



Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

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

www.oldzionsucc.org

Email: ozuccnewsletter@ptd.net



December 2023

Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436

Cell: 610-393-3522

MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com

ChocoLori@hotmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday, Dec. 6-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Dec. 13-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Dec. 20-10am-3pm

Wednesday, Dec. 27-10am-3pm

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

(please call before stopping in)

Office Closed Dec. 18-22, 2023

Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601

ozuccoffice@ptd.net

Secretary

Brenda Seitz

Organist

David Carlson

Choir Director

Carolyn Rhoads

Sexton

Richard Shoemaker

Social Media Coordinators

Beth Massa

Angela Stahler

Consistory Officers

President

Kathy Latshaw

Vice President

Jan Strobel

Secretary

Mark Weaver

Treasurer

Robin Yoder

610-428-1884

From Pastor's Desk...

The following are words to Ed Reis' favorite Christmas song. He played it on the organ for me at a recent visit. It is a lovely song, but the words are even more lovely. Thank you Ed for sharing this lovely sentiment for all of us to think about all year long.

The Secret of Christmas

It's not the glow you feel when snow appears,
It's not the Christmas card you've sent for years,
Not the joyful sound when sleigh bells ring,
Or the merry songs children sing.
The little gift you send on Christmas day,
Will not bring back the friend you've turned away;
So may I suggest -

The secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmas time, But the Christmas things you do all year through!

Peace,
Lori



Friday, December 1 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch at East Penn Diner

Sunday, December 3 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

Cemetery Association Annual Meeting
and OZUCC Annual Congregation Meeting

Soup and Sandwich Orders Due

Angel Tree presents for Kindness Project Due

Monday, December 4 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Room Sort and Store

Saturday, December 9 - 5:00 p.m. All Church Christmas Party at Superior Restaurant

Sunday, December 10 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:15 a.m. Worship, White Gift Sunday
9am-12:30pm Pick up Fruit/Nut Rolls

Thursday, December 14 - 4-6 p.m. Pick up Soup and
Sandwich Orders

Sunday, December 17 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Third Sunday Treats
10:15 a.m. Worship
Brunch at the Merc after Worship

Monday, December 18 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Room Sort and Store

Sunday, December 24 - 10:15 a.m. Communion Worship
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship (Bell Choir Prelude at 7 p.m.)

Sunday, December 31 - 10:15 a.m. Worship, Carol Sing
Guest Speaker, Neil Harrison with a photo tour of Switzerland
hiking the mountains with a grand surprise!

**December 25, 2023 - January 1, 2024 Please call Church office or Kathy Latshaw for
emergency Pastoral Care and they will direct you to contact a Pastor on call.**

Looking Ahead 😊



Sunday, January 7- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Epiphany Bible Study
10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

Sunday, January 14 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

Sunday, January 21 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Study about Being Remembered as a Grandparent
(free booklet as part of our study)
10:15 a.m. Worship

Sunday, January 28 - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

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 Cemetery...

Annual Congregation Meeting – Sunday, December 3, 2023.

News from Christian Ed...

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.

Would you like to purchase a new **Bible** that has an interactive feature that can work with your cell phone, iPad or other electronic device? We presented our confirmands with these Bibles and purchased extras in case YOU or a person you know may like one too. The holidays are coming and this could make a lovely, affordable gift. The cost is **\$16 each**. By setting it up with your device, the program can actually "read scripture to you." So for someone who drives lots or prefers to listen to the Holy Word, this could be very appealing. The Filament app is very simple to use. You simply scan a page number in the Bible to instantly access study notes, devotionals from famous authors, interactive maps, teaching videos and worship music. If you have a loved one who likes to hear scripture before they go to sleep, this would be perfect for them too. Please **let Pastor Lori know** if you would like to purchase any number of these Bibles. There are two cover styles: black and floral, they are zipper case protected, and are very small - about the size of your hand. Print is small, but these other features bring the Bible to life in a whole new way. See Pastor Lori for more information.

News from Computer and Media Committee...

