

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>September 6, 2026</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>

**those who are able may stand*

LABOR SUNDAY
"Phoebe"

Prelude: "In Tenderness He Sought Me" Gordon
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (written by Rev. Seth Wispelwey, Minister for Economic Justice
in the United Church of Christ)

One: Today is a Sabbath.

All: We are called to rest.

One: This space is for Sabbath.

All: We have come here to rest.

One: For all who are lonely...

All: May we find belonging.

One: For all who are weary...

All: May we find rest.

One: For all who labor...

All: May we find renewal.

One: For all who are not afforded belonging, rest, and renewal:

**All: May we embody solidarity with those longing for community,
wages, and sabbaths that everyone deserves.**

One: Today is a Sabbath.

**All: Let us find rest, and worship together the One who provides rest
from labor, loneliness, and weariness.**

***Hymn: "Worker God Who Built Creation"** (Tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

***New Song Commissioned & Written for Labor Sunday!

Amanda Udis-Kessler, August 1, 2025; Hymn to Joy

Worker God who built creation, author of humanity, Thoughtful planner, joyous potter, through your work we come to be.

May we labor in your image. May your love guide all we do. Help us co-create your kin-dom. Help us make your dream come true.

Worker Jesus, teaching, healing, sharing gifts of wine and bread, Strengthening the broken-hearted, making sure the poor are fed,

May we labor in your image. May we set the captives free. Send us ever to the margins. Rouse our solidarity.

Worker Spirit, inspiration, you infuse each living soul, Calling us to lives of justice till each heart is free and whole.

May we labor in your image. May we tend and heal and praise. May we strive for life abundant, glad and grateful all our days.

Invitation to Confession:

On this Labor Day Sunday let us lift up all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace, here at home and all around the world.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

All: We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits. Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve and care for others – in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places –are, themselves, also served and cared for. A world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

(Written by Dr. Edie Russell, former Minister for Economic Justice with the United Church of Christ. Posted on the United Church of Christ website.)

One: Our God is a God of grace and transformation. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and

the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.

***Hymn: "We Labor for the Day"**

see insert

***New song commissioned for Labor Sunday! Music and lyrics written by
Amanda Udis-Kessler

Scripture: Romans 16

page 989-990

Reflection: Phoebe

Offertory Call (Adapted from Labor Sunday Liturgy by Rev. Ed Middleton)

One: The witness of our sacred texts and generations of prophetic leaders is clear: when we have enough - and more than enough - to meet our needs, our call is to share until all others have their needs met. When this vision of thriving humanity is achieved, we all thrive. Let this truth settle upon us as a deeply held desire to love one another as God has loved us.

Offertory: "Yesterday, Today, Forever"

Burke

***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.**

Offertory Blessing (unison)

God of Justice, Mercy, and Fairness: We commit ourselves and these offerings unto you, that your will and ways may be manifested in our lives, within your assemblies, and spread forth that the powers that be might serve your purposes until all are fed, housed, cared for, work with dignity, and all of these things done in ways that preserve the sanctity of this one precious earth. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer Litany

Leader: Today we celebrate workers and their contributions. Just as people in our sacred texts had varying jobs, we recognize the various gifts of workers today. We celebrate those in helping professions: medical professionals, teachers, social workers, and legal assistants.

All: We give thanks for the work of your hands. May God bless you so that through you others may thrive. Forgive the places that have been neglected due to injustice. Give us strength and courage to work toward fair access to services for all God's children and just treatment of those who give so freely of themselves.

Leader: We celebrate those who work in factories and building professions.

All: We give thanks for the work of your hands. May God bless you and your work that allows us to have safe shelter and vehicles, even as some of your working conditions are unsafe. We support your struggle for just wages and working conditions so that you too may be safe.

Leader: We celebrate those who work from the home: caring for children,

elderly, and infirmed.

All: We give thanks for the work of your hands. May God bless your work and give you strength to carry on when the work is challenging. Our culture may not recognize fully your jobs as work, but we know that your work is often challenging. We will work with you for the respect you deserve.

Leader: We celebrate those who work in cleaning professions.

All: We give thanks for the work of your hands. May God bless you and the work you do. Through your work our hotels, offices, and streets are cleaned and prepared for our use, and yet we often do not see you and the strenuous effort required of you. Forgive us for not recognizing your contributions. We support you and your struggle for fair and just wages and benefits.

Leader: We celebrate those who wish to work but are unable to due to injury, illness, disability, or lack of access to jobs or transportation.

All: May God bless you and give you perseverance in this struggle. We repent for the ways in which we may have contributed to your situation. We support you and will journey with you in the process of searching for opportunities for work.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Creator God, who created all things from the work of your hands, we commend to you all workers, those named here and those remain unnamed. Forgive us for the ways we contribute to injustice perpetrated on workers and on your creation. Carpenter Jesus, who draws us into your work with the marginalized, call us into your work of justice that we might change our own unjust ways and work toward fair and just treatment of workers. Powerful Holy Spirit, who empowers us for the journey, move in our lives and in our work that we might persevere in the face of injustice and claim the power you have bestowed upon us to work for justice.

One: Hear us now as we say the prayer which Jesus taught us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

***Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

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***Benediction** (Adapted from Labor Sunday Liturgy by Rev. Ed Middleton)

Now as you go from this place,
go to fulfill God's purposes that all may know of God's love,
and that by seeking justice and mercy for all of God's people
within our homes, neighborhoods, communities, cities, and nations,
God's realm will be seen, known, and experienced now and throughout
the ages. Amen.

