



Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

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

www.oldzionsucc.org

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net



July 2025

Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436

Cell: 610-393-3522

MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday, July 6-10am-3pm

Wednesday, July 13-10am-3pm

Wednesday, July 20-10am-3pm

Wednesday, July 27-10am-3pm

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

(please call before stopping in)

Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601

ozuccoffice@ptd.net

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...

By now, I pray you are all aware that our dear **Brenda Seitz, our office administrator, church secretary**, check writer - bill payer - keeper of the minutes of all committees, organizer extraordinaire, historian, answerer of questions, tax paying, w-2 writing, Quick Book guru, keeping our church going, newsletter producer, bulletin creator, sign and poster maker, phone answerer, mystery solver, and so much more, is retiring as of June 30, 2025.

She has respectfully requested no sort of party or parting words. She has offered to train the incoming people who will be taking her place and as of this writing, we are fortunate to have Alyson Miller to staff our church office for the summer for the administrative duties that were Brenda's responsibility and Robin Yoder to take over the financial aspects of Brenda's job until we can find a satisfactory replacement (s). We have advertised locally and on Indeed and are doing our best to get that position filled ASAP. We have been praying, researching, and discussing, and organizing a list of questions to ask the new candidates who will come for interviews. We are working on this. But it is hard.

What makes it hard? Brenda has been with us for 22 years! She can multitask and get things done with such efficiency that we don't even realize just how much she has spoiled us! This will be a BIG transition for all of us and I beg your patience as we move through a learning curve. What else makes it hard? It is a change in all of our relationships. We won't see Brenda as much as we are used to seeing her. We won't have her self-assured voice of confidence that we can do all things. We will lose her ability to get things done quickly because she has been doing this job for a long time. And so much more.

There is grieving to be done here. This is a letting go of what was - for HER and for US. Retirement has been equated to graduation from High School. You are done with one chapter in your life. What will you do with the next chapter?

This is a spiritual, emotional, bodily, mental awakening to something different. For US and for HER. She has been busily organizing files for the new person (s) to come in and take care of the "Office duties." I'm sure she is mobilizing

her mind to do the same thing for herself. It is exciting on all levels and scary at the same time. We each have many questions.

I'm asking you now to trust your leaders in the church as we do our best. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will answer them to the best of my abilities.

Brenda has thoughtfully decided to leave us during the summer when the pace of the church life is slower. That will allow new people in the jobs to catch up to speed.

In the meantime, we celebrate Brenda in a quiet way - respecting her wishes - and look back with gratefulness and look forward with JOY for her in her new "role" in life and with hope and expectation that God will provide for all of us along the journey.

Peace,
Lori Esslinger
Part Time Pastor



Wednesday, July 2 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Grief Care
Sunday, July 6 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion
Monday, July 7 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Sort and Store
Wednesday, July 9 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Grief Care

Saturday, July 12 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Set Up for Giveaway
Sunday, July 13 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sandwich Orders Due
Monday, July 14 - 4:00-6:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway
Wednesday, July 16 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Grief Care
Saturday, July 19 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ATF Giveaway
Sunday, July 20 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Loose offering goes to Pastor's Discretionary Fund
12:00 p.m. Brunch at the Merc
Monday, July 21 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Sort and Store
Wednesday, July 23 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Last Grief Care
Thursday, July 24 - 3:30-5:30 p.m. Pick Up Ordered Sandwiches
Sunday, July 27 - 9:30 a.m. Worship
Monday, July 28 - 10:00 a.m. ATF Sort and Store



Looking Ahead☺

Sunday, August 3 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion
Sunday, August 10 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sandwich Orders Due
Sunday, August 17 - 9:30 a.m. Worship, Loose offering goes to Pastor's
Discretionary Fund
12:00 p.m. Brunch at the Merc

Thursday, August 21 – 3:30-5:30 p.m. Pick Up Ordered Sandwiches

Sunday, August 24 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday, August 31 – 9:30 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 Choir...

Choir is off for the summer. We will start up again with rehearsals on Thursday, September 4th with singing in Church on Sunday, September 7. All are welcome to join in, rehearsals will begin at 7:30 p.m.

