



# Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

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

[www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

Email: [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net)



## January 2026

### Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436

Cell: 610-393-3522

[MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com](mailto:MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com)

#### Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10am-3pm

#### Church Office Hours

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays

10am-2pm. (exception: Thurs.  
1/22, Ellie will be out due to  
surgery)

(please call before stopping in)

#### Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601

[ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net)

Financial Administrator

Robin Yoder

Secretary

Ellie Deere

Organist

David Carlson

Choir Director

Carolyn Rhoads

Sexton

Richard Shoemaker

Social Media Coordinator

Beth Massa

#### Consistory Officers

President

Cheryl Martucci

Vice President

Kathy Latshaw

Secretary

Mark Weaver

Treasurer

Robin Yoder

## From Pastor's Desk...

Slow me down, Lord!

Ease the pounding of my heart

By the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace

With a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me,

Amidst the confusion of my day

The calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves

With the soothing music of the singing streams

That live in my memory.

Help me to know

The magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art

Of taking minute vacations of slowing down

to look at a flower;

to chat with an old friend or make a new one

to pat a stray dog;

to watch a spider build a web;

to smile at a child;

or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day

That the race is not always to the swift;

That there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Let me look upward

Into the branches of the towering oak

And know that it grew great and strong

Because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord!

And inspire me to send my roots deep

Into the soil of life's enduring values

That I may grow toward the stars

Of my greater destiny."

—O. L. Crain, Eastertime, 1957.

## Old Zionsville United Church of Christ January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Soup &amp; Sandwich Orders Due</b>  9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Epiphany Worship, Communion 12:00 noon Confirmation Class	<b>5</b>  ATF Sort & Store 10am  Scouts 6pm	<b>6</b>  Cubs 7pm  7pm M&W, Christian Ed.	<b>7</b>  Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm  Supper Club 6pm	<b>8</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Second Sunday Treats 10:15am Worship with baptism	<b>12</b>  ATF Giveaway 4-6pm  Scouts 6pm Property 7pm	<b>13</b>  FUN Group 7pm Cubs 7pm	<b>14</b>  Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm  Finance 7pm	<b>15</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  ATF Giveaway 10am-12 noon
<b>18</b>  9:00am Confirmation Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Usher Training 10:15am Worship Install Consistory Loose offering goes to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund  12 noon Sunday Brunchers	<b>19</b>  ATF Sort & Store 10am	<b>20</b>  Consistory 7pm	<b>21</b>  Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm  Cemetery 7pm	<b>22</b>  Soup & Sandwich Pickup: <b>3:30-5pm</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Tom Dilts preaching (Pastor Lori at St. John's UCC for their 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	<b>26</b>  ATF Sort & Store 10am  Scouts 6pm	<b>27</b>  Cubs 7pm	<b>28</b>  Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	<b>29</b>  Choir 7:30pm	<b>30</b>  Lunch Bunch 12 noon	<b>31</b>

## 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.**

### News from Choir...

All are welcome to join in the choir, rehearsals begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday nights in January. Consider making choir part of your life this New Year!

### News from Christian Ed...

On **Sunday Jan. 25**, we have the wonderful treat of hearing Tom Dilts bringing his message regarding Life and Life after Death. Pastor Lori will be away at St. John's UCC in Lansdale, where she served back in 2003, to help them celebrate their 150th Anniversary. We thank Tom for preaching on this Sunday and pray that all of you will come out to hear his compassionate and well-spoken message of Love.

**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** continues this January 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 Pastor Lori 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.

