

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 23, 2025

10:15am

**those who are able may stand*

Covenant Sunday

Prelude: "Bless This Earth"

Calkins

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Colossians 11: 1-20)

One: May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience.

All: joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

One: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether

All: Jesus himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

One: Jesus is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

All: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. May Jesus dwell in us. Amen!

Invocation (unison)

Holy and loving God, You have called us into covenant with You – not through fear or power, but through steadfast love and amazing grace. On this Christ the King Sunday, we remember that Christ's reign is not about domination or control, but about service, compassion, and justice.

In Jesus, You made Your covenant visible: a promise of presence,

forgiveness, and new life. Through His example, we see what it means to live as your people – to love our neighbors, to seek peace, and to stand with the oppressed.

As we gather in worship, renew Your covenant within and among us. Reign in our hearts and in this community, so that everything we do and say reflects the love of Christ, our Sovereign and Friend.

Come Holy Spirit – unite us, inspire us, guide us as we worship You in truth and in hope. Through Jesus Christ, the living sign of Your covenant, we pray, Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

See Insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession)

Leader: Faithful God, You have made a covenant with us – a promise of steadfast love, mercy, and belonging. But we confess that we do not always live as Your covenant people. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.

All: We forget Your faithfulness when life feels uncertain. We break relationship through selfish choices and careless words. We turn from Your call to love our neighbors and seek our own comfort instead of Your justice.

Yet you, O God, never turn away. Your covenant endures when ours falters. Your love reaches out again and again, inviting us back into right relationship with You and with one another.

Forgive us, renew us, and transform us. Write Your law of love upon our hearts and strengthen us to be a covenant people – faithful in worship, bold in compassion, and steadfast in hope.

Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our companion and our covenant-keeper, we pray, Amen.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news: God's covenant is everlasting. It is not broken by our failures or undone by our doubts. Through Jesus Christ, God has written mercy into our story and grace into our hearts.

Beloved of God, you are forgiven, renewed, and made whole. You are set free to live as a covenant people – to love boldly, serve faithfully, and walk humbly with your God.

Thanks be to God, whose steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

*Hymn: "What Grows Here"

See Insert

Reflection

Call to Offertory

Offertory: "My Tribute"

Crouch

*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 Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

Faithful God, You have bound Yourself to us in a covenant of steadfast love – promising to be our God and calling us to be Your people. In gratitude for that promise, we bring these gifts as signs of our trust and our hope.

Use them, O God, to renew Your covenant in the world – to bring healing where there is hurt, justice where there is oppression, and compassion where there is need.

**Bless these offerings, and bless those who give, that our lives may reflect the generosity and faithfulness we have first received from You. Through Christ, our covenant-keeper and King, we pray.
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: "O God, You Made a Covenant"

See Insert

*Responsive Benediction

Leader: People of God, we go forth as covenant partners - claimed by grace, called to serve.

People: We go to live as citizens of Christ's kingdom, where love is stronger than fear and mercy is greater than power.

Leader: Christ our Sovereign leads not from a throne of gold, but from the cross of compassion.

People: We will follow in His way – serving the least, seeking justice, and walking humbly with our God.

Leader: Go then, as people of the covenant – forgiven, renewed, and sent to bear the light of Christ.

People: We go with joy and purpose, to love and to serve in the name of Christ our King.

All: Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Now Thank we All, Our God"

Karg-Elert



*The service today was prepared by the **Friends of the Penn Northeast Conference** and given to us by our Conference Ambassador, Kathy Latshaw.*

TODAY'S GREETERS are Randy & Sharon Trexler.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Millie Kohler.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bedell in honor of their Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 21.

TODAY'S BULLETIN is sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of Dorothy Scholl.

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.

OZUCC Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due next Sunday, 11/30/25

Poinsettia Order Forms can be found next to the bulletins as you enter the church. Please drop your order for poinsettias in the offering plate on Sunday, Stop by the Office, or Mail to the Church before Wednesday December 3. Cost per 6 1/2" pot is \$13.50. Please indicate on the form how many and which color (red, white, or pink) you would like. Also please let us know who you want them to be in Memory of or in Honor of. Payments must be enclosed with your order, checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC.

December Soup and Sandwich Sale. Chili along with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in December by our Social and Aid Committee. Chili will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please 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 of this form for your records if you sell to others. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association.

Orders must be received by Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Pick up will be Thursday, December 18, 2025 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Combined Supper Club and Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday December 3, 2025, 6:00 PM

Where: Washington Grille & Pub

1063 PA-100, Bechtelsville

RSVP by Sunday 11/30/2025

Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday December 21, 2025, After Church (Cash Only)

Where: The Mercantile Club

427 Railroad St. Emmaus

RSVP by Tuesday 12/16/2025

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.

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 23 through November 29:

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

Church Secretary Hours: Mon. 1:30-3:30pm, Tues. 11:30am-2:30pm,
Wed. 9am-4pm, Fri. 1-4pm
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF

6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day!

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

Next Sunday—9:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship, Communion

First Sunday of Advent

Total Offerings from November 16, 2025:

General Offerings: \$1255.00

Missions: \$55.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$95.00

Heat/Electric: \$20.00

Sunday School: \$9.00

Disaster Jamaica: \$20.00

Bethany Children's Home: \$40.00

Attendance: 54