

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

<u>Rev. Lori Esslinger</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
<u>David Carlson</u>	<u>Organist</u>
<u>July 26, 2026</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>

**those who are able may stand*

“Esther”

Prelude: “Prayer” Schirrmann
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 119 and 65)

One: Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

Many: The Faithful One holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the Holy One!

One: Worship is due to the Holy One, whose revelation illuminates our path.

Many: The Just God is righteous. Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

One: Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfy the prayers spoken and unspoken.

Many: The Sovereign God answers prayer. Happy are we who love the Holy One!

Invocation (unison)

God who gathers us together, we delight to be in community with you and one another. Let your word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst into songs that reflect the depths of our spirits. May our prayers be formed in your name and granted by your wisdom. May we know you, Divine Mystery, and ourselves better and deeper because we have entered your presence as a community of faithful, questioning, and hope-seeking participants in your kingdom. Amen.

***Hymn: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”**

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy One, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the

world and challenges of daily living pull us away.

Many: Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence. Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we companion with siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new. Remove the misleading veil that disguises sufficiency with scarcity. Sustain us with being satisfied with enough and abundance materially while continuing to thirst for righteousness so that all may be well. In you, we hope and believe. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, rest in the assurance of Psalm 65:5, "By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas." The Holy One receives and responds to our prayers and offers the promise of renewed life and the power of community in the kingdom of God. Through Christ, we participate as witnesses, agents, and recipients of transformation for the glory of God and by the grace of God.

***Hymn: "Rise Up, O Church of God"**

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Scripture: Esther 2:12 - 3:11

pages 428-429

Reflection: Esther

Special Music: Neil Harrison

Invitation to Generosity

When we share our material resources, we proclaim our trust in God's provision, abundance, and community. Let us give in order to support the ministry of this church in hope and faith.

Offertory: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Allen

***Presentation of our Gifts and "We Give Thee but Thine Own"**

page 816

**We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer (seated/spoken)

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

***Benediction**

May you drink from the wells of God's abundance
Nourished by the grace of God
Sustained by the truth of God
Hydrated by the promise of God
As you go, spread the good news and
good gifts the Holy One bestows upon all.

***Postlude: "Recessional"**

Hughes

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**Granted Prayer: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Year A** 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 given by Linda Benner in memory of Anna & Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Souder in memory of loved ones.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Wendy Yeakel.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Chris Schell.

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.

**Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. during July and August.**

**The Sermon Series for this Summer, Women in the Bible, began on Sunday, July 5 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.**

Pastor Lori has picked 10 women in the Bible that we will focus on, one per week. Here they are: **Hagar, Dorcas, Miriam, Lydia, Jezebel, Deborah, Priscilla, Phoebe, Eve, and Esther.** Most of them are "good girls" except for one or maybe two. See you in worship so we can decide together.

**August Sandwich Sale.** Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in August by our Social and Aid Committee. **Sandwiches are \$5.00 each.** Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped off in the offering plate any Sunday during worship service; call or email the Church office at 610-966-3601, ozuccoffice@ptd.net; or call Annie Souder to place your order. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association. **Orders must be received by Sunday, August 9, 2026. Pick-up will be Thursday, August 20, 2026 between 3:00-5:00pm in our downstairs Social Hall.**

### **Confirmation Class:**

**July 26, Sunday.** We will play BINGO **TODAY** after 9:30 a.m. worship. We will clear our cards after at least 3 people win. There will be many varied prizes and we will be serving some breakfast foods. There will be a bake sale too! The money from the bake sale will be used by the class to buy a gift for the church. BINGO and breakfast food will be FREE. Plan to stay a little while after worship to have some fellowship with our church family.

**August 2, Sunday.** Confirmation Class will be meeting from 10:30am to 12 Noon.

**Confirmation Sunday will be September 20 at the 10:15am service.**

**All Things Free (ATF) Sort & Store** will be held on Monday July 27 and every Monday in August at 10am. Stop by to check it out. We can always use extra hands! Thanks in advance for serving the Lord. For further information, please contact Sherri Harrison.

**Sunday Brunchers, Lunch Bunch, and Supper Club will not meet in July and August. Please join us in the Fall!**

**We are planning to print a new membership directory in August.** If your address, email address, or phone number has changed recently, please be sure to let us know by calling or emailing the church office.

**OZUCC is joining the Lehigh Conference of Churches in their 4th Annual Back-to-School Drive. Last day for donations is Aug. 2.** There is a box on the bench outside Pastor Lori's office for your contributions. Just a thought: Staples is having a school supply sale right now where most needed items are 25 cents each. The needed item list is in your newsletter but here are the highlights: #2 pencils, pencil cases, erasers, scissors, glue sticks, markers, crayons, colored pencils, folders, rulers and a few more items if you wish to provide them. The offices of the Conference of Churches are in Allentown and the supplies will be distributed at a BASH there later in August. Thanks in advance for your support.

**250 Years of America! Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 at Lenape Park. See flyer in the Narthex.** All of the churches have been asked to help prepare activities for the children throughout the afternoon. **If anyone has some ideas of games or team activities that we can play we are looking for ideas and volunteers.** Some colonial games suggested so far include: Hoop rolling, Hopscotch, Spinning Tops, Tug of War, Button on a String.

**Here is the tentative time schedule for 250 Years of America on Sept. 5: Parade starts at the Historical Society and marches to Lenape Park - approx. noon to 12:30 p.m.** There will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the park.

Children's activities from **1 - 5 p.m.**, including a Petting Zoo from **2 - 4 p.m.**, a Balloon artist, games, and other fun activities.

Old Time Music **1 - 3 p.m.**, Kelly Planer and The Perks **3 - 5 p.m.**

**Greeters and Liturgists!** Please consider being a Greeter or a Liturgist during Worship. Call or email the office to get your name added to our List. Thank you! And thanks to those who have stepped up and volunteered! **Greeters are needed on 10/25.**

**Our Social Media Coordinator has revamped our Web Page!** Check it out and see if you can find some interesting facts or things that you didn't know about our church! [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

### **Week of July 27 through August 2:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday, 10am-3pm.  
(other times by appointment)

Church Hours: Ellie is on vacation July 27 through July 31.  
(please leave a message on the office voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible **OR** call Pastor Lori's cell phone, 610-393-3522)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

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

### **Next Sunday, August 2:**

9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion  
10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class

**Total Offerings from July 19, 2026:**

General Offerings: \$3055.00

Ben/Missions: \$155.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$48.00

Heat/Electric: \$60.00

Comm.: \$10.00

Bldg. Repair: \$70.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Attendance: 56