

**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

February 19, 2023

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**“Come Up and Down”**

Prelude: “I Know Whom I Have Believed”

McGranahan

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 99)

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Holy One.

**Many: The Holy One is high on the mountain and exalted among the people.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Mighty One.

**Many: The Mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and establishes equity.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the Everlasting God.

**Many: The Everlasting God hears our cries and answers our call.  
Praise our God!**

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

**Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kindom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” (all vs.) p.43

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life.

**Many: We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates**

**at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.**

#### Words of Grace

Just as Jesus gifted his disciples with a moment of respite and awe, it is good for us to follow the transcendent movements in the presence of God. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

\*Hymn: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (sing through twice) p.107

#### Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

**17** Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. **2** And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. **3** Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **4** Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **5** While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. **7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." **8** And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. **9** As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

#### Reflection

#### Invitation to Generosity

**One:** Jesus comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. His entire life is a demonstration of committed generosity and stewardship.

**Many: We too are called to present our lives as a gift to the God who has created us and the world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent, and treasure. Let us reveal the glory of God by the giving of our good gifts.**

Offertory: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Neale

\* Presentation of Our Gifts and The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

**Generous God, may these gifts bring you glory and honor and meet the needs of your people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Choir Anthem: "Forever/A Mighty Fortress"

Schrader

\*The Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer

**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, for ever. Amen**

\*Closing Hymn: "God Has Spoken by His Prophets" (all vs.)

p.407

\*Benediction

May the shining radiance of God warm you. May the dazzling splendor of God surprise you. And the glory of God transform you. May you come up to the mountaintop. May you remember the experience with wonder and awe. And may you come down renewed and empowered for the glory of God and the hope of the world.

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "My Lord Is Near Me All the Time"

Gaultney



**Come Up and Down: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday** was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are to the Glory of God sponsored by Marvin and Barbara Kerchner

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Ann and Norbert Behringer from the Griesemer Family.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Roger and Mishelle Miller.

**TODAY'S ACOLYTE** is McGwire Martucci.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** 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.  
All LOOSE OFFERING today will go to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

**Mask Wearing** - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church.  
Thank you.

**Sunday Brunchers Meet TODAY** – at Noon, Mercantile Club (Cash Only), 427 Railroad St, Emmaus, PA 18049. Lunch Bunch will be this Friday, February 24, 12 noon at the East Penn Diner. March Supper Club will meet on **Wednesday** this month, **March 8 at 5:00 p.m.** at Braveheart Highland Pub, 430 Main Street, Hellertown. Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Linda or Mark Weaver, email [catofpa@ptd.net](mailto:catofpa@ptd.net) or [weavermj@ptd.net](mailto:weavermj@ptd.net) or call at 215-679-7599.

**“Souper” Bowl Covered Dish Social** - Come join the FUN Group for our **“Souper” Bowl Sunday** immediately following Church on **Sunday, February 26**. Thank you to those for volunteering to bring soup. If you aren't bringing soup, please bring a dessert to share. Also, please bring a couple of cans of soup for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry...they distribute hundreds every month! Thank you!!

We are collecting **FULL size toiletries** (*not travel size*) for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry **thru April 2**. A collection box will be located on the bench in front of Pastor Lori's office. Please see your newsletter for list of items needed. Thank you!

**Easter Flowers** – Orders for Tulips and Lilies are being taken to beautify our Sanctuary during Easter. Forms may be found at the entrance to the Church. They are due back by Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Thank you.

## Lenten Worship Schedule

Pastor Lori will be on vacation this year during **Ash Wednesday**, so the Ministerium churches will provide you a wonderful opportunity to worship together for Ash Wednesday. Here are the details:

**8 AM** - join at the Salem United Methodist Church for a brief Ash Wednesday worship led by Robin Roman, the pastor there. Service will include the imposition of Ashes.

