

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>October 4, 2026</u>	<u>10:15 a.m.</u>

**those who are able may stand*

World Communion Sunday

Prelude: "Communion Prayer" Riggs
Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Opening Prayer (Australia) (unison)

We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!

***Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"**

See insert

Prayer of Confession (South Africa)

One: For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

All: God forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon (Bangladesh)

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen

***Hymn: "De Colores"** (2 verses in English)

See insert
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Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46

Reflection

Call to the Offering

Offertory: "This Holy Feast"

Lysberg

***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.

Blessing of the Offering

One: Praise be to God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible.

Many: We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another. Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all our neighbors.

One: God of all times and all places, remind us of the world as You intend it: free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression.

Many: Embolden us, O God, to imagine and believe that another world is possible!

All: Amen

Choir Anthem

Prayers of the People

One: We pray for the people of Africa.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Asia.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Pacific.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Europe

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Middle East.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of North America.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of every place whose names we know—and those we do not.

All: May we be strengthened together as one body of Christ.

***Sing: "Come to The Table of Grace"**

See insert

Call to Communion

One: From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

Many: We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

One: We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

Many: We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

One: From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

Many: We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

One: Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

Many: At Christ's table, there is room for all.

One: Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

**All: We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share.
We come to be made one.**

Words of Institution

***The Lord's Prayer** (sung/standing)

All: Our Father, which 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

Sharing the Meal

One: The bread of life, given for all.

People: We receive with gratitude.

One: The cup of blessing, shared for all.

People: We receive with gratitude.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people— those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you.

Many: Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace.

**All: One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table.
Amen.**

***Sing: "Halleluja"** (Caribbean - sing through 3 times joyously) See insert

***Benediction** (Cuba)

May God prosper you.

May your days be long and your nights serene.

May your friendships honor you, and your family love you.

May you eat at your table, and may you be gathered into God's embrace with a smile.

***Sung Benediction: "Go Now in Peace"** (unison)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

**Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.**

Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Fugue in G Minor"

Bach

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*The Worship Service we are using today was provided by our UCC Global Ministries Team.*

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Linda Benner in memory of Anna & Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Bobby Schmeltzle in memory of Paulette Shankweiler.

**TODAY'S BULLETIN** is sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of Anna & Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Alyson Miller.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Gisela Thiel.

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 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 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 TODAY, World 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.

**Supper Club – RSVP by TODAY 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)

**Second Sunday Treats** - Join us for some delicious snacks to boost your energy for Worship, flavorful coffee and fellowship provided by Wendy and Jack Yeakel in the lower social hall starting at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 11, 2025.

**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!

**Rev. Dr. Nora Driver Foust**, Association Conference Minister for the Mountain Valley Conference will be preaching at OZUCC on Sunday, November 15 at the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Please join us!

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 is it 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.

**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.

**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 October 5 through October 11:**

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

Church Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 10am-2pm & Sat. 11:30am-1:30pm  
(Secretary out of office Tues. Oct. 6 & Wed. Oct. 7.)  
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts  
7pm Music & Worship/Christian Education  
Tuesday: 7pm Cubs  
Wednesday: 6pm Supper Club, Chris' Restaurant  
Thursday: 7:30pm Choir  
Saturday: 6-8pm Rain Date for St. Francis Day Animal Blessing,  
Zion's Lutheran Church

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

**Next Sunday, October 11:**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Treats  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
Soup & Sandwich Orders Due  
Deadline for budget requests to Finance Office

**Offerings for Sept. 20 & 27:** Our financial administrator has been in Florida on family leave to minister to her mother and stepfather. Pray for them as they heal and that Tammy will come back safely at that time.

**Attendance** on September 27, 2026: 50