

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

November 16, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Glyncannon

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 98)

One: O Sing to our Creator a New Song,

Many: Make a joyful noise to God, everyone!

One: With trumpets and sounds of the horn

Many: We create joyful sounds for you, God of love.

One: The hills will sing together in bliss.

Many: Just as the sea roars and the artists rhyme, we serenade our Creator.

Invocation (unison)

Beloved Divine Sustainer,

Like the sunlight, your presence illuminates the world around us.

Like the air, your being invigorates us. Even when the world seems to be on fire, your quenching rain soothes our souls. Through your wisdom, we find our hope and strength. Fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with fortitude, knowing you will never depart from us. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" (verses 1 and 3)

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy Strength

All: At the signs of conflict in our communities and world, we cower instead of running towards the needs of our neighbors. We believe the end is near, but in actuality, this is another wave of dread coming from our fellow humans. Unfortunately, we can't simply

wish this conflict away. Instead, you call us to walk through the fire and to use our voices. Forgive us when we want to stop instead of continuing to follow the way of Jesus. Give us grace to keep moving forward, even when betrayal and hate are raining upon us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. Amen.

*Hymn: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

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Scriptures: Luke 21: 5 - 19

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Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

What are the best ways for us to share what we have? How can we best use our gifts when our neighbors hurt and our systems attempt to limit the well-being of God's children? Through our gifts, we are able to bear your strength and boost the hearts of many.

Offertory: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Bish

*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)

**Creator God, Source of All Energy,
We see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds, and souls of
this world. May your wisdom continue to strengthen our spirits.
Through our gifts of treasures, talents, and time, we can serve
your children, ensuring no one goes hungry and all are thriving.
Through our endurance and compassion, may we build God's
Realm here on earth. 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: "It Is Well with My Soul"

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*Benediction

As we work to faithfully follow God's call,

May the Christ illuminate the road ahead,
May the Spirit invigorate us throughout each day,
May our Creator soothe us and instill hope.
Beloved siblings, even as waves of fear crash over us, God never leaves nor forsakes us and brings us courage as we journey together. Amen!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "A Joyous Acclamation"

Smith



Gain Your Souls: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

Immediately following worship, you may come to the front entrance of the church and place your paper of sins, regrets, requests, and other into the chimenea to send the smoke to God as cleansing for the New Year is granted.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Les & Deb Schoenberger.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Mark Weaver.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Dan Latshaw in memory of Lee and Jean Latshaw & Edna and Theodore Eck

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.

Pick up for Beef Vegetable Soup along with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be Thursday, November 20th, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday November 16, 2025, After Church (Cash Only)

Where: The Mercantile Club

427 Railroad St. Emmaus

RSVP by Tuesday 11/11/2025

Lunch Bunch

When: Friday November 21, 2025, 12 Noon

Where: The New Pennsburg Diner

321 Pottstown Ave, Pennsburg

RSVP by Sunday 11/16/2025

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 snacks to share at the reception. Any questions, please contact Lori Esslinger 610-393-3522

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.

Advent begins on November 30 this year. We will celebrate Communion and light the first candle in our **Advent wreath**. Pastor Lori is looking for families or individuals to light our Advent wreath. Please speak with her if you can help.

This is the official call to all church members to attend our **Annual Congregation Meeting** which will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 immediately following worship. At this time, we will discuss and approve the 2026 budget, elect new Consistory members, and consider any other business that may come before the congregation. We also have to change our Constitution because of the change from PNEC to Keystone Conference and Mountain Valley Association. Our Consistory is looking to fill two spots this year. If you would like more information, please speak with Cheryl Martucci, Kathy Latshaw, or Pastor Lori. Terms are 2 years and on the job training is provided. Previous experience is not necessary however if you would like to sign on to serve again, that is terrific. Each member of the church may serve after not having been on Consistory for one year. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

The **Cemetery Association Annual Meeting** will also be held on December 7.

White Gift Service, where we purchase gifts and wrap them in white tissue paper for the Bethany Children's Home, will be on Sunday, December 7. Your generosity will bring many smiles. Gift list can be found at the entrances to the Church and are in the November Newsletter. Monetary gifts are also accepted to the Faith Fund. Checks may be sent to Bethany Children's Home, c/o Development Department, 1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Or checks can be made out to our church and we will see that they get there. Bethany can only use NEW items to give to the students living there.

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.

Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. this year. 3 p.m. will be a little shorter for those who can't sit so long and those who don't like to drive at night - candles, carols, communion. 7 p.m. will be a traditional service also with choir, candles, and carols. O Come All Ye Faithful!

Join the Lehigh Valley Chorale for A Crowded Table, a heartwarming winter concert inspired by the Highwomen's song. With themes of connection, compassion, and chosen family, this program offers hope, joy, and community through music. The concert features works by Rosephanye Powell, Sara Bareilles, Celine Dion, and more—plus local instrumentalists and guest conductor Liz Olson. Concert Dates: Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 13 at 2:00 p.m. Location: First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. Tickets: eventbrite.com/o/lehigh-valley-chorale-71797870453

Week of November 16 through November 22:

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

Other times by appointment

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

Monday: 10am ATF

6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Consistory

Wednesday: 7pm Cemetery

Thursday: 7pm OZUCC Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Combined Choir Rehearsal

Friday: 12 noon Lunch Bunch

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

Next Sunday—9:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship

3:00pm Combined Choir Celebration of Thanksgiving

Total Offerings from November 9, 2025:

General Offerings: \$1662.00

Missions: \$180.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$160.00

Heat/Electric: \$60.00

Communion: \$185.00

Building: \$70.00

Sunday School: \$3.00

Attendance: 50