

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

David Carlson

December 8, 2024

**those who are able may stand*

Pastor

Organist

10:15 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent
"Praying with Joy"

Prelude: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

Matthews

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

Sing the Advent song with the video – "God is Good"

Call to Worship

One: Underneath life's expanding shadows,

Many: We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

One: On the dusty roads of life's wilderness

Many: We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

One: As we near the top of mountains, rejoicing under the sunlight,

Many: We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

Invocation (unison)

Holy Fountain of Compassion, Deep in the heart of this journey, we search for peace-filled moments of contemplation. We crave the joy that is found in the stillness of prayer. As we share this time with you, may we experience your beloved joy, knowing that our petitions bring us closer to you and our neighbors. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" p.245
(verse 2 only)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God of Blissful Serenity,

Many: As you move about your Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive. Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to create action that will help our neighbors. Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors. What we forget is that joy abounds when we can transform a prayer from thoughts to concrete actions, blessing our siblings across our world. Amen.

Words of Grace

When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God's children with open hearts. Amen.

*Hymn: "Seek Ye First" p.713

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-6 p.890

Reflection

Presentation of our White Gifts for Bethany

Invitation to Generosity

As we share in God's grace, we seek ways to share our gratitude with God and our neighbors. Through prayer and pondering, we discover new ways to give our offerings of talents, treasures, and time with a joyful spirit.

Offertory: "Adoration Medley"

Leatherman

*Presentation of 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 and Dedication (unison)

**God of All Joy, We give thanks each time we remember your gifts
in our lives. Our gratitude extends to the ways we can use our gifts
of time, talent, and treasures. May your boundless wisdom compel
us to use our energies in ways that will share the most love in our
world. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

*The 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, for ever. Amen**

*Closing Hymn: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

p.272

*Benediction

May the Spirit of Light, The Christ of Love, And the God of Joy
Infuse our souls with peace and a song of thanksgiving as we
seek the presence of God in our world.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

**Please stay for our Annual Congregational Meeting and
The Annual Cemetery Association meeting.**



Praying With Joy: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the
Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were arranged by Richard Yeakel in loving
memory of his husband, Dick.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS are in loving memory of Bernie Stahler
commemorating her Birthday given by Larry and Angela Stahler.

TODAY'S BULLETIN is sponsored by Robert and Annie Souder in memory
of loved ones.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Les and Deb Schoenberger.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Chris Schell.

We thank Cheryl & McGwire Martucci for Lighting our Second Advent Candle today.

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.

Greeters and Liturgist Needed. If you would like to get on our schedule to help in our Worship Services by being a Greeter or Liturgist please contact the church office. Email and phone number are on front page or put a note in the Secretary's mailbox. Thank you.

December Soup and Sandwich Orders are due TODAY. Order forms are available at the entrances to the church or in your pew for ordering quarts of Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup and/or Ham and Cheese Sandwiches. Pick up is on Thursday, December 19 between 3-5:30pm in the downstairs social room. Profits are split between the Cemetery Association and paying of church bills. Thank you.

Youth Group will meet this Friday, December 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the lower social hall. All young people are invited to participate. There is something for everyone at Youth Group! Questions? Speak with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller.

All Things Free Room (ATF) next Sort and Store will be Monday, December 9 at 10:00am. There will also be a Surprise Giveaway on Saturday, December 14 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you can help or have any questions, call or text Millie Kohler. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry.

Share the Warmth collection will run through January. Items to warm someone from the inside to support local food programs: Soup, Hot Chocolate, Tea Bags or Coffee (no coffee beans) can be dropped in the box outside of Pastor Lori's office. Thank you.

No Supper Club or Lunch Bunch in December. Sunday Brunch will be after Worship next Sunday, December 15 at the Merc in Emmaus (cash only). Please RSVP to Linda or Mark. **All are welcome!**



Congratulations congregation! For the fifth time, the windows annual matching gift challenge has been met! From September through November, \$6,150 was contributed to the \$6,000 challenge. We are grateful to the five challengers for their generosity and to all of our members who supported this year's fund raiser. Since 2020, the challenges have raised \$47,500, 25% of the total restoration cost. With the income from this year's challenge and your continued support, the committee projects sufficient funds to complete the project in the spring. Much to celebrate!

Wooden Crosses are available for sale for \$30. Or you can just order an attachment for the one you have already purchased. Christmas arrangements are now being put together for \$15. Order yours today. See Richard Yeakel or Pastor Lori. Proceeds go to our Building Fund.

Need a **holiday gift**? We are selling lottery number calendars for January 2025. Each calendar costs \$20 and the number of the day wins! A portion of the proceeds goes to our Mission offering (OCWM) and calendars are available at church. Please see Cheryl Martucci or Amber Kriebel to get yours.

Prayer List

Shirley & Ed, Christoph, Monica, Pat, Our Scout Troop, Jan, Larry, Maynard, Betsy, Mike, James, Melissa, Trisha, Ruth, Brad, Harrison Family, Kim & Family, Jane, John, Heater Family, Linda & Family, Carolyn, Cindy, Candy, Shari, Sue, LeRoy, Cameron, Frank, Dan Strobel Family, Nishnic Family, Miriam, Chris, Dolly, Belinda, John, Stephanie, Scott, Angela

Joy – Monica is cancer free!

Military - Drew Stahler Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser

Week of December 8, 2024:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesdays from 10am-3pm.
Other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm
(please call before coming)

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am
Scouts – Monday @ 6pm
Property – Monday @ 7pm
Boy Scout/Leader Committee – Tuesday @ 7pm
FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm
Finance– Wednesday @ 7pm
Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm
Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm
ATF Giveaway – Saturday from 9:30am-12pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
10:15am 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday Brunchers meet after Worship

Total Offerings from December 1:

General Offerings: \$1,335.00	Communion: \$43.00	Utilities: \$60.00
Window Fund: \$115.00	Mission: \$25.00	Cemetery: \$100.00
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$45.00		
	Attendance: 62	