

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

March 5, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Second Sunday in Lent
“Called to Go”

Prelude: “Olivet”

Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

All: “Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

All: “Go towards” God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.

One: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

All: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of calls and courage, you draw us towards your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibility. We experience heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith. As you call us to go into an uncertain

and unknown future, O God, grant us the courage needed to let go of all that we have known so that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. In the name of the One who so loves the world we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" (all vs.) p.23

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey.

All: May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace for restoring us to hope everlasting.

Words of Grace/Assurance of God's Love

One: Friends, the call of God does not leave us isolated and condemned on a road of uncertainty, fear, and mistakes made. God's unending love and compassion is for all whose burdens are heavy and whose weary journey brings tears. May the tender arms of God carry you forth in strength.

All: God has not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We welcome God's healing and salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn: "Come into the Holy of Holies" (sing through twice) p.218

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **4** So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

Gracious and Giving God, you have called us to give of our resources so that others may experience the new life you are inviting us into. Let our gifts be for the birthing of new life in our local community, in the global community, and in our faith community. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

Offertory: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away"

Stebbins

* 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)

O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "A Lenten Prayer"

Larsen

*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: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

(vs. 1 & 2)

p.295

*Benediction

One: Friends, go forth with the courage of God to guide you into those places of restlessness and uncertainty.

All: For we are called to go...From our places of comfort. From our certainties and complacency. From our old life and into the new.

One: May the call of God not just call us from but toward a love so compelling that we are willing to trust our whole self into the embrace of the Creator, into the abiding love of Christ, and into the sacred dance of the Holy Spirit.

All: We go forth in the peace of Christ. Amen

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "The Way of the Cross Leads Home"

Gabriel



Called to Go: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent were written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott who serves as the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of our son, Todd M. Dreas with love from Mom & Dad; Jeff, Cheryl & Family and Jan and Family.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS are in memory of Colby Hoch from Judy and Len Hoch.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are in memory of Colby Hoch from Uncle Lee, Aunt Susie and cousins, Lance and Sarah.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

TODAY'S ACOLYTE is Jacob French.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Robin Yoder.

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 28th to Linda or Mark Weaver.

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.

Windows to the Future - Enjoy loaded stuffed baked potatoes? The Windows Committee will host a baked potato bar fund raiser after worship on March 26. At our **Baked Potato Luncheon**, you get a baked "spud" and a whole fixin's bar including: broccoli, cheese, chili, sour cream, steak sauce and so much more!, drinks and desserts! Proceeds benefit Windows to the Future. Mark your calendar and join in the fun!

GriefShare – On Tuesday, March 7th we will begin our 5th 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!

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!

On Friday, March 31 join the **Confirmation Class** as they visit our Jewish Brothers and Sisters at worship at Temple Beth El, 1305 Springhouse Rd, Allentown, PA 18104 Our evening starts there at 7 p.m. with a time to chat with the Rabbi, service follows at 7:30 p.m. and then we share in desserts at 8:30 p.m. while chatting with our hosts. Please let Pastor Lori know if you are planning to attend so we can arrange carpooling plus to alert Temple Beth El how many folks will be with us. Dress code: **no jeans please**, no holes in pants, appropriate shirts. Men will be provided with yarmulkes as proper head covering during worship. We should be back at OZ UCC around 10:15 p.m.

Friends & Family Spring Fling, Saturday, April 15 with a catered buffet dinner at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by Marian & Friends, Ventriloquist. Fun for all ages!! Make your reservations today! See Jan Strobel after Worship, or contact the church office. Adults - \$20.00; Children ages 6-12 - \$10.00; Children ages 2-5 - \$5.00; Children under 2 are free.

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 March 5 – March 11, 2023:

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

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz will be taking vacation days during the week, please call before coming to make sure she is in

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

ATF – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

Music & Worship – Tuesday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation

10:15am Worship. Set up ATF Shop after Worship

11:30am Confirmands & Mentors

Total Offerings from February 26, 2023:

General Offerings: \$2,218.00

Mission: \$120.00

Windows to the Future: \$55.00

Communion: \$25.00

Heat: \$25.00

OGHS: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$99.00