

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 9, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday in Lent: Bread of Life

Prelude: "God So Loved the World"

Stainer

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Sirach 24)

One: Let us gather together, hungry and thirsty. Come, all who long to be filled with good things.

All: The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

One: Let us open our hands to receive from God's son, our brother and friend.

All: The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

One: Let us quiet our minds and awaken our hearts to be transformed by God's Spirit, who redeems us.

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

One: Holy God, throughout history you have fed people in body, mind, and spirit.

All: As we gather in worship today, we rest in the knowledge that you continue to care for us. We come into this space with complicated lives, different needs, and unique situations. You know all of our longings, and you look at us with compassion and love. Because we know the bread of life, Jesus, is the sustaining source of hope, we lean into this hour of worship with expectancy and faith. You have provided for our needs from the beginning, and you will meet us once again today. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Come into His Presence
(plus sing optional ending)

p.171

Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Because we live in a world with both hunger and unnecessary waste, let us confess our sins and seek a new path of righteousness.

All: Holy God, even though we choose to follow Jesus, live his way, and share in the bread of life, we confess we have overlooked the hungry in our midst. We confess it is easier to avoid people and places that demand our attention and resources, and go about our days turning our eyes from those in need. But Jesus shows us a different way—a way of sharing, a way of justice. Forgive us for the times we have looked away from those who are hungry and their needs for food, clothing, friendship, or anything else. Forgive us for neglecting our neighbors and our community. Help us be faithful to this calling. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Paul writes, "There is no one who is righteous, not even one." Yet in Christ, we are forgiven, justified, and transformed to carry on in the way of love and justice. Savor the good news of this pardon and be at peace. Amen.

*Hymn: "Grace Greater than Our Sin" (verses 1 & 2 only) p.344

Scripture: John 6:25-40 p.928

Reflection

*Song: "Bread of Life" (sing with video)

Vs 1: If you're hungry, come
Tired and undone
There's a place for you
A place for you at the table.
If you're lonely, come
Fill your empty cup
There's a drink for you
A drink for you at the table

Vs 2: Bring your weary mind
Every tear you've cried
There is peace for you
Peace for you at the table
Lay your burdens down
Hope is all around
You are welcome here
Welcome here at the table

Chorus: Bread of life
Jesus with us
Healing our hearts with love
Bread of life
Broken for you
Share with another too
There is enough
Oh there will always be
So take this bread with me

Bridge 1: Freely given to us
So we might give
Freely to others
Freely given to us
So let us give freely to others

Bridge 2: Freely given to us
So we might give
Freely to others
Freely given to us
So let us give freely to others

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Born to live among us, suffering every human frailty, even unto death. Empowered not to rule with force but by invitation; not with a sword, but by sacrifice. Filled with compassion, always caring about the physical needs of the people. Rejecting earthly fortune, meeting daily needs, turning no one away. Jesus turned bread lines into feasts, welcoming everyone to the table. Jesus gave freely to all in need, even when they gave nothing in return. We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory: "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?"

Allen

*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 for the Offering (unison)

Generous God, we give because you have satisfied our needs with the bread of life. Use these fruits of our labor and inheritance to bless our community with love. Amen.

Choir Anthem

The Pastoral Prayer

The Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Siblings in Christ, the table is set for you. God so loved the whole world that God sent Jesus to feed us all. God freely gives us love and life so we might freely give love and life to others. If you are hungry, tired, weary, or worn, there is space for you here. Come, the bread of life and the cup of blessing await you.

The Great Thanksgiving

God, our great provider, we thank you for the gift of Jesus. We thank you for the bread of life who nourishes and sustains us. As we eat this bread, we remember you provide for all people, feeding the world with your love and peace. This simple meal reminds us that your abundant mercy draws us closer to you and to one another. May we be strengthened by your presence so we might share your love and justice with those who are physically and spiritually hungry. Thank you for this sacred moment and for the eternal nourishment you offer through Christ, our bread of life. Amen.

The Words of Institution

We gather at this table in remembrance of Christ, alongside disciples old and young, from every walk of life. We are confident that through Jesus Christ, we are all nourished and made whole.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Let us pray: **Holy God, you nourish and provide for us. Help us savor this timeless meal of the bread and the cup. May we graciously receive this gift so we might share its abundance with others. Jesus, you believe in the life-changing power of a shared meal. Grant us the courage and strength to ensure God's table is everyone's table. Holy Spirit, you are our great sustainer. Stretch us to find new ways of making sure those who are hungry become fed.**

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, which 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, Amen

Sharing in the Meal

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Holy God, here at this table, we have encountered Jesus' Spirit, bringing us wholeness so we might be satisfied by the bread of life. Because Jesus faced death and emerged victorious, this bread does not spoil; this cup never runs dry. As we leave this place of worship, our spirits are renewed and rejuvenated. There is enough for each of us. Therefore, we will share this joy and love with others. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" (vs. 1 & 2 only) p.603

*Charge and Benediction

Go now into the world brimming with love for God and others. May you share the bread of life, offering not only what sustains the body but what nourishes the soul. Live your lives serving in the way of Jesus, extending compassion to the weary, hope to the despairing, and bread to the hungry. As you go, may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. Amen.

