

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 27, 2026</u>	<u>10:15 a.m.</u>

**those who are able may stand*

We Thirst!

Prelude: "My Jesus, I Love Thee"
Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Candles

Gordon

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 25)

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust you!

Many: Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We follow you!

Many: Lead us in your ways. Your path liberates and saves.

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship you!

Many: Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One!

Invocation (unison):

Living Water, we delight in your presence. You sustain us in dry moments and seasons. Quench our thirst for word and revelation. Let your Spirit flow among us. Send a river of anointing, power, and encouragement in this assembly. We come to worship you and declare that you are with us...and we are with you. Amen.

***Hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy Presence, you demonstrate the way of love and community, yet so often we turn immediately to quarrels and complaints against one another and against you rather than helpful ways of communicating and confronting conflict.

Many: Teach us to be loving even as we struggle. Stir up compassion and accountability in our interactions. Remind us that

**you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments.
Transform us with trust and care to be faithful and to seek you in
prayer when we feel driven to quarrel and complain. Amen.**

Words of Grace

The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God. Let us follow in the path of trust and faithful remembering of what God has done for us and how God has empowered us for transformation and new life.

***Hymn: "Great Is The Lord"**

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Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

pages 60-61

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

May the gifts that we bring reflect the generosity of the Creator's abundance and goodness.

Offertory: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Parry

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

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**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)

God who Provides, as we present our offerings before you, sanctify them for your glory and magnify them for your people. Amen.

Choir Anthem

***Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (seated/spoken)**

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: "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart"**

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***Benediction**

Go from this time of worship like streams of water,
Flowing from the abundance of the Living Water.
Saturate every encounter with the goodness and abundance of God
As a living witness that the people may drink.

Extinguishing of the Candles

***Postlude: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

Zundel

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**The People May Drink: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth 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 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Heil in memory of MaryAnn's mother, Mary Harry.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jan Strobel.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are members of Consistory.

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 (ATF) Sort & Store** will be held on Monday, September 28 at 10am and also every Monday in October 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.

**Chicken Corn soup with Homemade noodles** along with Ham and Cheese sandwiches will be offered to purchase in October. Chicken Corn Soup by quart containers for \$8 each; Ham and Cheese Sandwiches for \$5 each made by our Social and Aid Committee. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be found in the Narthex and may be dropped 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 orders. Proceeds will be split between the Church and the Cemetery Association. **Orders must be received by Sunday, October 11, 2026. The pick-up will be Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 3:00-5:00pm in our Lower Social Hall.**

**The Chosen Season Six, Episode 1 will be shown in the sanctuary at 12 noon on Oct. 4, World Wide Communion Sunday.** After worship anyone interested in watching the episode with us may join us at 11:30 a.m. for bring-your-own-brown bag lunch. We will provide drinks in the upper social hall and then proceed to the sanctuary at noon to watch the episode on the big screen. The episode is about 52 minutes long but if you would like to stay afterward to discuss it or pray, all are welcome to do that. Invite your friends.

**New church directory available!** New directories of church members' and friends' names and contact information are available. If you would like a copy they can be found on the tables in the Narthex or you may 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.

### **Supper Club – RSVP by Sunday 10/4/2026**

Wednesday October 7, 2026, 6:00 PM

Chris' Family Restaurant

5635 Tilghman St., Allentown (Kuhnsville)

### **Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 10/14/2026**

Sunday October 18, 2026, ~ 12 Noon

Mercantile Club

427 Railroad St., Emmaus

CASH ONLY

### **Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 10/25/2026**

Friday October 30, 2026, 12 Noon

Chino's Place

7567 Chestnut St. (Rt 29/100), Zionsville (Near Hereford)

### **Looking forward to October!!**

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church:

St Francis Day Animal Blessing and Fire Pit Worship



**When:** Saturday October 3, 2026, 6-8<sup>PM</sup> (rain date October 10)

**Where:** Parking lot of Zion's Lutheran, Old Zionsville

**What:** Join us as we commemorate St. Francis of Assisi's feast day with a gathering celebrating God's creation. We'll say a few prayers and sing a few songs and then roast a few marshmallows together. Pets on leashes/harnesses are welcome to come for a spoken blessing. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket, and your favorite sticks for roasting marshmallows.

**Harvest Home will be celebrated for Two Sundays, Oct. 18 and 25.** You may bring items for the display anytime. Food items are always accepted in the shopping cart in the upper social hall. Thanks in advance.

**Oct. 18 at the Upper Milford Township Building, the community led by the Mennonite church will have Light in the Night.** Help is always welcome to run a game or help in the kitchen. Let Pastor Lori know if you would like to help. The event runs from 4 - 6 p.m. and is always great fun with the families who bring their costumed children for a safe time inside with food, games, and crafts.

**Sunday, Oct. 25 in worship at 10:15 a.m. we will celebrate All Saints Day.** We will light candles for those who have died this past year. Be present to welcome the loved ones who will be attending. I heard from Cheryl Smith today that she plans to attend.

**Bosco's Friends Helping Friends on October 21.** Please see the October Newsletter for information about this shopping event sponsored by Grace United Church of Christ or talk to Angela Stahler.

**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 **October Newsletter** for more information and resources. Thanks!

We have forged a new relationship with the **Learning Garden Co-Op Homeschool Group**. They wrote to us requesting use of space for their 6 families in homeschool. After visiting several spaces, their leadership selected our space for their Wednesday large group activities 3 Wednesdays a month. They are doing service projects to help the church as well as cleaning up after themselves each time they are here. Ellie and I have declared that it is a joy to hear the voices of children in the lower social hall each Wednesday they are here. They are paying for the use of our space and utilities and there are approximately 10 children in the Kindergarten to 4th grade age groups and 4 children in our nursery. All of the parents stay with the children each week and are the teachers. The children are learning science, life skills, history and geography when they are here. In their first two weeks here, we have heard that they appreciate the space and the program has benefitted from this time together. Questions? Ask Pastor Lori.

**Our Website Is Back! We're pleased to announce that the Old Zionsville UCC website is back online!**

Earlier this summer, a malware infection made it necessary to take the website offline while we worked to ensure it could return safely and securely. During that time, we rebuilt the site to provide a more reliable foundation for the future.

Whether you're looking for worship information, weekly worship services, upcoming events, News of the Week, monthly newsletters, or simply want to learn more about our church, we invite you to visit the website and explore.

We are grateful for everyone's patience while the site was unavailable and thank you for staying connected through email, social media, and other church communications during the outage.

As with any website, we'll continue making updates and improvements over time. If you notice something that isn't working correctly or have suggestions for future enhancements, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit us online at: [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

**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 and 12/27.**

**Week of September 28 through October 4:**

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: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Wednesday: 9am-2pm Learning Garden

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

Saturday: 9:30am-3:30pm Blanket Making, Lower Social Hall  
6-8pm St. Francis Day Animal Blessing, Zion's Lutheran Church

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

**Next Sunday, October 4:**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship, World Wide Communion Sunday

12 noon The Chosen, Season Six, Episode One

**Attendance** on September 20, 2026: 75