News from Christian Ed...

No Sunday School for July and August. Classes will resume on September 7. And there is always room for more teachers and more helpers! If you have other questions about Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori, Susan Jacobs or Deb Schoenberger.

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 (9:30am during July and August) 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 an email to Beth Massa (massaed@hotmail.com).

News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

Supper Club and Lunch Bunch will be taking a break over the summer months but **Sunday Brunchers** will still be meeting after worship. Please join in on **Sunday, July 20, 2025** at the Mercantile Club, 427 Railroad St, Emmaus. (Cash Only) Please RSVP to Linda or Mark by Tuesday, July 15. **All are Welcome!!!!**



Grief Care is being held on Wednesday evening between 6-8 p.m. in the lower social hall and will end on July 23.

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.

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 10:00 a.m.

Donations for ATF can be dropped off anytime in the stairway by the double red doors on the small parking lot side of the Church. When dropping off donated items please do not block the chairlift path in the stairway. Thank you.

Help is needed for our next Giveaway on Monday, July 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, July 10 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 12 for set up. If you are able to help or have any questions, call or text Millie Kohler. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

News from the FUN Group...

Faith Uniting Neighbors

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated peanut butter and jelly for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. Thanks to your generosity we had 2 boxes full!

School Supplies

During the month of **July**, FUN Group will once again collect back-to-school supplies. Please bring your contribution to Church by **Sunday, August 3**. The supplies will be distributed to Jefferson Elementary School in the Allentown School District. ***Look for the collection bin at the beginning of July.***

They have 31 classrooms and would greatly appreciate:

Hand sanitizer

Clorox wipes

Tissues

Other suggested items are:

Pencils #2

Colored Pencils

Subject folders

Erasers

Crayons



COMING EVENTS:

- The annual **Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction** is scheduled for Saturday, **November 8th** this year. Faith Uniting Neighbors Group would greatly appreciate a volunteer(s) from the congregation to solicit donations for the baskets from area businesses.
- A letter is enclosed with this newsletter and may be copied for multiple uses. If anyone can assist us, please contact any member of the Group.
- A form is also included with the newsletter for anyone who is interested in reserving a table and/or space at the bazaar...space is limited, so if you're interested get your form in as soon as possible.

Into the Dreamtime Healing Sound Bath

FUN Group is sponsoring a Dreamtime Sound Healing program on **Wednesday evening, October 1**...mark your calendars...more information will follow closer to that date. Maureen (Moe) of Lehigh Valley Drum Circle and the Large Flowerheads offers an onsite sound meditation program.

Sound meditation is the next generation of relaxation. She offers sound meditation with crystal singing bowls and gongs. A gong bath is a deep listening experience that will allow you to journey or take you to a meditative state. The result will leave you feeling rejuvenated and revitalized.

The program lasts 90 minutes, which includes relaxation exercise to begin and time for grounding when the meditation is over. She performs in the sanctuary and people can lay on the floor or sit/lay in the pews. You are welcome to bring pillows and/or blankets for your comfort.

Please let a member of FUN Group know if you are interested.

News from Music and Worship Committee...

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.)

AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Update: We recently purchased new pads including batteries for the AED machine. The Consistory with the help of the Property Committee is planning to schedule a class on how to use the AED machine (which is very easy I'm told) and the class may include a CPR component. Stay tuned!

News from Social and Aid...

For the months of July, August and September, the Social and Aid Committee will take a break from making soup. They will be selling Ham and Cheese Sandwiches only during the summer months for \$5.00 each. Please find an order form attached. Orders are due by July 13, 2025. Pick up will be Thursday, July 24 in our downstairs social room from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thank you for your support.



Thank you to all who helped with making sandwiches in June. The total profit of the sale was \$480.43, 80% went into our General Fund to help with paying Church bills and 20% went to the Cemetery.

News from SonShine Group...

Wooden Crosses – We are selling wooden crosses to place on the Cemetery, for your flower beds at home or to hang on your wall. These are beautifully made and decorated. See samples after Worship. They are selling for \$30.00 each. See Richard Yeakel or Lisa Talecki on a Sunday morning or call/email the Church Office.

