

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068 www.oldzionsucc.org

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net



November 2025

Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436 Cell: 610-393-3522 MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10am-3pm

Church Office Hours

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm. Except: Thursday 11/13 (Hours to be Determined). Tuesday & Wednesday 11/25 & 11/26 9am-2pm (please call before stopping in)

Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601 ozuccoffice@ptd.net

Financial Administrator Robin Yoder Secretary Ellie Deere

Organist

David Carlson

Choir Director

Carolyn Rhoads

Sexton

Richard Shoemaker Social Media Coordinators Beth Massa Angela Stahler

Consistory Officers

President
Cheryl Martucci
Vice President
Kathy Latshaw
Secretary
Mark Weaver
Treasurer
Robin Yoder

From Pastor's Desk...

I can't make the world be peaceful

I can't prevent children from having to hide behind desks I can't deflect a sniper's bullet from turning a wife into a widow

I can't convince the news to stop turning war into a video game

I can't silence the sound of bombs tearing neighborhoods apart

I can't stall tanks from roaring down roads

I can't turn a guided missile into a bouquet of flowers

I can't make a murderer have an ounce of empathy

I can't convince politicians to quit playing truth or dare

I can't stave off a schoolyard being reduced to ash and rubble

I can't do any of that, the only thing I can do

is love the next person I encounter

without any conditions or strings

to love my neighbor so fearlessly that

it starts a ripple that stretches from

one horizon to the next

I can't force peace on the world

but I can become a force of peace in the world

because sometimes all it takes

is a single lit candle in the darkness

to start a movement

oh, Spirit,

let me be a candle

of comfort in this world

let me burn with peace

~ john roedel

Peace,

Lori Esslinger, Part Time Pastor

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Fall PNEC Conference Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 2 – Turn Your Clocks Back Tonight!
9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship, Communion 12:00 noon Confirmation Class	3 ATF Sort & Store 10am Scouts 6pm	4 Cubs 7pm	5 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	6 OZUCC Choir 7pm Combined Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	7 Bazaar Setup 6:30pm	8 Bazaar & Basket Auction 9am-3pm
9:00am Sunday School 9:50am Second Sunday Treats 10:15am Worship ATF Setup for Giveaway	ATF Giveaway 4-6pm Scouts 6pm Property 7pm	FUN Group 7pm Cubs 7pm	Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Finance 7pm	OZUCC Choir 7pm Combined Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	14	15 ATF Giveaway 10am-12pm
9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship After Worship: Burn Sins	ATF Sort & Store 10am Scouts 6pm	18 Consistory 7pm	Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	20 OZUCC Choir 7pm Combined Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	21	22
9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship, 3pm Combined Choir and Friends Concert to Celebrate Thanksgiving	24 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm	25 Cubs 7pm	26 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Cemetery 7pm	Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship, Communion						

OZUCC Mission Statement

The mission of our Church is to be a congregation devoted to our community where we experience and share the loving presence of God by teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, by celebrating God's Word in the Bible, and through loving service to all people.

Our regular **Fall Annual Congregation Meeting** will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 immediately following worship. At this time, we will discuss the budget, elect new Consistory members and consider any other business that may come before the congregation. Our Consistory is looking to fill four spots this year. If you would like more information, please speak with Cheryl Martucci, Kathy Latshaw, or Pastor Lori. Terms are 2 years and on the job training is provided. Previous experience is not necessary however if you would like to sign on to serve again, that is terrific. Each member of the church may serve after not having been on Consistory for one year. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

The **Cemetery Association Annual Meeting** will also be held on December 7, 2025 immediately following the Annual Meeting.

News from Choir...

All are welcome to join in the choir, rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday nights in November. Consider making choir part of your life this Fall!

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.

News from Christian Ed...

Looking forward to Advent this year! We will be studying the Hymn/Carol: **What Child IS This?**

To make it very relevant, we are inviting you to bring your Nativity sets to our church to be photographed. During Advent, we will show the pictures during a slide show at the time of the Lighting of the Advent Candles.

