

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

October 11, 2026

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

UCC Disabilities Ministries
Access Sunday 2026
Matthew 22:1-14

Access Sunday is often celebrated on the Second Sunday in October.

Access Sunday is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to church community, and the joys of being in accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. As such, disability and accessibility are vitally important topics for us all, and for the church.

Prelude: "Prayer"

Schirmann

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (written by Pastor Greg Tre Harris)

Leader: The Divine is our Shepherd.

We want not.

Not missing anything.

Nothing holy, forgotten, or left out.

Together:

Created in love,

We are one!

Leader:

The world names us by what it believes we lack.

The Divine always calls us whole.
Our bodies, our minds, our spirits,
created without hesitation,
held without condition,
beloved without exception.

Together:
Created differently,
We are one!

Leader:
One Band. One Body.
Many members.
One Sound. One Song.
Many voices.
One Truth. One Spirit.
Many stories.
No life stands alone.
No gift exists apart from another.

Together:
Created creatively,
We are one!

Leader:
We are seen through the eyes of our neighbors.
We are strengthened by one another's veracity.
We are healed through interconnected compassion.
What the world calls weakness,
The Divine transforms into common union.

Together:
Our reality does not diminish.
It binds us together,
reveals Christ among us,
and becomes the very place where grace is made known.
Our collective vulnerability saves us all!
Created in oneness,
We are one!

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

See insert

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (written by Pastor Maggie Guekguezian)

God, we confess—

That we took the truth that we are each made in Your image,
marked with sacred worth from the moment of our birth,
and placed conditions upon that first act of Your love.

That we, like the Israelites at Horeb's foot, forgot Your works
—our responsibility to love and care for each other—
and shed some of life's beauty to be melted into a golden calf,
a false idol that we name "able bodied"
—"neurotypical", "sane"—,
and turned "expected" into "correct",
put it on a pedestal, and worshiped it.

Forgive us, Holy One, forgive us.

God, transform us—

Into unmakers of harm and workers of care,
make of us advocates for each other, our siblings in humankind,
like Moses who —through difficulties of speech—

struggled for the good of Your people,
first to Pharaoh and then even to You, O God!

Into builders of the Kin-dom on Earth, repairers of the breach,
removers of each other's yoke and burden,
restorers of the streets to live in,
guardians of each other's dignity and worth
in all the ways God has called us into body, mind, and spirit!

Together: Change us, Holy One, change us.

God, fill us with life anew—

For the sake of the worth of all You've made, that it may endure.

For the sake of Christ's ministry of grace and mercy.

**For the sake of us remembering that the Holy Spirit
is beneath and between every breath**

whether fired by our lungs or by machines that assist them.

**For the sake of making the conditions for every person's thriving
in the many and varied forms that a good life can take!**

Renew us, Holy One, renew us! Amen.

Words of Assurance (written by Pastor Maggie Guekguezian)

Beloved, receive the grace of God,

The Good Shepherd.

The boundless compassion of our Creator guides at our own pace
through storm and stress to green fields,

Their lovingkindness sets us to rest by cool streams
and eases any pain;
Christ's ever-extended hand of welcome and welcome back
reaches out for the sake of every body, mind, spirit,
and guides us on the soul-filling path;
though the course of life —our conditions of being,
our treatment by others, the barriers erected in our way—
can bring us to fearful places upon difficult paths,
the steadfast Spirit of God refuses to abandon us. Amen.

***Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be"**

page 597

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

pages 856-857

Reflection

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: "The Savior is Waiting"

Carmichael

***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 (written by Rev. Jacob Nault) (unison)

God who loves as exactly as we are, thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the gifts of our disabled siblings. With these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work with you to create a world where all your people can belong, and find peace in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and liberation for all. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (sitting/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: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

page 688

***Benediction** (written by Rev. Dr. JJ Flag)

Friends, as we leave this place, we leave to do THE work. The work of welcome, the work of inclusion; full, unabashed lavish even.
The work of journeying alongside each other,
The work of meeting needs when and where we can.
The work of resting,

The work of restoring those cast aside back to community,
The work of setting tables and making sure that spaces at those tables are accessible to ALL,
The work of making the road ahead a little easier to travel,
The work of resting.
Accompanied by grace and mercy, we have been called to and equipped for this work. May we do it with joy.

Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Recessional"

Hughes

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*Most of this service was taken from the Service for Disabilities Sunday 2026 prepared by the UCC Disabilities Ministries.*

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Craig & Linda Schell in memory of Carl & Ruth-Ann Schell's Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Chris Schell in memory of his parents, Ruth-Ann & Carl Schell, on their Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S BULLETIN** is sponsored by Patricia Kuebler in memory of loved ones.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Nancy Civitts.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Cheryl & McGwire Martucci.

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 TODAY, Sunday, October 11, 2026. The pick-up will be Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 3:00-5:00pm in our Lower Social Hall.**

## **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. today, 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.

## **Food Pantry Support for Thanksgiving**

OZUCC is being asked to supply 90 cans of FRENCH Style Green Beans for Thanksgiving, so we are asking you to please bring cans of FRENCH Style Green Beans to the church by **October 25**. You may leave them on the bench outside of Pastor Lori's office. Thanks so much!!!

**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 12 through October 18:**

**Pastor Lori will be on vacation October 12 thru October 17.**

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed. & Thurs. 10am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store

Tuesday: 7pm FUN Group  
7pm Cubs

Wednesday: 9am-2pm Learning Garden  
7pm Finance

Thursday: 5-8pm Eck-Esslinger Family Reception  
7:30pm Choir

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

**Next Sunday, October 18: Harvest Home 1**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

12 noon Sunday Brunchers, Mercantile

4-6 p.m. Light in the Night, Township Building

**Attendance** on October 4, 2026: 52

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

*Tune Parker Huber, 1981*

*John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22*



- 1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
- 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
- 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
- 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



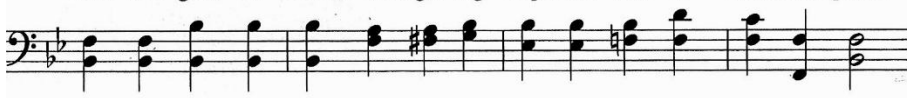
We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair,  
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



"Called as Partners in Christ's Service";

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Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368