News from the Youth Group...

Youth Group will be on a break for the summer. Enjoy your travels and come back ready in the fall to continue learning, laughing and growing with us at Old Zionsville UCC "Yoth Grop". We are NOTHING WITHOUT U!

Questions about Youth Group? Speak with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller. If you would like to serve as a leader, speak with Pastor Lori. We could use one more leader at this time. Thanks in advance. See you all there! ☺

Summer Worship begins on July 6th at 9:30 a.m.
Join us early to beat the heat!

News From the Office

Updates about the Keystone Conference submitted by Kathryn Latshaw, our Church Ambassador to the Penn Northeast Conference can be found attached to this Newsletter. Just so you know – Keystone Conference Transitional Staff will be contracted in fall, 2025 to begin in January 2026. Four current ministers have expressed interest. D. Ackerman, C. Call, N. Foust and K. McLemore. Please see more on the attached information.

NEW Congregational (name/address/phone) **Directories** have been printed. You may pick up yours at church on a Sunday morning or stop in the office when Brenda is in to get one.

During the summer, we are checking in with members we haven't heard from in a while. Do you know some of our members who haven't been around lately? Encourage them to stop in. We are doing some new things for the summer! Tell them also to watch their mailboxes for a letter from Pastor Lori with options to keep their membership current. Thanks!

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.

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)

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 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.



Offerings and Donations Received from June

General Use.....	\$11,216.20
Benevolence.....	467.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund.....	65.00
Building Repair.....	140.00
Utilities.....	160.00
Parsonage Rental.....	1,645.00
Parking Lot Maintenance Fund...	0
Cemetery.....	70.00
General Expenses.....	\$11,522.94
includes gas.....	\$269.32
includes electric.....	\$169.19

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.

If you have 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 our arrangement with Rich Mar Florist for that Sunday can be canceled. Thank you!

Deadline for material to be included in our August Newsletter is due July 27. 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.

A Little Humor for the Summer

An ad for St. Joseph's Episcopal Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boys efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell. Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

Reverend: "In this church secretary job we need someone who is responsible."

Applicant: "That's me! In my last job when anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Grief Care 6pm	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship, Communion	7 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm	8 FUN Group 7pm	9 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Finance 7pm Grief Care 6pm	10	11	12 10am ATF set up
13 9:30am Worship Sandwich Orders Due	14 4-6pm ATF Giveaway Scouts 6pm	15 Consistory 7pm	16 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Grief Care 6pm	17 Choir 7:30pm	18	19 10am-12pm ATF Giveaway
20 9:30am Worship Loose offering will go to Pastor's Discretionary Fund 12pm Sunday Brunchers	21 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm	22	23 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm Grief Care 6pm	24 Pick up Ordered Sandwiches 3:30-5:30pm	25	26
27 9:30am Worship	28 ATF 10am Scouts 6pm	29	30	31		

Old Zionsville UCC

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

July Sandwich Sale

For the summer months, June, July, August and September the Social and Aid Committee will only be making and selling **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches**. Pickups will be on a Thursday so you will be able to sell sandwiches at work and deliver them for lunch on Friday! Sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please indicate below how many you would like. 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. Keep the bottom for your records if you sell to others. Proceeds will be split between the Church and the Cemetery Association to help pay bills.

Orders must be received by Sunday, July 13, 2025.

Pick up will be Thursday, July 24, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Total # of Ham & Cheese Sandwiches: _____

at \$5.00 each: \$_____



Pick up Thursday, July 24, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Name	Phone	Sandwiches

35th General Synod Keystone Conference Resolution

DATES for this General Synod – July 11-15, 2025 in Kansas City, MO.

WHEREAS the four UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania affirm:
Devotion to our Creator God, to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit;
Recognize that division and change will create new communities;
Believe a Conference must model unity and healing in response;
Serve, Nurture, and Empower authorized ministers/leaders within it;
Desire to live into Jesus' hope that followers reflect unity... AND
WHEREAS the four Conferences have collectively discerned that their ministry and mission will be stronger together:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 35th General Synod hereby **recognize** the new **Keystone Conference** - previously the four PA conferences -
GRANT standing as a Conference in the UCC as of January 1, 2026 and
APPROVE termination of the previous four PA conferences.