Angela Stahler will be taking pictures of your Nativity set(s) for this slide show. I have a collection of Nativity Sets. I'm deciding which one to bring for the photos. Maybe you have one that has been in your family for years? Or one that you purchased in another country? Or one that was handmade for you? They are each beautiful in their own way. Speak with Angela to

arrange an appointment time to set up the nativity at church and then have it photographed. We will enjoy seeing the amazing beauty of each individual set.

Thanks in advance for participating in our Old Zionsville UCC members and friends Nativity Set/Creche scenes for 2025.

Sunday School is open to all children who would like to participate. Children can start at the age of two or when they are potty trained. Classes are held in the lower level of the church. If you have other questions about Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori, Susan Jacobs or Deb Schoenberger.

Confirmation Class has started again with our two teens ready to be confirmed. The program will run for a YEAR with confirmation happening in September of 2026 during worship.

For now, we are looking for one or two different adults to join the class each time we meet to make the discussion with these teens livelier. Please take a look at our schedule and sign up with me if you are willing to sit it with us and share. We will all learn together. NO previous knowledge of anything special required. We appreciate your help in growing our youth in their FAITH.

Topics to be discussed each session will be available soon.

Since the teens are busy with other commitments, we are scaling back the program to 2 Sundays a month. Acolyting and worship are extra credit and I'm encouraging them to do that as often as they can.

When you see them around, please encourage them on their journey. Our 2 students are: Matthew Yenser and Caroline French.

Here is the schedule:

All dates are Sundays and all class times will meet in the lower social hall. If you see a class that starts at 12 noon (or immediately after worship), it includes FREE LUNCH!

News from Computer and Media Committee...

If you can't attend worship on Sunday, not to worry! We livestream our service every Sunday at 10:15am on YouTube and Facebook! Both of these options are available on demand, as well... can't watch on Sunday morning? No problem; watch when you can!





To find us on YouTube, you can visit our channel at https://tinyurl.com/bdfpux8b. Or just search for Old Zionsville UCC.

If you have any questions about using our Website, or finding our Worship Services online, please send contact Beth Massa.

News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

Supper Club

When: Wednesday November 5, 2025, 6:00 PM

Where: Jamison Publick House 1860 Geryville Pike, Pennsburg **RSVP** by Sunday 11/2/2025



Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday November 16, 2025, After Church (Cash Only)

Where: The Mercantile Club 427 Railroad St. Emmaus **RSVP** by Tuesday 11/11/2025

Lunch Bunch

When: Friday November 21, 2025, 12 Noon

Where: The New Pennsburg Diner 321 Pottstown Ave, Pennsburg **RSVP** by Sunday 10/16/2025

Combined Supper Club and Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday December 3, 2025, 6:00 PM

Where: Washington Grille & Pub 1063 PA-100, Bechtelsville **RSVP** by Sunday 11/30/2025

Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday December 21, 2025, After Church (Cash Only)

Where: The Mercantile Club 427 Railroad St. Emmaus **RSVP** by Tuesday 12/16/2025

News from the Food Pantry...

As Thanksgiving is approaching, the Food Pantry is looking for participating churches to contribute appropriate items to the client's meal. Rather than packing a bag to share with all the usual standards, we are again providing the clients with a choice. Like last year, we will have a table full of all sorts of foods. With this approach, no specific requests are being made of each church. When you shop, feel free to select anything that might be included in a Thanksgiving meal. (Some shopping ideas: stuffing mix, gravy, vegetables, pumpkin, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, biscuit mix, bread mix, cookie mix, or anything.) Please shop and bring your contributions to church no later than NOVEMBER 2.

Any questions, call or text Robin Yoder.

The Zionsville Area Food Pantry is open the **2nd Monday** of the month 4:00-6:00 PM and the **Saturday** of that same week 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Zionsville Area Food Pantry is located at Zion's Lutheran Church. Their email address is ZAFP5901@yahoo.com and their mailing address is P.O. Box 56, Old Zionsville, PA 18068.

Remember you can bring items to our Church for the Food Pantry at any time. Stuff needed most for the Food Pantry are: **personal care items, paper products and all kinds of non-perishable food.** Pick up extra at the grocery store and bring it to Church. Place in the shopping cart in the first-floor social room. Thanks.