If you can't attend worship on Sunday, not to worry! We livestream our service every Sunday at 9:30am 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.

Have you checked out our Facebook page recently? On January 1, we started a new series aimed at reading through the Bible in one year. We are providing a chronological reading plan, which lays out the readings in the order in which events happened. We hope you find this series a meaningful way to move through the year. Connect

with us at <https://www.facebook.com/OldZionsvilleUCC/>; be sure to "like" our page so you get our posts on your newsfeed!



Here are the readings for November in case you want to catch up:

1-Nov	Day 305: Matthew 20-21	11-Nov	Day 315: John 14-17	21-Nov	Day 325: Acts 13-14
2-Nov	Day 306: Luke 18:15--43; Luke 19:1-48	12-Nov	Day 316: Matthew 27; Mark 15	22-Nov	Day 326: James 1-5
3-Nov	Day 307: Mark 11; John 12	13-Nov	Day 317: Luke 23; John 18-19	23-Nov	Day 327: Acts 15-16
4-Nov	Day 308: Matthew 22; Mark 12	14-Nov	Day 318: Matthew 28; Mark 16	24-Nov	Day 328: Galatians 1-3
5-Nov	Day 309: Matthew 23; Luke 20-21	15-Nov	Day 319: Luke 24; John 20-21	25-Nov	Day 329: Galatians 4-6
6-Nov	Day 310: Mark 13	16-Nov	Day 320: Acts 1-3	26-Nov	Day 330: Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18
7-Nov	Day 311: Matthew 24	17-Nov	Day 321: Acts 4-6	27-Nov	Day 331: 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
8-Nov	Day 312: Matthew 25	18-Nov	Day 322: Acts 7-8	28-Nov	Day 332: Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41
9-Nov	Day 313: Matthew 26; Mark 14	19-Nov	Day 323: Acts 9-10	29-Nov	Day 333: 1 Corinthians 1-4
10-Nov	Day 314: Luke 22; John 13	20-Nov	Day 324: Acts 11-12	30-Nov	Day 334: 1 Corinthians 5-8

News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

Sunday Brunch **will be on Sunday, December 17th after Worship at Mercantile Club (cash only), 427 Railroad St, Emmaus. Please let Linda or Mark know if you will be attending.**

Old Zionsville UCC **Family Christmas Party** will be Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Superior Restaurant, 102 Main Street, Emmaus in their downstairs Banquet Hall (Handicap Accessible).

Again for 2024, Mark Your Calendars!!! We have reserved 50 tickets for the IRON PIGS!!! The date is Saturday June 22, 2024. It is a night game with Fireworks, and we will again be doing the "Picnic Patio", this time with all seats at the Patio Tables (not in the overflow). As last year, this is on the Third Base side, so we will not have the sun in our eyes while viewing the game. It is again the 2 ½ hour Food Buffet, as well as unlimited soft drinks through the middle of the 8th inning. You can get a glimpse of the menu by finding the Picnic Patio Page on the Iron Pigs website. We have locked in pricing for the next 3 years and it holds our price at \$28.00 each, including the Food Buffet, Soft Drinks, Ball Game, and Fireworks. Once again, I know this is a long way off, but I wanted to make sure we have tickets for the Picnic Patio on a fireworks night and of course together. As always with our outings, car pooling will be available! The money will be due a month before the game (May). If anyone would like to go but the money is an issue, please speak to Pastor Lori, as help is available.Mark Weaver

Grief Share - We successfully completed our 6th round of GriefShare on Tuesday Nov. 21. Our next round will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on May 1, 2024. Please speak with Pastor Lori for more information or to register.

News from the Food Pantry...

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. Phone number is 610-554-8340.

Remember you can bring items to our Church for the Food Pantry at any time. The Pantry is always in need of personal care items, paper products and all kinds of non-perishable food.

News from the ATF Room...

Reminder, ATF is still looking for a sturdy clothing rack. Thank you!

