

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 26, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday in Lent
"What Have You Done?"

Prelude: "Near the Cross"

Doane

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 99)

One: God of the Sahara and the Amazon, Maker of dry places and wetlands.

Many: We come before you with parched hearts for living in this world has made them so.

One: Holy One, your ability to renew us is unmatched.

Many: You renew us from within and without.

One: Ancient of Days, you held us in the beginning, and you are holding us now.

Many: We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your presence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are. Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assurance that all you made is good. Amen

*Opening Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (all vs.) p.21

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Source of Grace, we confess that sometimes when we're tempted, we don't resist.

Many: Sometimes when we could do good, we don't because it seems too hard. These are the times that we need your grace the most. Instead of giving up on us, you transform us as we open ourselves to you. For grace that abounds as needed, when needed, we give you thanks. Amen.

Words of Grace

All that God made is good. God made us and we are empowered to be good and to do good. Grace and mercy make goodness possible always and in all ways. Amen.

*Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God"

p.654

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" **7** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

God gives good things to us, so let us give good things to God. Let us bring gifts that can be like water in dry places. May these resources be used to testify to the goodness of God. Amen.

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Maker

* Presentation of Our Offering 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)

Divine One, receive our gifts from the open hearts from which we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so that good works can abound. We offer our gifts gladly. May what we give be used to meet the needs of all. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Oh, What a Man Was He!"

Althouse

*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: "I Must Tell Jesus" (all vs.)

p.636

*Benediction

As you depart this space and enter the wilderness of the world, know that God is with you. Whatever may come, let God be your safe place to go and your soft place to land. Amen.

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "I Believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary"

Gaither

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**What Have You Done?: Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent** were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Julia Yeakel from Anthony and Deborah Gurgick.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Millie Kohler in honor of family and in memory of loved ones.

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

**TODAY'S ACOLYTE** is Piper Miller.

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

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.  
Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

**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.

**Supper Club** will meet on **Wednesday, 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.

**"Souper" Bowl Covered Dish Social** - Come join the FUN Group for our **"Souper" Bowl Sunday** immediately following Church on **TODAY**. 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 is 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.



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. 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.

**Bus Trip to the Museum of the Bible** in Washington, D.C. is being put together by Hosensack Church. It will be on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Cost of transportation and museum admission will be about \$70.00 per person with meals on your own. There are two cafeteria-type restaurants in the museum, so you would not have to leave the building. Please let Lori know if you are interested in going.

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

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

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

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

IT Team – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation  
10:15am Worship

**Total Offerings from February 19, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1,266.00

Mission: \$10.00

Windows to the Future: \$48.00

Electric: \$25.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$18.25

OGHS: \$65.00

Food Pantry: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$50.00

Cemetery: \$25.00

Attendance: 58