### 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 contact to Beth Massa.

## News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

### Supper Club

When: Wednesday January 7, 2026, 6:00 PM  
Where: Delizioso Italian Grill  
1985 Brookside Rd., Macungie  
RSVP by Sunday 1/4/2026



### Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday January 18, 2026, ~ 12 Noon  
Where: Mercantile Club  
Railroad St., Emmaus  
RSVP by Wednesday 1/14/2026, CASH ONLY

### Lunch Bunch

When: Friday January 30, 2026, 12 Noon  
Where: East Penn Diner  
1418 Chestnut Street, Emmaus  
RSVP by Sunday 1/25/2026

## News from the Food Pantry...

We are still serving near record numbers of households. The pipeline of food and grants available from the government is not much better than last month. We continue to spend more on retail purchases. As the year comes to an end and you review your charitable giving, please keep the pantry in mind with monetary donations as well as non-perishable food and personal hygiene products.

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...



**Many, many thanks** to the 35 volunteers who helped make the Christmas shopping days for our three area food pantry clients a most meaningful and very blessed event.

**Our next Giveaway days** will be held Monday, January 12 from 4-6pm and Saturday, January 17 from 10am-12 noon. We welcome anyone willing to join us in any capacity with our mission to help those in need. Please call or text Millie (610-737-9432) with any questions.

### AN ATF MESSAGE FROM MILLIE

It saddens me to say that health issues are requiring me to step down as ATF coordinator. As the new year begins, our friendly, faithful volunteers and I pray that someone reading or hearing this news, will be "led by the Holy Spirit" and moved to become one of us and serve as coordinator to enable us to continue our mission of helping families in need.

## Faith Uniting Neighbors Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction in any way.

In line with our mission to benefit our neighbors within our communities, \$2,315 from the basket auction and bake sale were distributed to the following organizations on behalf of the Church:

- ❖ Lehigh County Conference of Churches
- ❖ Upper Milford Western District Fire Company
- ❖ Phoebe Home Ministries
- ❖ Macungie Ambulance Corps
- ❖ OZUCC Operating Fund
- ❖ EHS Angel Network
- ❖ Meals on Wheels
- ❖ Lehigh Valley Hospice
- ❖ Kindness Project
- ❖ OCWM
- ❖ Sixth Street Shelter
- ❖ Second Harvest Food Bank

Thanks again...and see you next year!!

### Angel Tree



This year for the Angel Tree we collected **NEW 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.

Thanks to your generosity we collected **a garbage bag** full of socks to donate!

### Share the Warmth

Again this year instead of collecting clothing for Share the Warmth, 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:

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

**Please note: Tea and Coffee are especially needed**



### "Souper" Bowl Social

Come join the FUN Group for our **"Souper" Bowl Sunday** immediately following Church on **Sunday, February 1.**

We are looking for a couple of people to volunteer to bring a crockpot of soup. If you can help us, please let a member of FUN Group know by Sunday, January 25 (including what type of soup you will be bringing). If you aren't bringing soup, please bring a dessert to share.

Also, please bring a couple of cans of soup for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry...they distribute hundreds every month!

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

## COMING EVENTS – Mark Your Calendar

- 3/1/2026 – **Hygiene Collection for Church World Service (CWS)**
  - We will provide a 1-gallon bag with a list of specific items which need to be included in the bag
  - More information will be forthcoming
- 5/2/2026 – **Penny Party**

### News from Music and Worship Committee...

On **Sunday Jan. 25**, we have the wonderful treat of hearing Tom Dilts bringing his message regarding Life and Life after Death. Pastor Lori will be away at St. John's UCC in Lansdale, where she served back in 2003, to help them celebrate their 150th Anniversary. We thank Tom for preaching on this Sunday and pray that all of you will come out to hear his compassionate and well-spoken message of Love.

**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, January 11, 2026.

**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.

### News from Social and Aid...

#### January Soup and Sandwich Sale

Social and Aid Committee will be making **Chicken Corn Soup with homemade egg noodles** for the month of January to order along with their **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches**. Orders forms can be found at the entrances to the Church and in this newsletter.



**Orders must be received by Sunday, January 4.**

**Pickup will be on Thursday, January 22 from 3:30-5:00pm.**

**Please note that soup and sandwich pick up will conclude at 5 p.m. from now onward.**

Thanks for your help to get there or let them know if you can't make it by 5 p.m. Thank you.