News from the ATF Room...



If you would like/able to help on Monday mornings with sorting and storing all items received for our Giveaways, we welcome your help and are at the Church on Monday mornings by 10:00am

Help is needed for the next **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**. Setup for the Christmas Giveaway is on Sunday, November 9 following the

worship service in the Lower Social Hall, lunch will be provided.

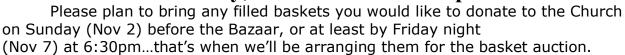
Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church. For more info, please contact Millie Kohler.

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!

News from the FUN Group...

Faith Uniting Neighbors FUN Stuff

Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction – Saturday, November 8 9am-3pm



- ♦ We would LOVE to have some homemade goodies for our <u>Bake Sale</u> drop them off Friday night (Nov. 7) (between 6:30pm and 7:30pm) or early Saturday morning (Nov. 8).
- ♦ We could **really** use some help **setting up on Friday night** (November 7) and
- ♦ Help **cleaning up on Saturday** after the basket auction.
 - If you can help with either set-up or clean-up, please sign up with Patti Mittl.

With your help we'll have another successful Bazaar & Basket Auction this year!!

Angel Tree

Again this year, for the Angel Tree we will be collecting **SOCKS** for the **Warming Station in the Allentown YMCA**. The Warming Station provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness in our community. It is open from November 15 through April 15 to individuals 18 and older. You will not need an actual angel. You can donate any size NEW socks for men and/or women.... a collection box will be located outside Pastor Lori's office from **November 9 until December 7.**

Share the Warmth

Again this year we will be collecting items to warm someone from the inside. All items will be donated to support the Zionsville Area Food Pantry.

Beginning in December and through January we will be collecting the following items:



- Tea bags
- Coffee (regular and/or decaf --- NOT coffee beans, which need to be ground; NOT K-cups)
- Soup
- Hot chocolate

Please note: Tea and Coffee are especially needed.

Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- ♦ 2/1/2026 **-** Souper Bowl
- ♦ 5/2/2026 Penny Party



News from Music and Worship Committee...

Second Sunday Treats - Join us for some delicious snacks to boost your energy for Worship, flavorful coffee and fellowship provided by Wendy and Jack Yeakel in the lower social hall starting at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 9, 2025.

New Information: The Silk Flower arrangements that we place on the altar for you instead of real flowers: the money you pay to have that tribute (\$30) will now be going to the Mission Account in our budget. Thanks in advance for supporting the mission program of our church and of our World. (The Silk Flower money previously supported the Window to the Future Campaign. We have concluded and fulfilled that campaign thanks to all! So this is a change until the Music and Worship Committee decides on a new campaign to support.)

Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. this year. 3 p.m. will be a little shorter for those who can't sit so long and those who don't like to drive at night - candles, carols, communion. 7 p.m. will be a traditional service also with choir, candles, and carols. O Come All Ye Faithful!

News from Social and Aid...

November Soup and Sandwich Sale

Beef Vegetable Soup along with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in November by our Social and Aid Committee. 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@ptd.net; or Annie Souder to place your orders. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association.

Orders must be received by Sunday, November 9th, 2025.

Pick up will be Thursday, November 20th, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Thank you to all who helped with making sandwiches in October. The total profit of the sale was \$1057.95, 80% went into our General Fund to help with paying Church bills and 20% went to the Cemetery.

News from the Property Committee

Seeking a New Chairperson

After nearly ten years of faithful service, Beth Massa will be stepping down as our Property Chairperson at the end of December. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and the many ways she has led this group in caring for our church building and grounds.

This role is vital to the life of our church, helping to ensure that our space is safe, functional, and welcoming for all. It's behind-the-scenes work that makes a big difference in the everyday life of our congregation.

If you have a heart for the church and gifts in organization, communication, or facilities management—or even just a willingness to learn—we encourage you to consider whether God may be calling you to serve in this way.

Please join us in giving thanks for Beth's ministry, and take time to prayerfully consider if you or someone you know might be the right person for this important role.

