

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net    Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

January 12, 2025

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Baptism of Christ**

Prelude:        "As the Deer Panteth for the Water"

Nystrom

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

**People: God in Christ, has named us all "Beloved."**

Leader: Yes, here and now, God's heaven of love is being poured out anew.

**People: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.**

Leader: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

**People: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!**

Invocation (unison)

**Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" (verses 1 & 2 only)    p.291

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Leader: Loving God, let me enter again Your baptismal river of grace.

**People: Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of my life and longings. Yes, Holy One, submerge me in You again and again and again. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring me away from You who are my heart's deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important**

**than Your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help me choose you above every temptation that lures me to worship lesser things. By this of You, forgive me, renew me, and grant me the grace promised by You in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### Words of Grace

Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us in love. The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true. Our prayers of transformation have been met with God's outpouring of forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

\*Hymn: "I Worship You, Almighty God" p.146

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 p.891

#### Reflection

#### Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

#### Invitation to Generosity

The outpouring of God's spirit described in the baptism of Jesus reminds us that God's very nature is generous, self-giving love. It is the source of our deepest joy. When we open our hearts in generous giving, we give space for God's love and joy to grow in us for the good of others. May our hearts be stretched wide by this motion of the Holy One, as we joyfully bring our gifts.

Offertory: "Springs of Living Water" Peterson

#### \* 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)

**O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. 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: "Thou Didst Leave thy Throne" (vs. 1, 2, & 3 only) p.292

\*Benediction

Remember that your first name is Beloved, given to you by God before any other name. Remember also it is the name given to every human being. May this blessed gift and claim of God grow in your heart and mind. And may it flow through you as a blessing into the life of the world. Blessings on you, Beloved! Amen and Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "All Creatures of Our God and King" Hustad



**Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ** was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**Please join us downstairs for some coffee, juice, chocolate milk and treats for the road.**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jacobs in honor of their daughters, Charleen and Cheryl.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William M.E. Yeakel by daughter Miriam A. Fisher and Family.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are John and Nancy Civitts.

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

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.



Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) Giveaway will be tomorrow, January 13 from 4-6pm and Saturday, January 18 from 10am-12pm. If you can help or have any questions, please 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.

January Soup is **Beef Vegetable** and will be sold by the quart (\$8) along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** (\$5). Orders forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew and **are due TODAY**. Orders may be placed in the Offering Plate or call Annie. Pick up will be on Thursday, January 23 in our downstairs social hall between 3:00-5:30 p.m.

**Sunday Brunch** – Next Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Merc after Worship for good food and conversation! The next **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 12 noon at the Trivet on Chestnut Street, Emmaus. Please let Linda or Mark Weave know if you are planning to attend any of these events. All are Welcome!



The FINAL windows fundraiser is underway. Another handmade quilt has been donated and will be awarded to the highest bidder in a sealed bid auction. The quilt is available in the upper social hall. Bids must be a minimum of \$375 and must be submitted in writing by February 28. The winner will be announced on Sunday, March 2. Drop your sealed bid in the box located below the quilt.

**Youth Group** will be meeting on Friday, January 24. All ages welcome. 6-8 p.m. in our lower social hall. Questions? Check with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday Feb. 1** - Join us to watch the movie about local happenings in the Lehigh Valley - The Fries Rebellion. Doors will open at 1 p.m. **for the 2 p.m. showing in our sanctuary**. Come in to pick your favorite seat for this locally produced film about an important time in the history of our own Lehigh Valley. Bring your own blanket and a few bucks for the donation jar. We are hoping to sell hot dogs, drinks and baked goods to make the event more fun. Proceeds will go to support the creation of the film. The movie is

about 32 minutes long with a Behind the Scenes look of about 17 minutes to be shown after the film. Invite your friends and family members to join us. (in case of weather issues, check WFMZ or contact me day of). To learn more about it, look up: <https://friesrebellionfilm.com/>

**Church Closed?** In case of bad weather we will again be posting any cancelations with Channel 69 – WFMZ-TV under their Storm Center Updates. We will announce on WFMZ but always use your own judgment and stay safe.

### **Week of January 12-18, 2025:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday 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 Giveaway – Monday from 4-6pm

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

ATF Giveaway – Saturday from 10am-12pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School

9:30am Usher Training

10:15am Worship, Installation of Consistory

Loose offering goes to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Brunch at the Merc after Worship

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

General Offerings: \$1,153.00

Window Fund: \$195.00

Mission: \$55.00

Communion: \$49.00

Building Repair: \$90.00

Parking Lot: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Attendance: 46