

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

July 20th, 2025

9:30 a.m

**those who are able may stand*

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Apostles Philip and Bartholomew

Prelude: "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Irrine

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 52)

One: In the presence of the faithful, we proclaim the name of God, for it is good.

Many: We thank you forever because of what you have done.

One: Holy One, we trust in you. We take refuge in your safety. We call your presence our home.

Many: We are like olive trees rooted in your soil—growing and fruitful. You nourish us and shine your light upon us.

One: Faithful God, in you, we find love and truth, abundance and compassion, community and care.

Many: We praise and exalt you, Eternal One. We trust in your steadfast love forever and ever.

Invocation (unison)

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space. We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our presence before you. Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength and the community of faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way. Be glorified in our worship. Be honored by our praise. Be known by

**your people, O Creator, Teacher, and Friend. In your many names,
we pray. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him"

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)

One: Gracious God, evil surrounds us and entices us to join in its ways, of matching energy and returning evil for evil, of seeking the comfortable and convenient way over the common good, of turning from pain and despair rather than leaning into solidarity and support.

Many: Help us, O God, to choose the path you have paved and give us strength to journey into rough spaces. Surround us with hosts of righteousness and infuse us with peace that surpasses understanding as we serve as agents and ambassadors of your kindom. As you continually make all things new, fill us with the joy of new life. Amen.

Words of Grace

Citizen of the kindom, commit anew to the joys and costs of discipleship. Creator has endowed you, in grace, the power to be witnesses of the Living God and the promise of the reign of God on earth. Release shame, doubt, and fear in order to choose good things and better ways to be in communion with the Triune God and neighbor.

*Hymn: "I Will Sing of the Mercies"

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Scriptures: John 1: 43-51

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John 6:5-9

pg. 927

Acts 8: 26-40

pg. 955

Reflection: Philip and Bartholomew/Nathaniel

Special Music

Invitation of Generosity:

Let us give generously from the abundance of God's provision, demonstrate our trust in God's provision, and embrace mutuality with God's creation.

Offertory: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Wyeth

*Presentation of the Offering 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)

Giver of all good and perfect gifts, we celebrate the opportunity to contribute to the ministry of this faith community. Receive the resources we offer in love and hope that needs will be met, lives will be changed, and the world will receive the testimony of compassionate care, action, and sharing. Amen.

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: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

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(Sing through twice)

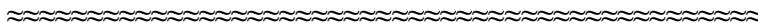
*Benediction

As you go,
Boast in the goodness of God
Live in the abundance of God's love.
Remember that you are more than enough.
Find rest and joy in the day.
Know hope and safety in the night.
Go, in peace to love and to serve.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "The Spacious Firmament on High"

Hayden



Few Things Needed: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Dan & Kathy Latshaw

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Patricia Sajkowicz in memory of Emily Dreas

TODAY'S GREETERS are Randy and Sharon Trexler

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.

Sandwich pickup is Thursday July 24th from 3:30-5:30

All Things Free Room (ATF) Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, July 21 at **9:00am**. If you have any questions please call or text Millie Kohler.

A Message from ATF: Although it is only July, we are looking ahead to our November 10th and 15th Christmas giveaways, where three of our food pantry clients shop for family Christmas gifts. We appreciate any and all new or re-gifted items you might consider donating to us for their shopping. We are looking for items for all ages; infants thru adults. Our volunteers will happily shop for those of you that prefer donating money towards our mission. Thank you in advance for your help.

Grief Care meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Each week includes a video, discussion and a snack. We meet in the lower social hall which is air conditioned and comfortable for all. We also have a zoom link if you cannot make it in person. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free. **The last meeting is this week, July 23rd.**

Worship for the summer is at 9:30 a.m.

Week of July 20-26, 2025:

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

Church Secretary Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

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

ATF Sort and Store- Monday @ 9am

Last Grief Care- Wednesday from 6-8pm

Sandwich Pickup- Thursday from 3:30-5:30

Next Sunday—9:30 am worship

Total Offerings from July 13, 2025:

General Offerings: \$1,800

Communion: \$10.00

Mission: \$25.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Attendance – 39

Big News

Synod Approves Formation of New Keystone Conference

by [Tiffany Vail](#) | published on Jul 14, 2025

With no debate, the 35th General Synod overwhelmingly approved the request by the [Penn West](#), [Penn Central](#), [Pennsylvania Southeast](#), and [Penn Northeast](#) Conferences to come together to form the new Keystone Conference.

Delegates from the four Conferences arrived for the Monday morning vote in matching T-shirts that read "Together We are Stronger." Seated at adjacent tables, they cheered when the motion passed, then reached out to one another across the aisles to embrace, shake hands and pass the peace.

"This moment marks the culmination of several years of faithful discernment, courageous conversation, and a shared vision for the future of our ministry in Pennsylvania. Together, we have dared to believe that God is still speaking — and calling us into something new," the four Conference Ministers – Rev. Carrie Call, Rev. Bonnie Bates, Rev. David Ackerman, and Rev. William Worley – said in a [joint statement](#) sent out shortly after the vote.

"The creation of the Keystone Conference is more than a structural shift; it is a bold witness to our commitment to covenant, collaboration, and the continuing call of the Holy Spirit. We honor the legacy of those who have gone before us in each of our four Conferences and rejoice in the new pathways and possibilities now open to us," they wrote.

Keystone delegates said the lack of debate, and the 98% favorable vote (640 to 8, with 6 abstentions), felt like an incredible recognition of the process they have undertaken over the past three years.

"It was quite an affirmation, said Rev. Steve Davis of the Penn Northeast Conference, who served on the Keystone Working Group. "Folks are excited about the journey we've taken."

Rev. Diann Baxley, from the Penn Central Conference, said the Keystone delegates were touched by the cards, pictures of which will be shared back home. And, she said, the Keystone Working Group on which she served has been grateful for the advice they received throughout the process. She hopes they can pay it forward.

"I hope what we've done can be useful to other conferences contemplating this, and we hope they will reach out to any of us to talk about what we did, what worked and what didn't," she said.

Baxley was moved to tears following the vote, much to her own surprise, "I just give such praise for the Holy Spirit that led us through this," she said. "We're going to be able to serve all of our associations and churches so much better."

Rev. Carrie Call, Penn Central Conference Minister, said her message to other Conferences is simple: "We all need to be doing this. We all need to come together."

The new Keystone Conference board will begin meeting Aug. 1, with the goal of having a transitional staff in place by the time the new Conference officially comes into being on Jan. 1, 2026.

** please note that this article has been modified slightly