

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

October 19, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Harvest Home Sunday

Prelude: "Thanks Be to Thee, O Lord"

Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 121)

One: As the sun sets behind the hills,

Many: We celebrate hope in our Creator.

One: Even as the sun strikes the earth in daytime

Many: We celebrate peace in our Creator.

One: As we move about this earth from day to day.

Many: We celebrate the love of our Creator.

Invocation (unison)

Holy One, Holder of our Hearts,

From time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices.

From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love. May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized by your glimmers even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Bringing in the Sheaves"

(see insert)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Beloved God of All,

Many: We often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace, especially after absorbing the news each day. We allow ourselves to fully walk

away from spreading Good News of your love and grace after feeling the lack of mercy in our world. We would rather be silent in places of comfort instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality. Our hearts cannot bear knowing of any further wrongdoings. Open our souls to your healing. Embolden us to be persistent in our quest to do justice and love kindness. May we follow your light when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve. Amen.

Words of Grace

Our souls continue to open to the healing and hope of God. May we embrace the glow of God's grace as we seek ways to care for our neighbors.

*Hymn: "Heal Our Land" (sing through 2 times)

Page 800

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Page 1039

The Reflection

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Invitation to Generosity

God our Creator looks for us to celebrate hope, peace, and love through the ways we give from our spirits. May we find our hearts become full of light as we share our treasures, talents, and time with our communities.

Offertory: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

Schulz

*Presentation of our 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)

**Divine Connector of our Souls,
With much gratitude, we share our gifts with you today. We continue to search for your dreams and fulfill your visions as we create your Realm here on earth. Energize us to utilize our gifts for the strength of all humanity. Empower us to share our time,**

**talents, and treasures as we seek to never lose hope and heart.
Amen.**

Choir Anthem

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, forever. Amen

*Closing Hymn: "We Gather Together" Page 790
(use optional verse 3 ending - wait to sing until David plays the transition)