If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact Beth or Pastor Lori.

News from the Youth Group...

Youth Group is undergoing some "re-construction". If you have ideas for programs that youth would enjoy. Please speak with Alyson Miller or Pastor Lori. No further meetings scheduled at this time.

News From the Office

Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2am on Sunday, November 2. Please remember to turn your clocks back One Hour on Saturday, November 1 before you go to bed in preparation for Sunday Services.

Annual Report – Committee Chairs please have your Reports in the office no later than Sunday, November 2, 2025. Information to include should be from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. Reports will be handed out at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025. Thank you!

Annual Congregation Meeting – Sunday, December 7th will be our annual Congregation Meeting. Our Consistory is looking to fill four spots this year. If you would like more information, please speak with Cheryl Martucci, Kathy Latshaw, or Pastor Lori. Terms are 2 years and on the job training is provided. Previous experience is not necessary however if you would like to sign on to serve again, that is terrific. Each member of the church may serve after not having been on Consistory for one year. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

Join the Lehigh Valley Chorale for "A Crowded Table"

Inspired by the Highwomen's song of the same name, A Crowded Table explores themes of connection, chosen family, and compassion. This uplifting program is designed to inspire hope, foster community, and encourage unconditional love.

The concert features works by Rosephanye Powell, Sara Bareilles, Shara Nova, Celine Dion, Neil Ginsberg, and many more. We're thrilled to be joined by talented instrumentalists from the Lehigh Valley and to welcome our Interim Assistant Conductor, Liz Olson, who will lead us in several pieces. Come experience an evening of light, joy, and beautiful music!

Concert dates: Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

Tickets available now: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/lehigh-valley-chorale-71797870453.

Do you have **batteries** ready to throw away? Don't throw them away! **Bring them to the church to recycle!**! We are still collecting **all kinds of batteries to recycle** at Staples. To date we have raised over \$200 toward Staples purchases. There are small boxes at the front and ramp doors for your "contributions." Or you can put bags of batteries outside of Pastor Lori's office. Thanks! Keep them coming. You are an awesome support of this interesting way to recycle and get credit at Staples for future purchases.



Staples will accept the following kinds of batteries for recycling:

Batteries to recycle by bringing them to the boxes at church:

Lithium ion (Li-Ion)
Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)
Nickel zinc (Ni-ZN)
Non-rechargeable lithium
Rechargeable nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)

Single-use alkaline Small sealed lead acid (SSLA/Pb) They accept ink cartridges too!

Greeters and Liturgists! Please consider being a Greeter or a Liturgist during Worship. Call the office or email to get your name added to our List. Thank you!

Approved **Consistory Minutes** can be found posted on the bulletin board at the side entrance to the Sanctuary for anyone wishing to take a look!!

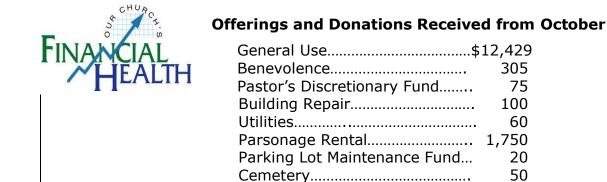
Offering Box - A secure box is located in the rear of the sanctuary for you to deposit your offering **or** other important papers if you happen to be in the church when the office isn't open. It has been secured to the wall and is locked. It will be opened on a Sunday morning so the offerings in there can be combined with those in worship that day. Thanks for your continued support of our church.



Our Church is now 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.

There are two **Bulletin Magnifier Sheets** available for you to use in worship. They are the size of a full sheet of paper and can be found in the side pocket on the sound system. Pick one up and try it out, then return it to the sound system after worship.

Church Lost and Found Box – is located on top of the mailboxes next to Pastor's Office. There is always something in it. Check it out and see if you lost anything! Or call the church office.



All Things Free.....

Please remember there is a third box on your offering envelopes should you wish to give offering toward our Parking Lot Maintenance, Cemetery, Building Repairs or any Property Expenses. Just designate in what area the money should be placed. Thank you.