The next Sort and Store event will be on Monday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church. For more info please

A Big Thank you to everyone for success!



contact Millie at 610-737-9432.

making the Christmas shopping event a



News from the FUN Group...

Faith Uniting Neighbors

Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 26th Annual Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction in any way. We had 114 baskets this year...a nice selection, with something for just about everyone. We had a nice variety of vendors and crafters for the bazaar...and a yummy selection for the bake sale! Thanks to your contributions, along with a steady stream of patrons, the Bazaar & Basket Auction was once again a success.

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 local food programs, such as 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)

News from Music and Worship Committee...

Third Sunday Treats will be available at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 17.

Third Sunday Treats is for Everyone! Coffee pot is always on and we would love to fellowship before Worship on these Third Sundays! All come to the lower social hall.

Be sure to check out the newly created bulletin boards in our lower social hall while you are getting your Third Sunday Treat! And then tell the talented Wendy Yeakel what a fantastic job she did!!

We are looking for someone or a group of people to **help** serve Third Sunday Treats when Jack and Wendy can't make it. On the job training available. You would need to arrive at church around 9:30 a.m. to get things ready to go. Thanks for prayerfully considering this ministry. The Sunday School children look forward to this every month. See Pastor Lori for details.



Announcing: Advent Bible Study - 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. each Sunday morning in Advent, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Epiphany lesson on Jan. 7! Bring your Bible. We will meet in the Lower Social Hall. All Welcome. No previous Bible Study experience necessary!

Coming soon! A session on "How to help your grandchildren remember you and cope with grief." 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the lower social hall for all interested members. January 21, 2024- in case of inclement weather, we will attempt to meet the following Sunday, Jan. 28. Same time and place.



White Gifts will be collected for the young adults (ages 10-21) at Bethany Ministries on **Sunday, December 10 at our 10:15 a.m.** Worship Service. Please wrap your gift in white tissue paper only or not at all. Bethany can only use NEW items to give to the students living there. This has always been a very meaningful and wonderful part of our Advent celebration. Wish list from Bethany is enclosed with this newsletter.

We are looking for families interested in lighting the **Advent Candles** during the month of December in worship each week. If your family would like to help in this meaningful part of the preparation for the Christmas season, please speak with Pastor Lori. It will be a short reading part at the beginning of worship during December. You can pick your Sunday on which to participate. Thanks in advance for your help.



**Sunday, December 3, 2023 will be our
Annual Congregation Meeting
immediately following Worship.
We will discuss our Budget for 2024
(copy enclosed)
and have election of Consistory members.
The Cemetery Association will have their Annual
Meeting immediately following
(Church Annual Reports are available, call or email
the church office to arrange getting your copy.)**

News from the Scouts...

Our Scout Troop is active all year long. If you know any boys or girls who would like to join Scouting check in with Elliott Fegley - 610-972-7869 or for Cub Scouts, Jim Cairns - 610-533-2797.

News from Social and Aid...

Watch for our January soup of the month. Soup and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be available to order again for January. Get your quarts of soup (in freezable containers) and/or Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Order forms will be coming soon. Soup is selling for \$7.00 a quart; sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Proceeds will be split between our General Fund and Cemetery.

News from Windows to the Future...

The nativity window has been returned and the restoration is amazing. And, just in time for the Advent season! We are grateful to the Cumberland staff for their craftsmanship and dedication to our project.

The sixth and final quilt was raffled at the Basket Social. \$275 was raised and Nancy Civitts is the lucky and happy winner. The six quilts raised \$2,533 for the windows. Our thanks to the donor for her support.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations congregation on another successful Matching Gift Campaign. Your donations put us over the goal of \$5,000, raising \$11,054 from September through November. Sincere thanks to the six donors who stepped up to fund this year's challenge. We are now able to sign a contract to restore the final two twin windows which will begin early next year. It's been a long journey, but we are nearing its conclusion. Still remaining are the protective coverings and painting on the exterior of the nativity window section. Great job members and friends!

News from the Youth Group...