**5:30 p.m.** There will Soup and bread supper provided at the Lutheran Church. Just come and break bread together.

**7 p.m.** The Ash Wednesday Worship Service will begin in the Lutheran Church Sanctuary. The service will include Ashes, Communion and Fire. I think it will be inspiring to join with our brothers and sisters in Faith to share in this sacred time. All churches of the ministerium are invited: The Upper Milford Mennonites, Salem United Methodist, Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, and of course, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zionsville.

All churches during Lent will be using ***Drawn to the Cross*** by Henri Nouwen as daily devotional books. You can get one at our church starting February 19. All churches also will be including the Wilderness Prayer in every Sunday Service as a connecting feature of our Lenten Experience together.

If you are interested, Jenny Fujita, the Mennonite Pastor, will be leading **Adult Bible Study** at the **Upper Milford Mennonite Church every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** You can participate in person or through Zoom. Let me know if you need the link for Zoom.

**Every Sunday morning during Lent**, you can participate in **Adult Sunday School at the Upper Milford Mennonite Church, at 9 a.m.**

**On Easter Sunday**, The whole Ministerium is invited to celebrate with us at the **7:30 a.m. Worship Service at Old Zionsville UCC** which includes communion for all.

**At 9 a.m. Easter Morning** at the OZ UCC lower social hall, all interested will share with us in the **Continental Breakfast**.

We welcome these opportunities to worship together, break bread together and explore God's Holy Word together. Check it out!

**Windows to the Future** - Since the Change for Windows Jar first appeared during the summer of 2020, you have faithfully donated your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters (and some bills too!) to the windows restoration project. Another \$85 was recently hauled to the bank, bringing the total raised to \$870. Keep up the good work. Every penny does count!

**GriefShare** – On Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> we will begin our 5<sup>th</sup> round of GriefShare sessions at Old Zionsville UCC. We will meet from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays until May 30, 2023 in our downstairs social room. There is a cost of \$15.00 for the workbook but scholarship money is available. The lessons are taught through interesting videos and can help us all as we grow in Christ. Please register with Pastor Lori at momandpastortoo@yahoo.com or call/text to 610-393-3522. This group is open to all!

**New Member Classes** will be held on Sunday, April 30, 9:00-10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour and the same time on Sunday, May 7, 2023. We will receive new members on Sunday, May 14 during the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service – The Festival of the Christian Home. Please speak with Pastor Lori (610-393-3522 call or text) ahead of these dates so we can make sure the table is big enough to gather around. We will meet in the Upper Social Room. There is no obligation to join upon completion of the classes. You can certainly just join the classes to learn or refresh your understanding of the United Church of Christ OR meet some of our new people.

**Have you checked out our Facebook page recently?** On January 1, we started a new series aimed at reading through the Bible in one year. We are providing a chronological reading plan, which lays out the readings in the order in which events happened. We hope you find this series a meaningful way to move through the year. Connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/OldZionsvilleUCC/>; be sure to "like" our Page so you get our posts on your newsfeed!

**OGHS** – This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Envelopes can be found at the end of your pew and at the entrance to the Church for those wishing to give.

The United Church of Christ is always responsive to disasters both here and globally. If you wish to donate money to the Earthquake recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria, 100% of your donation will go to aid relief. Make your check payable to Old Zionsville UCC and clearly mark it for **Disaster Relief**. Thank you.

**Week of February 19 – February 25, 2023:**

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz will be in the office Mon-Thurs. 10am-3pm

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

ATF – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

Ash Wednesday – 8am at Salem United Methodist Church

5:30pm Soup & Bread at Lutheran Church

7pm Worship at Lutheran Church

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday @ 12pm at East Penn Diner

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation

10:15am Worship, offering for OGHS

“Souper” **Bowl Sunday** immediately following Worship

**Total Offerings from February 12, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$2,695.00

Mission: \$10.00

Windows to the Future: \$255.00

Disaster Relief: \$20.00

OGHS: \$55.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$50.00

Cemetery: \$25.00

Attendance: 74