 between 4-6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15 between 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This will be our Christmas Giveaway. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church. For more info, please contact Millie Kohler.

**ATF** continually looks 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 families (all ages). 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!

**Choir Rehearsal.** Thursday, October 16, 7:30pm. All welcome!!!

**Sunday, October 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.

**Immediately following worship**, we will adjourn to the lower social hall to enjoy a buffet lunch (this week we will have soup, vegetarian chili, breakfast casserole, salad, fruit, bread, shrimp cocktail and desserts) and the study will begin around 12:15pm and conclude by 1:45pm.

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.

**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 today, Sunday, October 12.** Soup and Sandwich pickup is October 23. Proceeds will be divided between the Cemetery Association and our General Fund. Thank you for helping with this fundraiser.

**It's hard to believe that Light in the Night is only 2 weeks away!**

**Light in the Night** is set for October 19th, 2025, at the Upper Milford Township building from 4-6pm. Help is needed. Please contact Pastor Lori if you can help run a game or donate packages of snack crackers, cookies or drink boxes.

**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. Our new Administrative Secretary, Ellie Deere, will be with us in worship on this Sunday so you can meet her. She will be lighting a candle for her nephew, who died suddenly at the end of August this year. Please plan to say hi to her Oct. 26.

**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.

**Old Zionsville UCC, 5981 Fountain Road**, would like to invite all of our siblings in Christ to participate in a **Combined Choir and Friends Concert to celebrate Thanksgiving on** Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. in our sanctuary. The combined choir will rehearse for 3 Thursday evenings before the event in our sanctuary. The dates for rehearsals are as follows: Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Zionsville UCC Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join to sing. We are looking for instrument solos, storytellers, and snacks to share at the reception. Any questions, please contact Lori Esslinger 610-393-3522

There will be instrument solos, hymn singing, storytelling, and the highlight, the combined choir voices to give Thanks to our God. A free will offering will be received to benefit our Ministerium which helps local people in various situations throughout the year. A time of fellowship will follow the event in our lower social hall. All welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this special time to give thanks.

**Week of October 12 through October 18:**

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

Other times by appointment

**Pastor Lori will be out of the office on Thurs, Fri, and Saturday.**

She will be at home and available by phone.

Church Secretary Hours: Tues 11:30am-1:20pm, Wed and Thurs 10am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store

7pm Property Committee

Tuesday: 7pm FUN Meeting

Wednesday: 1pm The Chosen (lower social hall)

7pm Finance Committee

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

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

**Next Sunday**—9:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship

After Worship: Buffet Lunch (lower social hall)

12:15-1:45pm Prodigal Son Study

**Total Offerings from October 5, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$1505.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Communion: \$14.00

Mission: \$65.00

Flowers: \$40.00

Sunday School: \$2.00

Attendance – 44