

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 18, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday in Lent

Prelude: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away"

Stebbins

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 25:1-3)

One: To you, O GOD, we lift up the spirit of our whole selves.

All: O God, we trust unashamedly in you; seeking that you be not ashamed of us;

One: May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships;

All: Teach us. Show us. Guide us in your paths. Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

One: You are the God of our salvation and the Sustainer of good relations.

All: For you we wait.

One: May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright living preserve us.

All: Amen.

Invocation (unison)

As in days of old, Creator God, we come to look for your signs of covenant promises. Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs and hear your voice again directing us to places of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world. Thank you God, for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise"

p.23

Prayer of Confession

Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us.

Prayer

One: Creating and Renewing God. In this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over. Re-orient head and heart so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts.

All: May I be in right relationship with you and all your creation and join the United Church of Christ in over-coming violence, hunger, and injustice. May I find courage and clarity to assist me in works of justice and compassion which make daily life bearable for many. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Steadfastness

Brothers and Sisters, God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty, promises to be with us in the wilderness times. Observe, find comfort, and offer with courage to restore and build relationships among God's people. Experience a new and renewed sense of hope. Amen.

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace" p.343

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18-22 p.1060

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love, and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and liveth evermore, and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ and revealeth them to us, renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of men.

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the holy scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness, and the life everlasting.

Call to Offering

Psalm 25:10 reminds us, "All the paths of God are steadfast love and Faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees." Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving of our time, energy, and money. With love let us offer our gifts to God.

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker

* Presentation of 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 Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)

**God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts
to be bounty and blessings to you, our church, and the world. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

*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: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" p.139

*Benediction

One: Mindful of your mercy, forgiveness, and instruction, O God,
All: We go into the world renewed, refreshed,
One: and full of courage to be your people.
All: We go in peace to work for justice. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" Gabriel



Prayers for the Journey: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Lent was written by the Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is retired clergy and a member of Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Mel and Barbie Kerchner to the
Glory of God.

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

TODAY'S GREETERS are Les and Deb Schoenberger.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Cheryl 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 loose offering today will go to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Thank you.

The **All Things Free Room** (ATF) could use donations of cloth Christmas Tablecloths, especially red and green for future Christmas table displays. Donations of any unwanted Christmas gifts received that we can use as gifts for our clients at next year's Christmas Giveaway are also needed. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. The next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, February 19 at 10:00am.

Lunch Bunch will be on Friday, February 23, 12 noon at Chino's Place. Please let Mark or Linda know if you are planning to attend. **Supper Club** will be on Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at Hometown Breakfast Bar and Grill, 8732 Hamilton Blvd, Breinigsville. Please RSVP to Mark or Linda by Tuesday, March 5.

Sunday Morning Adult Book Study during Lent for the Ministerium Churches will be held on Sundays from 9-9:45 a.m. at Upper Milford Mennonite Church or you can join the Lutherans here at Old Zionsville UCC at 9:00 a.m. and participate by zoom. The following is the zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81615791018?pwd=WU9JbkE4RE52b3ZOdmxvT0gva2ZXdz09#success>

Pastor Lori will be leading a group discussion on the first season of **THE CHOSEN**. Starting **Wednesdays, Feb. 21** meeting from 1 - 2 p.m. in the lower social hall. Bring your neighbors and friends. We will watch a segment of the THE CHOSEN from the first season and then discuss it. All Welcome! This will continue through Holy Week.

March Soup and Sandwich sale orders are due Sunday, March 10. This month's soup is Chicken Corn Pot Pie Soup, \$8.00/quart; and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches at \$5.00 each. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church. Pick up will be on Thursday, March 21.

Fruit/Nut Rolls – Our Outlook Committee is again selling those **DELICIOUS** Fruit and Nut Rolls to have in time for Easter. Look for order forms at the entrances to the Church or in your pew. Orders are due **Tuesday, March 12th** and pick up will be on Tuesday, March 26 between 5-7 p.m. in our downstairs social room. You may order by placing your filled out form in the offering plates any Sunday or by calling or emailing the church office.

Do you need a small gift to give a friend for offering you a ride? Something small for an Easter Basket? The Outlook Committee is selling \$5.00 **Wawa Coupons**. You pay the Outlook Committee \$5.00 for each card, and then the recipient takes the card to Wawa and gets a Shorti sandwich for FREE. The coupons are prepaid and don't expire. See Sharon Trexler, Bobby Schmeltzle, Pastor Lori, the Shoemakers or the Millers.

The next **Youth Group Meeting** will be on Friday, March 1 from 6-8 p.m. All ages welcome. Questions? Check with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering will be collected in Worship on March 10. Pick up a Sharing Calendar to get suggestions of ways OGHS helps around the world and right here – plus – find out how we compare and add money to a donation that you can discuss with your family. Thank you for caring.

Are you interested in Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster's production of "**Daniel**"?? Greenawalds UCC will be going on Thursday, May 9th. Adult tickets are \$75 and children (age 3-12) are \$42. If interested please speak to Pastor Lori.

SNOW? Always be safe and always check with WFMZ to see if we are closed or delayed.

Week of February 18-24, 2024:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.
Other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm (please call before coming)

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Dillingersville Meeting – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday @ 12pm at Chino's Place

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School

9:00am Adult Book Study with Lutherans
and Mennonites on Zoom (in our
lower social hall)

10:15am Worship

Total Offerings from February 11:

General Offerings: \$1,806.00

Window Fund: \$127.00

Mission: \$10.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Attendance: 53