*Benediction

May the God of Hope stir us to awaken to Divine dreams.
May the Christ of Light embolden us to use our voices
May the Spirit of Peace fill us with the resolve to transform our world.
With help from the Holy One, we will never lose heart!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Father, We Thank Thee" Bourgeois

~~~~~

***Not to Lose Heart: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*** was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

**Special Thanks** today to Carolyn Rhoads and Nancy Civitts and friends for creating the always unique and ever-changing Harvest Home display for today and next Sunday. We give thanks for this time of year and the beauty of creation as we move through the seasons.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Larry Stahler.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Kathy Latshaw.

**TODAY'S Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Larry & Angela Stahler in memory of William Stahler commemorating his Birthday.

**TODAY'S Chancel Flowers** are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of her husband, Howard.

**TODAY'S Bulletin** is sponsored by Paula Lilly in honor of her children.

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) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, October 20 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please do not block the chair path when leaving donations in the stairway. Any questions, call Millie Kohler.

Help is needed for the next **ATF Giveaway** on Monday, November 10 between 4-6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15 between 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This will be our Christmas Giveaway. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church. For more info, please contact Millie Kohler.

**Sunday, October 19** - join us at lunchtime after worship for a discussion of the parable of the Prodigal Son based on a book by Henri Nouwen. This study will be led by Tom Dilts, a resident of Chestnut Ridge, friend of Millie Kohler, and excellent discussion leader. Tom has led Henri Nouwen discussion groups from 2001-2014 and has led discussions with several of this author's books.

**Immediately following worship**, we will adjourn to the lower social hall to enjoy a buffet lunch (this week's lunch will include: lasagna made in the crockpot, Lebanon bologna filled with cream cheese, garlic bread, Oriental salad, green salad, fruit and peach cobbler) The study will begin around 12:15pm and conclude by 1:45pm.

**With the cooler weather brings Soup. Soup and Sandwich pickup is October 23.** Proceeds will be divided between the Cemetery Association and our General Fund. Thank you for helping with this fundraiser.

**Light in the Night is set for today, October 19th, 2025**, at the Upper Milford Township building from 4-6pm. Help is needed. Please contact Pastor Lori if you can help run a game.

**Sunday Brunchers**, there will be no Sunday Brunches in October due to the Luncheon and Book Study after church today, Sunday 10/19.

**Lunch Bunch**, Friday October 31, 2025, 12 Noon  
Perkins  
3400 Lehigh St., Allentown  
RSVP by Sunday 10/26/2025

**Harvest Home** will be displayed during Worship today, Sunday, October 19 and Sunday, October 26.

**All Saints Day** is next Sunday, October 26 at our 10:15am Worship. Our new Administrative Secretary, Ellie Deere, will be with us in worship on this Sunday so you can meet her. She will be lighting a candle for her nephew, who died suddenly at the end of August this year. Please plan to say hi to her Oct. 26.

**The Chosen**, season 4, began showing on Sept. 10 and will conclude on Oct. 29, one episode each week in the lower social hall on Wednesdays starting at 1 p.m. with snacks. All Welcome!

The annual **Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction** is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th this year.

Please contact Jan Strobel if you would be able to help solicit prizes in the Macungie, Emmaus, or Zionsville areas...a copy of the letter to solicit items from local businesses to be used to fill baskets for the auction is included with the newsletter. She will coordinate solicitation so that we avoid approaching the same business multiple times.

We would love to have some homemade goodies for our Bake Sale (we'll remind you in next month's newsletter). Also, we could really use some help setting up tables on Friday night (November 7) and cleaning up on Saturday after the basket auction. If you can help with either set-up or clean-up, please sign up with Patti Mittl.

There will be some light refreshments for sale the day of the Bazaar.

**Old Zionsville UCC, 5981 Fountain Road**, would like to invite all of our siblings in Christ to participate in a **Combined Choir and Friends Concert to celebrate Thanksgiving** on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. in our sanctuary. The combined choir will rehearse for 3 Thursday evenings before the event in our sanctuary. The dates for rehearsals are as follows: Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Zionsville UCC Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join to sing. We are looking for instrument solos, storytellers, and snacks to share at the reception. Any questions, please contact Lori Esslinger 610-393-3522

There will be instrument solos, hymn singing, storytelling, and the highlight, the combined choir voices to give Thanks to our God. A free will offering will be received to benefit our Ministerium which helps local people in various situations throughout the year. A time of fellowship will follow the event in our lower social hall. All welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this special time to give thanks.

**As Thanksgiving is approaching, the Food Pantry is looking for participating churches to contribute appropriate items to the client's meal.** Rather than packing a bag to share with all the usual standards, we are

again providing the clients with a choice. Like last year, we will have a table full of all sorts of foods. With this approach, no specific requests are being made of each church. When you shop, feel free to select anything that might be included in a Thanksgiving meal. (Some shopping ideas: stuffing mix, gravy, vegetables, pumpkin, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, biscuit mix, bread mix, cookie mix, or anything.) Please shop and bring your contributions to church no later than **NOVEMBER 2**. Any questions, call or text Robin Yoder 610-428-1884

**Looking forward to Advent this year!** We will be studying the Hymn/Carol: What Child IS This?

To make it very relevant, we are inviting you to bring your Nativity sets to our church to be photographed. During Advent, we will show the pictures during a slide show at the time of the Lighting of the Advent Candles.

Angela Stahler will be taking pictures of your Nativity set(s) for this slide show. Speak with Angela to arrange an appointment time to set up the nativity at church and then have it photographed. We will enjoy seeing the amazing beauty of each individual set.

**We are seeking someone to serve as Chair of the Property Committee.**

After nearly ten years of dedicated service, Beth Massa will be stepping down from this role at the end of December. We are deeply grateful for her faithful leadership and the care she has shown for our church building and grounds. This is an important and meaningful role in the life of our church. If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact Beth or Pastor Lori.

**Week of October 19 through October 25:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Tues 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed and Thurs 10am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Consistory

Wednesday: 1pm The Chosen (lower social hall)  
7pm Cemetery Committee

Thursday: 3:30-5:30pm Soup & Sandwich Pickup  
7:30pm Choir

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

**Next Sunday**—9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship, All Saints Day  
12pm Confirmation Class

**Total Offerings from October 12, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2492.00

Communion: \$45.00