

**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 16, 2025

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Prelude:        "Blessed Savior"

Mozart

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Calling all who are hungry for the goodness of life!

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

One: Come with empty pockets and open hands!

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

One: Let us gather from all walks of life, celebrating in unity our common needs and singular purpose.

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

Opening Prayer (unison)

**God, our mother hen, we gather beneath your ever-expanding wings to see how you will meet us today. Though we grow and mature, we cannot outgrow your love. Though our belief grows more complex, your mysteries always outpace our imaginations. Help us grow and mature today as we worship, delighting in new understanding and greater depth of meditation. Cause our hearts, empowered by your Spirit, to expand like dough becoming bread. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary"

p.318

Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Often, we allow our imaginations and our work to be confined, limiting the scope of God's reach. Let us confess our sins and commit ourselves to God's ever-expanding purposes.

**All: God Most High, who knows the highest heights and deepest valleys of this universe, we confess we have limited your work because of our small thinking. While you long for the bread of life to expand and nourish all creation, our fears and worries keep us contained. While you long to create kindoms of peace and reconciliation, we draw lines between us. While you make space for everyone, we worry about sharing too much or being too vulnerable. While you search tirelessly for lost lambs, we focus our concern inward on our own issues. Forgive us for our small perspective, and open our minds to the big ideas you have for our future. Amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

As far as the east is from the west, that's how far God has taken our wrongdoings away from us. Our sins are no match for our magnificent, compassionate God. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

\*Hymn: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" p.58  
*(sing through and then sing the optional repeat setting)*

#### Prayer for Illumination

God, may the scriptures we read today become living bread. May your Spirit empower them to shape us in Jesus' likeness. Give us wisdom as we interpret these words of scripture; may they nourish our minds and souls. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 13:18-21 p.907

#### 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

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

Broken for you  
Share with another too  
There is enough  
Oh there will always be  
So take this bread with me

So let us give freely to others  
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

**We believe the kingdom of God is like baker's yeast, thorough and unstoppable, spreading and rising over time. We believe the bread of life is enough for all creation, enough for the hungry, the weak, and the poor. We believe Jesus is the bread of life, broken and shared with all who will receive it. We believe the bread of life cannot be limited to our finite imaginations. The bread of life is making all things new. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### Call to the Offering

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

Gaither

#### \* 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 and gracious God, help us steward these gifts with imagination and a spirit of abundance. May a little go a long way as you inspire us to share what we have with those in need. Teach us how to use the resources we have to thrive in this world of scarcity. Amen.**

#### Choir Anthem

#### \*The Prayers of the People

One: Loving God, you are the divine baker, creating and sharing bread  
With all creation. Today, we lift up those hungry for the bread of life  
That satisfies our hearts and renews us to live lives of wise discipleship.

**All: With your guidance and grace, may your kingdom grow.**

One: We pray for all who experience physical hunger, those without access to nourishment, and those whose daily bread is uncertain. May we, your hands and feet, work to provide for the hungry. Help us offer not only bread for the body but also love and justice that fills the soul.

**All: With your guidance and grace, may your kingdom grow.**

One: We pray for all who hunger for peace and justice, those who suffer unjustly, and those who seek to make right the wrongs of this world. May we be the yeast of your kingdom, growing your compassion, mercy, and hope into every corner of the earth. Help us take small, faithful actions that will grow into great change.

**All: With your guidance and grace, may your kingdom grow.**

One: During this season of Lent, we remember our need for repentance and renewal. Help us turn away from what fills us with emptiness and toward you, the bread of life. In this time of preparation, we ask for your strength so we may be faithful, your wisdom so we may be discerning, and your Spirit to be present as we grow in your likeness. Through Christ, the bread of life, we pray.

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: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

p.682

\*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.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"

Crouch

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**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Les and Deb Schoenberger.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jan Strobel.

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.

*Your generous gifts to our yearly focus on One Great Hour of Sharing enables our church and our ecumenical partners to make a difference in lives and communities around the world.*

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.

Bring your colored pencils to church! During Lent we will have interactive bulletins that you can use during worship to color, complete puzzles and have fun while you are learning about our Lenten Messages this year.

**Sunday Brunchers** will meet at the Merc **TODAY** after church. **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Perkins on March 28 at 12 noon. Please RVSP to Linda or Mark.

**All Things Free Room (ATF)** Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, March 17 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler.

Outlook Committee is selling various flavors of **Fruit and Nut Rolls**. They are \$18.00 each and orders must be received by **NEXT** Sunday, March 23. They will be here in time for Easter. Pick up will be on Tuesday, April 15 between 5-6:30 p.m. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church.

**The Chosen, Season 3**, is being shown in our lower social hall on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. until 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.

### **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)

## **Prayer List**

Shirley & Ed, Christoph, Susan, Batman Family, Beth, Terry, Sue, Cindy, Jean, Bill, Jill, Wendy, Robin & her parents, Dorothy, Monica, Stephanie, Peter, Debbie, MaryRose, Trish & Rick, Joan, Family of Paula Frederick, Kohler Family, Connor, Corey, Jon, Mike, Nancy, Gloria, Bobby, Len, Linda, Hunter, Brayden, Marcus, Christa, Rod, Brenda, MaryAnn and Natalie & Family, Freeman Family, Joe, People who have lost their jobs or will lose their jobs, Jake & Nancy, Tesslyn, Karen, Ava, Joyce, Emma, Madison, Gary, Karen and Kelly, Diane, Kim, Anita, Blanche's Family, Gisela, Rich & Cathy, Audrey, Ron, Shirley

**Joy:** Ben Kohler has retired.

**Military** - Drew Stahler    Nate Yeakel    Chanellor Yenser

## **Week of March 16 – March 22, 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 Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Corn Pie & Sandwich – Pick up Thursday, 3-5:30 p.m.

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

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

10:15am Worship

Fruit/Nut Roll Orders are Due

## **Total Offerings from March 9, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$1,603.00

Window Fund: \$1.00

Mission: \$10.00

OGHS: \$35.00

Ukraine: \$20.00

Communion: \$37.00

Building Repair: \$70.00

Parking Lot: \$30.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Attendance: 43