STAR Resolution Summaries: (call PNEC for full resolution language)

WHEREAS, 80% of the Churches in the United Church of Christ are located in rural areas and small towns and (to summarize) **they do a whole lot of really great and often unique** things for the church, their communities and the UCC.... **Be it resolved that:**

...**The UCC recognizes the STAR Coalition (Small Towns And Rural churches)** as a representative group and has representation during all the meetings, worship, and resolution planning.

...**The UCC find ways to encourage leadership** to celebrate and empower STAR congregations as they find their own way...

...that the **Collegium of Officers will organize a task force** to ensure that STAR congregations and communities continue to have their voice heard and their presence celebrated.

...that the **STAR Coalition will be empowered to share information** with United Church of Christ seminaries, seminarians, and those seeking a Call and role of leadership...

...**STAR Coalition reports to the Executive Council** at the Thirty-sixth General Synod on how the Collegium is responding to the voices...

...**they become a center for celebration, sharing, support, and guidance** for any STAR congregations, communities and the people who serve them....

Keystone Conference Staffing Plans

Keeping you informed!

TRANSITIONAL STAFFING – BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2026

After determining interest among current ministerial staff, D. Ackerman, C. Call, N. Foust, and K. McLemore expressed interest in the ***transitional* full-time ministerial positions** and due to their experience working with local churches, will be considered by the new Keystone Board for transitional positions.

The **transitional staff** will be contracted by the Keystone Board **in the fall of 2025** beginning with the Transitional Executive Conference Minister.

That *Transitional Executive Conference Minister*, with the *Personnel Committee* and the *Transitional Board* will complete interviews with the transitional ordained and administrative staff so that the individuals can **begin in January 2026**.

We anticipate 12-18 months of transition so that work can continue. After that point searches for settled staff will begin.

The administrative positions may be hired for "settled" administrative staff during the first months or year of the transition.

SETTLED STAFFING TO BEGIN SOMETIME IN 2027

There will be search committees formed for all the called positions in the Keystone Conference which include:

- 1. Executive Conference Minister**
- 2. Three Regional Ministers**
- 3. Leadership and Faith Formation position – part-time**

These will be open searches which may include those who have served as transitional staff, but their continued employment/call is not guaranteed.



OLD ZIONSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



5981 Fountain Road • P O Box 215 • Old Zionsville PA 18068 • Phone 610-966-3601

To Whom It May Concern:

On November 8, 2025, Old Zionsville United Church of Christ is having a Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction. We hope to have a number of baskets filled with a variety of items that people will purchase chances to win. Proceeds from the Basket Auction will benefit the church and local charities.

We would like to ask your company or agency to help us with this Basket Auction. You could do this by providing us with merchandise that we could include in a basket, a gift certificate for your product or service, or a cash donation that would be used to sponsor a basket. You do not need to provide the basket. We would be happy to pick up any merchandise you would donate to us. All your contributions would be tax deductible. Our federal tax identification number will be provided, if required.

If you can help us, please call the church at 610-966-3601 or Jan Strobel at 610-653-3450.

Thank you from the
Faith Uniting Neighbors (FUN) Group

OLD ZIONSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5981 Fountain Rd., P.O. Box 215

Old Zionsville, PA 18068

(610) 966-3601

Our **28th Annual Bazaar and Filled Basket Auction** will
be held on **Saturday, November 8, 2025**, from 9:00 until 3:00.

All crafters and vendors are welcome to help us make this bazaar a success. The cost for a space is \$7.00; a space with a table is \$10.00. In addition to the bazaar, purchase tickets for a chance to win the basket of your choice; there will also be great food available. If you're interested in reserving a spot or know another crafter or vendor who would be interested, please return the registration form below with payment. Thank you.

(Checks should be made payable to
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ)

Any questions contact: Deb Schoenberger

NAME _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

Type of Craft or Product _____

Choose One: Table & Space (\$10) _____

Space (\$7) _____