Youth Group will be meet on Friday, December 22, 2023. We will have a competition between two teams at decorating gingerbread houses. Plus other games and Bible Study as always. All ages welcome. 6-8 p.m. in our lower social hall. Questions? Check with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller.



December 25, 2023 – January 1, 2024 Please call the Church office or Kathy Latshaw for emergency Pastoral Care and they will direct you to contact a Pastor on call.

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.

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 date from purchase** or by January 9, 2024 for purchases in November and December, 2023.

Greeters and Liturgist! 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!

Altar Flowers and Bulletins for 2024. The church office is in the process of putting together the sponsor list for our weekly Altar Flowers and Bulletins for 2024. The list with names and dates of sponsors is attached. Please look over the list, if you would like to make any changes please call or email the office. **Chancel Flowers** may also be ordered for any special Sunday. Altar Flowers are \$40.00 for fresh or \$30.00 for silk (with money going to our Windows Fund), bulletins are \$10.00. 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 floor 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.

Recently found: phone charger. Did you drop yours while at Church?



Offerings and Donations Received from November 1-26, 2023

General Use.....	\$8,949.25
Sunday School.....	29.00
Benevolence.....	505.29
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.....	0
Windows to the Future.....	3,336.00
Building Repair.....	0
Parsonage Rental.....	1,645.00
Parking Lot Maintenance Fund...	135.00
Cemetery.....	109.00
General Expenses.....	\$6,307.00
includes gas.....	\$781.41
includes electric.....	\$237.72

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

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 Windows 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 Brenda can cancel our arrangement with Phoebe Floral for that Sunday. Thank you!

Deadline for material to be included in our January Newsletter is December 24. Please place all info in the Secretary’s mailbox or email to the office at ozuccoffice@ptd.net

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

*Thank
You*

Dear Members of Old Zionsville UCC,
Thank you to everyone who purchased the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends flyers and to Pastor Lori for allowing me to sell the flyers. The proceeds went to Grace UCC in Allentown, which is where I work. Being that Old Zionsville allowed us to fundraise and that Grace had to postpone their Basket Social this year, Grace agreed to advertise ours. Thank you all so much!
Angela Stahler

ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE
January – December 2024

January

7 Bennett Kohler
14 M/M Charles Jacobs, Jr.-**SILK**
21 M/M Michael Bedell
28 BettyLou Hartman - **SILK**

July

7 M/M Charles Jacobs-**SILK**
14 M/M Jonathan Kunkel
21 Chester Yeakel
28 Linda Benner-**SILK**

February

4 Boy Scouts
11 M/M Larry Stahler
18 M/M Marvin Kerchner
25 M/M Tony Gurgick

August

4 Joyce Nishnic
11 Paula Lilly
18 M/M Richard Shoemaker
25 Linda Benner-**SILK**

March

3 M/M Maynard Dreas
10 Paula Lilly
17
24 M/M Dan Strobel
31

September

1 BettyLou Hartman-**SILK**
8 Richards-Brown Family
15 Millie Kohler
22 M/M Henry Heil
29

April

7 M/M James Mittl
14 Dolly Kichline-**SILK**
21 M/M Henry Heil
28 Linda Benner-**SILK**

October

6
13 Emily Dreas
20 Paula Lilly
27 M/M John Fisher, Sr

May

5
12 M/M Jeff Dreas
19 M/M Dennis Kneisley
26

November

3 Blanche Steiner
10 Dolly Kichline-**SILK**
17 M/M Michael Bedell
24 M/M Dan Latshaw

June

2 M/M Henry Heil
9 M/M Donald Ritter
16 M/M Dan Latshaw
23
30 Dillingersville

December

1 M/M Len Hoch
8 Chester Yeakel
15 Paula Lilly
22 Richards-Brown Family
29

BULLETIN SCHEDULE
January – December 2024

January

7
14 M/M John Fisher
21
28 Linda Benner

July

7 Mina Reinhard
14 Lee Hoch Family
21 Patricia Sajkowicz
28 M/M Robert Souder

February

4 Boy Scouts
11 M/M Robert Souder
18 Griesemer Family
25 Millie Kohler

August

4 M/M Richard Shoemaker
11 Paula Lilly
18 M/M Robert Souder
25 M/M Len Hoch

March

3 Lee Hoch Family
10 Paula Lilly
17
24 M/M Henry Heil
31

September

1 Linda Benner
8 M/M Maynard Dreas
15 Chester Yeakel
22 M/M Henry Heil
29

April

7 M/M Lee Hoch
14 M/M Charles Brown
21 M/M Robert Souder
28 Emily Dreas

October

6
13 Patricia Kuebler
20 Paula Lilly
27 M/M James Mittl

May

5 M/M Todd Goudsward
12 M/M Paul Yoder
19 M/M Dennis Kneisley
26 M/M Robert Souder

November

3 M/M Dan Latshaw
10
17 M/M Len Hoch
24 Linda Benner

June

2 BettyLou Hartman
9 M/M Cyrus Mohr
16 M/M Henry Heil
23
30 Dillingersville

December

1 Joyce Nishnic
8 M/M Robert Souder
15 Mina Reinhard
22 Paula Lilly
29

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Lunch Bunch 12pm at East Penn Diner	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15 am Communion Worship Annual Congregation Meeting & Annual Cemetery Association Meeting Soup & Sandwich Orders Due	4 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm	5 Cub Scouts 7pm	6 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	7 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	8	9 Christmas Party-5pm Superior Restaurant
10 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship White Gift Sunday Pick Up Fruit/Nut Rolls 9am-12:30pm	11 Scouts 6pm Property 7pm	12 FUN Group 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	13 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Finance 7pm	14 Pick up Soup & Sandwich Orders 4-6pm Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	15	16
17 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 9:45am 3 rd Sunday Treats 10:15 am Worship Loose offering goes Pastor's Discretionary Fund Brunch at the Merc	18 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm Office Closed Brenda on vacation this week	19 Consistory 7pm	20 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	21  Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	22	23
24 No Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 7:30pm Worship 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 No Sunday School 10:15am Worship 						

KINDNESS ADVENT CALENDAR

TICK OFF THE KINDNESS TASKS AS YOU COMPLETE THEM!

1 Cut out some hearts and write 'BE KIND' and place them inside some letterboxes!

2 Call someone to tell them why they are special to you.

3 Some Me-Time! Finish off the sentences: I like to be called... I know that... Likes me. When I'm older, I will... I'm good at...

4 Hold the door open for someone and thank every person who serves you today.

5 Draw a big Xmas tree and put it up on a wall. Decorate it with post-it notes of things you're thankful for. Try adding new ones every day :)

6 Make a list of some things you can do or say if you see someone being teased or bullied.

7 Slip a cute note to someone and try not to get caught!

8 Think of 3 wonderful things that make you YOU!

9 Learn to say something in a different language.

10 Smile and say 'Hi' to as many people as you can today!

11 Make a poster saying "KINDNESS MAKES ME HAPPY"

12 List some nature items that can be found in your area. With a loved one, take the list on a treasure hunt and tick off as you see them.

13 Offer a friend or loved one a hug today. Notice how it makes you feel.

14 Come up with your own kindness deed to do.

15 Bake a treat and leave it on someone's doorstep with a kind little note.

16 Leave a Christmas Card for a nurse, postman, teacher, bus driver, shop assistant or police officer.

17 Talk about a time when you learnt from a mistake. Next time this happens - make a fun celebration dance and be happy you could learn from it.