### News from the Property Committee

**Boiler** - The property committee has spent a year with service from J. Tapler in repairs and updates for the boiler in our building to bring heat to our cold days. We have concluded that portion of work and are looking forward to other options for the system we have which have served us well through the years. If you have questions or interest in this, please join us on the Property committee, which takes care of this and other things at our church. The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the Month in the upper social hall Sunday School room. You are welcome.

## 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

**In case of inclement weather or ice in the parking lot at the church that you don't have at home: please look at WFMZ on your computer or on TV for any cancellation or delay information.**

**As the New Year arrives** and the days are darker earlier, are you interested in something meaningful to do? Please consider helping with **The All Things Free Room** sorting and sharing. There is plenty to do for all and this group is fun, caring and helpful. Can't make it every day? no problem. Can't drive? No problem. We have jobs that can be done from home. You travel and are not always around? No worries. We will take your help when you are around. This is a dynamic group you will enjoy hanging out with. Check it out or talk with Millie Kohler or Pastor Lori for more information. Thanks in advance for serving the Lord.

**Annual Reports** can be found at the entrances to the Church. If you are unable to come to the Church but would like a copy please call or email the church office.

**Our Parking Lot between the church and parsonage is small.** It can be difficult to back out of your space if you park straight in toward the church building and there is someone parked in the handicap spaces along the parsonage lawn. PLEASE be careful! Park at your own risk in those handicap spaces. We are working on alternatives and safer ways to park in that little lot. You are always welcome to park in the front horseshoe and along Fountain Road in the several spots there.

**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!!

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!

**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.



**Offerings and Donations Received from December**

General Use	\$24,154
Furnace	\$4,270
Christmas Offering	\$1,357
Flowers (including Poinsettias)	\$655
Benevolence	\$585
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	\$241
All Things Free	\$152
Cemetery	\$140
Utilities	\$125
Building Repair	\$90
Bulletins	\$50
Food Pantry	\$20
General Expenses	\$20,230
includes gas	\$313
includes electric	\$509
includes Furnace Repair	\$6,714

**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.

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 February Newsletter is  
January 20. 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

## January Soup and Sandwich Sale

**We will only guarantee the availability of the first 120 quarts of this soup ordered.**

Social and Aid Committee will be making Chicken Corn Soup with homemade egg noodles for the month of January to order along with their Ham & Cheese Sandwiches. Orders must be received by Sunday, January 4. Pickup will be on Thursday, January 22 from 3:30-5:00pm. You will be able to sell sandwiches at work and deliver them for lunch on Friday! Soup will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and Sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please indicate below what you would like and how many. 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](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net); or Annie Souder

to place your orders. Keep the bottom of this form for your records if you sell to others. Proceeds will be going to the Church and the Cemetery Association to help pay bills.

**Orders must be received by Sunday, January 4, 2026.  
Pick up will be Thursday, January 22, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

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

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

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

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

**Total # quarts of Soup:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**Pick up Thursday, January 22, 2026 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Name	Phone	Soup	Sandwich



# *A German Christmas Service*

The Service Spoken and Sung in German

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**501 Chestnut St. Emmaus,**  
**PA 18049**

**Sunday Evening,**  
**January 4, 2025, 5:45 PM**

The Service Begins with Prelude Music & Candle Lighting

**Guest Musicians, The Williams Duo**

**Ted & Sarajane Williams on Classical Guitar & Harp**

A German Cookie & Coffee Fellowship

Will Follow the Service in the Parish Hall

*Everyone is Welcome!*

**Rev. Woody Maxon, Pastor**

**Timothy Ginder, Organist & Director of Music Ministries**



St. John's is a Handicapped Facility

*Weihnachtsgottesdienst in  
deutscher Sprache*

*German Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols*