In order to be reimbursed, or to receive credit as a church donation, original receipts for labor and materials purchased on behalf of the church must be received in the office within 60 days of the date from purchase or by January 5, 2026 for purchases in November and December, 2025.

196 500 If you wish to sponsor Bulletins or Flowers, please call the church office, 610-966-3601 or email at ozuccoffice@ptd.net. Bulletins are \$10.00, Altar Flowers are \$40.00, our Seasonal silk arrangement is a donation of \$30.00 to our Mission Fund. If you are already signed up to sponsor Altar Flowers and would like us to use our silk arrangement, please let the office know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so Ellie can cancel our arrangement with Rich Mar Florist for that Sunday. Thank you!

Deadline for material to be included in our December Newsletter is due November 17. Please place all info in the Secretary's mailbox or email to the office at ozuccoffice@ptd.net

Hospitals do not notify churches when their members are admitted; please let us know should a loved one become hospitalized. Thank you

To add names to our Prayer List please call or email the church office.

Old Zionsville UCC

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

November Soup and Sandwich Sale

Beef Vegetable Soup along with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in November by our Social and Aid Committee. 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@ptd.net; or Annie Souder to place your orders. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association.

Orders must be received by Sunday, November 9th, 2025.

Pick up will be Thursday, November 20th, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Name:			
Phone#:			
Total # of Ham & Che	ese Sandwiches:		
	at \$5.00 each: \$		
Total # of Quarts of S	oup:		
	at \$8.00 each: \$		
Fotal Amount Owed: \$	5		
<			
petween 3:30-5:30 p.m	November 20th, 2025 in Use this grid if you sell t		
portion so you can delive	er the orders.		
Name	Phone	Soup	Sandwiches





2025 Christmas Wish List

Thank you for helping create new, positive momories in our youth's lives!

Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age. We kindly ask that all Items are new and unwrapped.

We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.

Clothing - various <u>adult sizes</u> S-4XL

bath robes: young women and men • slippers • white t-shirts, esp. small and medium • underwear S-4X!. • men's athletic shorts • bras • sports bras • pajamas • low-out socks

Personal Care/Cottage Needs

unisex comforters • pillows • waterproof mattress covers Twin XL • bed in a bag • bath towels • battery-operated alarm clocks • bagless vacuums • air fryers • baking sheets and pans • deodorant • conditioner • feminine hygiene products • toothbrush covers

Recreation

indoor/outdoor basketballs 29.5 inch • Medicine Balls • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • Nerf guns and ammo • fishing rods/reels • adult beach volleyballs • footballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • yoga blocks • hand wraps or MMA gloves • remote control cars • Tie dye kits

Music Education

earbud headphones • mp3 players • drumsticks • Drum pads • Hand percussion instruments

Art Studio

wrapped canvases • canvas boards • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • Gosso (White, Black, & Clear) • clear semi-gloss finish spray paint • spray paint • fabric paint • paint pens • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and links • Beads including numbers/letters • Stabilo pencils • Diamond Art kits • jewelry making supplies • pony beads • glass heads • boan bag chair • Coloring books • resin tools and supplies

Gift Cards

Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonaid's, Boyer's and Radnar's Markets, Turkey Hill, Glant, Domino's Pizza, Wawa, Netflix, Game Stop

Questions regarding gifts? Please call Dana Hoffman at 610-589-6810.

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs throughout the year at bethanyhome.org.

The official registration and financial information of Bethany Home Inc. and Bethany Children's Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling tall free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999, Registration does not imply endorsement.

OZUCC Christmas Poinsettia Order Form 2025

Please drop your order for poinsettias in the offering plate any Sunday, Stop by the Office, or Mail to the Church on or before Wednesday December 3. Cost per 6 1/2" pot is \$13.50. Please indicate how many and which color you would like on the form below. Also please let us know if you want them to be in Memory of or in Honor of. Payments must be enclosed with your order, **checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC**.

	У		
Pink	White	In Memory of:	Presented by:
		In Honor of:	Presented by:
		Total # _	x \$13.50 = \$Amount Enclosed