*Postlude: "Trust and Obey"

Towner

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*Service today compiled by Members of the United Church of Christ. Permission is granted to use this service format for the purpose of Worship in the United Church of Christ.*

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by BettyLou Hartman in memory of Francis Hartman.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of Anna & Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Lee Hoch.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Donna & Michael Mikolajczyk.

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.

**Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday, September 13.**

**Worship will begin at 10:15 a.m. next Sunday, September 13.**

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

**All Things Free Giveaway** is Monday, September 14, 4:00–6:00pm and Saturday, September 19, 10:00am - 12:00pm. **Setup is September 12 at 10:00am.** For further information, please contact Sherri Harrison.

**All Things Free (ATF) Sort & Store** will be held on Monday, September 21 & 28 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.

**A Message from ATF:** We continually look for new and/or regifting items throughout the year that can be used as gifts at our November giveaway when food pantry clients shop for Christmas gifts for their family (all ages). Please consider helping us accumulate a variety of items. If you prefer not to shop but are willing to support us with a monetary donation, we will gladly do bargain shopping for you. Thanks in advance for helping any way you can!

**September Sandwich Sale.** Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in September 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](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net); or call Annie Souder at 610-966-5242 to place your order. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association. **Orders must be received by Sunday, September 13, 2026. Pick-up will be Thursday, September 24, 2026 between 3:00-5:00pm in our downstairs Social Hall.**

**New church directory available!** New directories of church members' and friends' names and contact information will be available next Sunday, Sept. 13. If you would like a copy they can be found on the tables in the Narthex or call the church office at 610-966-3601 to make your request. This information is provided for you to make your membership and connecting with others easier. Please keep this information in your possession. We don't post it on the internet for fear others will steal it and use it for ill purposes. We thank you in advance for helping to protect us all.

**Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 9/16/2026**

Sunday September 20, 2026, ~ 12 Noon  
Mercantile Club  
427 Railroad St., Emmaus  
CASH ONLY

**Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 9/20/2026**

Wednesday September 23, 2026, 12 Noon  
(Note: Change to Wednesday for September ONLY due to conflicting dates)  
Powderbourne Sportsman's Club  
2071 Baus Road, East Greenville (Pennsburg)

**Please consider joining the choir this fall.** We will start up again with rehearsals on Thursday, September 10th with singing in Church on Sunday, September 13. All are welcome to join in, Thursday rehearsals will begin at 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday School classes will resume on September 13** at 9 a.m. each Sunday. And there is always room for more teachers and more helpers! If you have other questions about Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori, Susan Jacobs, or Deb Schoenberger.

**You are invited to a church family gathering to celebrate with the Eck-Esslinger family!** The date is Thursday, October 15, 2026. Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come and go anytime. The buffet will be set up for the whole time of the event. The food is being catered by Nick's Bistro and Pizzeria. We will eat together and **celebrate the wedding of Lori's son and daughter-in-law.** Please see the September Newsletter and the flyer in the Narthex for more information.

**Light in the Night** will be happening at the Township Building on Oct. 18, from 4-6 p.m. Helpers are always needed to create a fun time for the children who come for an indoor Halloween time. Speak with Pastor Lori if you can help. Thanks!

**The annual Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> this year.** Faith Uniting Neighbors Group would greatly appreciate a volunteer(s) from the congregation to solicit donations for the baskets from area businesses. Please see the **September Newsletter** for more information and resources. Thanks!

**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.**

**Currently, our Webpage is down for maintenance.** We hope to have it back up and running by September 13.

**Week of August 31 through September 6:**

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

Church Hours: Tuesday 11:30am-1:30pm,  
Wednesday & Thursday 10am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs  
7PM FUN Group

Wednesday: 7pm Finance

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

Saturday: 10am ATF Setup for Giveaway

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

**Next Sunday, September 13:**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Treats

10:15 a.m. Worship Communion, Grandparents Day

**Sandwich Orders Due**

**Total Offerings from August 30, 2026:**

General Offerings: \$1826.00

Heat/Electric: \$20.00

General Missions: \$30.00

Bldg. Repair: \$10.00

OCWM: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$50.00

Attendance: 47

# We Labor for the Day

♩ = 120

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Chords: Dm G7 C<sub>sus</sub> C C C/E

We la - bor for the day when  
 la - bor for the day when  
 la - bor for the day when  
 la - bor for the day when  
 la - bor for the day when  
 Ma - ker of our days, in -

6 F C/E Dm C G/BAm7 G G/B C Dm C/E Em F

ev - ery - one has work e - nough, when ev - ery - one has work they love  
 work brings mean - ing to our lives and makes us proud and helps us thrive,  
 work en - rich - es not de - means, when no one has to choose be - tween  
 all our work is val - ued well, the source of tales we love to tell,  
 work will serve the com - mon good on. and heal our plan - et as it should  
 spire us as we la - bor on. Em - pow - er us to strive as one.

11 Dm G7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. C<sub>sus</sub> C 6. C<sub>sus</sub> C

that pays a liv - ing wage. We  
 when work is al - ways safe. We  
 their mor - als and their pay. We  
 a bal - ance to our play. We  
 and help us on our way. Oh,  
 In all your names we pray

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Email: [amanda@amandaudiskessler.com](mailto:amanda@amandaudiskessler.com) New hymns: [queersacredmusic.com](http://queersacredmusic.com)

Permission is given for free use of this hymn.

Please share it with clergy, music directors, and other potentially interested people. Thank you.