18 Put on a song that you love and get dancing! Perhaps even record it and send to someone!

19 Draw 3 different feelings you have felt.

20 Hand out some flowers with a smile or a note wishing a Happy Christmas!

21 Talk about ways you can be kind to the planet and do at least of these things today.

22 Donate a book with a kind little message inside.

23 Say something kind to yourself in the mirror.

24 Think about some things that you hope to experience or do some day.

25 Write down something you're thankful for, put it on your pillow and re-read it tonight.

ISABELLA CHRISTMAS

Proposed CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2024, Dec 2023

	2023 Budget	Actual Oct 22 - Sept 23	2024 Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
TOTAL REGULAR CHURCH INCOME	124,005	141,164	138,740
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT CONGREGATION	5,500	4,007	4,500
TOTAL MISC. INCOME	500	5,367	6,000
- Misc income includes \$ from fundraisers			
TOTAL INCOME	130,005	150,537	149,240
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
TOTAL PASTOR'S EXPENSE	44,431	43,069	44,500
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase			
CHRISTIAN ED SUPPLIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)	300	1,139	600
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE	53,900	53,400	54,950
- Includes Personnel Committee recommended increase			
TOTAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENSE	6,000	4,205	4,500
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP EXPENSE	5,250	3,975	5,050
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS OPERATING EXPENSE	23,200	20,589	22,600
TOTAL OFFICE/COMMUNICATION OPERATING EXPENSES	4,610	5,546	9,150
TOTAL EXPENSE PROPERTY PROJECTS	5,721	5,946	5,000
- \$5,000 TBD projects - as necessary			
TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES	7,800	7,235	7,800
TOTAL EXPENSES	151,212	145,105	154,150
TOTAL INCOME	130,005	150,537	149,240
TOTAL EXPENSE	151,212	145,105	154,150
NET CASH FLOW	(21,207)	5,432	(4,910)
			(1,610)
			net of computers



Bethany Children's Home

Christmas Wish List

Thank you for helping create new, positive memories 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

bath robes: young women and men • athletic shorts: men's small • sports bras: M-XL • low-cut white athletic socks: men and women • sweatpants • men's athletic shorts • underwear • sports bras • men's gloves • men's pajama bottoms • women's pajamas

Cottage Needs

Zippered waterproof mattress cover – twin • tower fans • comforters for girls • lightweight twin-size blankets • towels • washcloths • pillows • all-plastic hangers • mp3 players • flat irons • Dust Busters • bagless vacuum • air fryers • plastic laundry baskets • deodorant • cocoa butter

Recreation

indoor basketballs 29.5 inch • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • mechanical tool set • 2-stage or 3-stage locking carabiners • Nerf guns and ammo • Roller blades or skates sizes 4-13 • multi-tools for fishing • 5-gallon water cooler • Mylec floor hockey balls - orange • knee hockey sets • 2-part resin for casting and pouring • adult beach volleyballs • footballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • screwdriver sets • allen wrench sets • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • yoga blocks • hand wraps or MMA gloves

Music Education

earbud headphones • ukuleles • drum sticks • clarinet reeds (strength 2.5 and 3) • acoustic guitar strings • ukulele strings • guitar picks • hand percussion instruments • area rug • bean bag chairs • Menchey Music gift cards • iTunes gift cards • boomwhackers • hand drums

Art Studio

Michael's, JoAnne Fabric, GoggleWorks, and Shutterfly gift cards • wrapped canvases • canvas boards • canvas paper • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • acrylic gel medium • acrylic modeling paste • Gesso (White, Black, & Clear) • clear semi-gloss finish spray paint • spray paint, assorted colors • fabric paint • paint pens • tabletop easels • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and inks • Pony Beads (including numbers and letters) • Masonite Board • gold leaf • Stabilo pencils • artists' pens • rubber stamps & ink pads • rub-on transfers • 3D string art kits • Diamond Art kits • dream catcher kits • sand art supplies • macrame cord • stencils • letter & number stickers • origami paper

Gift Cards

TJ Maxx, Ross, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ulta, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's and Kohls, Boyer's and Redner's markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, gift cards for local greenhouses, Sheetz, Wawa, Foot Locker

Questions regarding gifts? Please call 610-589-4501, ext. 305.

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs and activities throughout the year. www.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 toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

General Minister and President **Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson** on

“Living Under a Big Tent”



“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.”

Many UCC congregations use words like these at the beginning of worship. As your General Minister and President, I wonder, “what do we mean when we utter these words?”