*The Sung Benediction: "Go Now in Peace" (sing with video)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of the day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "Here Yet Awhile"

Bach

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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Howard Lilly from Paula Lilly.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Paul J. Christman from Paula Lilly.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Robin Yoder.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Les Schoenberger.

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.

*For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has been allowing like-minded churches and followers of Christ to generously share out of their bounty with those who may need some assistance. You will have the opportunity to do just that during the month of March as we will receive a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing.*

We will receive **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offerings until March 30 at which time we will dedicate them and send them on to make a difference in the world. For more information, see the flyers and pick up an envelope at the entrances to the Church. Thanks in advance for your support. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC.

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) Giveaway will be tomorrow, March 10 from 4-6pm and Saturday, March 15 from 10am-12pm. If you can help or have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry.



**Windows to the Future** - Congratulations Kathy and Dan Latshaw on submitting the highest bid for the quilt. Seven quilts were donated during the campaign and through raffles and purchases, \$3,250 was raised. This is just one of many sources of income throughout the last five years, not the least of which has been the generous donations from the congregation. Cumberland will complete the project in the spring, at which time the final payment of \$17,813 will be due. The committee is excited to report that the fund balance is \$16,323, just \$1,490 shy of the finish line. We're almost there!

The next **Supper Club** will be this Wednesday, March 12 at Hunan Springs. Please let Linda or Mark Weaver know if you are planning to attend. **Sunday Brunchers** will meet at the Merc after church on March 16. **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Perkins on March 28 at 12 noon. Please RVSP to Linda or Mark.

**Church Fundraisers** – Orders for **Corn Pies** (made with local grown potatoes) and **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** are due **TODAY**. Corn Pies are \$8.00 each, sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew.

Our Outlook Committee is selling various flavors of **Fruit and Nut Rolls**. They are \$18.00 each and orders must be received by Sunday, March 23. They will be here in time for Easter. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church.

**The Chosen, Season 3**, will be shown in our lower social hall on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. starting on March 12 and concluding on April 30. All welcome to share in viewing this very moving series on the Life of Jesus.

**Easter Flowers** – Order forms are at entrances to the Church for Lilies or Tulips. Orders with payment must be into the office by Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

PNEC will be having Zoom Town Halls for **Keystone Constitution and Bylaws Discussions**. Dates will be March 18 at 6:30pm, March 19 at 1:30pm, April 1 at 6:30pm or April 2 at 2pm. For more information and to get the zoom link please contact PNEC at 610-826-3113 or go to their website at [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org).

**Lenten Services** – Register for Pennsylvania UCC Weekly Lenten Prayer Time Join us at noon every Thursday in Lent beginning March 6 for a short time of prayer led by Conference Staff from the Pennsylvania Conferences. To register and receive a Zoom link call the PNEC office at 610-826-3113.

Picnic Patio tickets have been purchased for an **Iron Pigs Game** scheduled on Saturday, June 21, 2025 with first pitch at 6:35 p.m. We will be seated in the Picnic Pavilion and have the buffet dinner (included in price). This is also a Fireworks show after the game. Tickets are \$28.00 per person. **Signup by Sunday, March 30** along with your payment to Linda or Mark Weaver.

The next round of **Grief Care** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, May 28 and run till July 23. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

Arden Courts of Allentown is **in need of Adult Literature** for their Library. Novels, Magazines, Large Print Wordsearch/Crossword/Sudoku/Puzzle Games are all welcome. You may bring your donations to the Church. Thank you.

**Church Closed?** In case of bad weather we will again be posting any cancelations with Channel 69 – WFMZ-TV under their Storm Center Updates. We will announce on WFMZ but always use your own judgment and stay safe.

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – 7:30 p.m. Communion Worship

Good Friday, April 18 – **7:00 p.m.** Worship

Easter Sunday, April 20 – 7:30 a.m. Communion Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for Children up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship,

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

## **Week of March 9 – March 15, 2025:**

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 Giveaway – Monday from 4-6pm

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Dillingersville (subcommittee only) – Tuesday @ 1pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Supper Club – Wednesday @ 6pm at Hunan Springs

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

ATF Giveaway – Saturday from 10am-12pm

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

10:15am Worship

Sunday Brunch after Worship

## **Total Offerings from March 2, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2,868.00

Window Fund: \$230.00

Mission: \$70.00

OGHS: \$50.00

Heat: \$30.00

Attendance: 52

Communion: \$40.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Parking Lot: \$0

Cemetery: \$10.00