These expansive words imply radical inclusion and have welcomed many into the church - some back to church - in a way they had never known. While we experience differences in our ideologies and ideas, we feel called to a lived expression of inclusion based on love. We want to be a safe space for all to live lives that draw us closer to God through Jesus Christ.

This too is commitment. We may be in different locations on this spiritual journey, yet we are similarly trying to find our way well beyond the daily living of our physical lives. Yet we commit to being a “big tent” of expansive welcome. The term “big tent” refers to a group that includes many different groups or ideas, and as a result can attract a wide range of supporters. This type of diversity is not easy to sustain when there is such a wide range of views, and yet, in the United Church of Christ (UCC) we find God calling us to live under a big tent.

The wide range of diversities among us run along theological, political, racial/ethnic, church size, leadership, worship style, and even geographic lines. We are small and large, urban and rural, on-line and in-person, store-front and traditional church structures, Open and Affirming (ONA) and Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, or Traditional (ECOT), and much more. All of these and in between are a part of the UCC.

When I think of life in the UCC, I am often reminded of Jesus’ words when he was asked which commandment was the first. He responded that the first was loving God and added: “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:31). Much can be said about who is the neighbor: The neighbor includes strangers and certainly includes those we journey with in this denomination we call the UCC. Jesus did not say love the people who are like-minded, nor did he say love the people who are like you. Jesus taught a big lesson: love your neighbor as yourself.

In this big tent, we find ourselves at odds sometimes. We do not always agree. Our differences seem to outweigh the similarities we share. Jesus’ prayer for his disciples is one we hold as a motto for the UCC: “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Unity does not mean uniformity. We are called to hold the differences we bring with us and honor the differences in each other. God’s love can be the glue that holds us together.

Loving each other amid our differences can be challenging. Civil discourse takes practice. We will need patience for hard conversations. Instead of defending our positions, we will need to listen in love. We will need courage to honor the diversities already present and emerging among us. Challenging, certainly; but together, we can live under this big tent of God’s love learning and growing with each other.

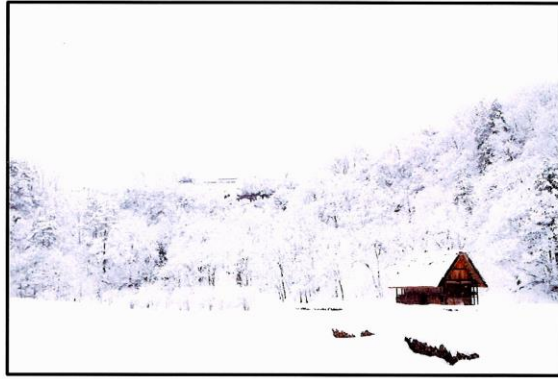
We cannot do this alone. We need each other. More so, we need to experience God’s love alive and present working in us, through us, and among us as we continue to answer the call to love and to be welcoming of all who come through the doors of the church. Whether left, right or center in our theological or political leanings - all are welcome to be a part of the UCC.

Learn more about the big tent of the UCC at
www.ucc.org



Presents

IN THE STILLNESS The 2023 Christmas Festival



Featuring

**North Penn Chamber Singers
North Penn Brass Ensemble
St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends**

Under the direction of Matthew Klenk, Joe Santanello, and Andrew Paulson.

Join us for our annual holiday tradition! Musicians from North Penn High School and St. John's come together for an afternoon of organ, choir, and brass. Classic carol settings and nostalgic brass arrangements will provide a respite to the busy holiday season – a chance to be *In the Stillness*. After the concert, don't forget to join us for a festive reception. It's not the Christmas season without the St. John's Artist Series Christmas Festival!

**4pm, Sunday, December 10, 2023
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446**

There is no cost to attend St. John's Artist Series Concerts.

All concerts include a freewill donation to support Manna on Main Street and the St. John's Artist Series.

Learn more by visiting www.stjohnsartistseries.org or by scanning the QR code below.

