

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 30, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Fourth Sunday in Lent
"Bread for Sharing"

Prelude: "I am Thine, O Lord"

Doane

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: You are invited to the feast of plenty. Let every willing soul join in the circle!

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

One: Wear whatever you have. You are welcome as you are!

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

One: At this celebration, no one is turned away. There is a place for you!

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

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of fellowship, laughter, and friendship, you invite everyone to join in joyful worship. We are here not because we are better than anyone else but because we are all your beloved children. You welcome us into worship with extravagant love. May our hearts and minds be awakened. Be glorified in our worship today and in the fellowship we share. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

p.11

Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Often, we choose ease or familiarity over inclusion. Let us confess our sins of exclusion together.

All: God of extravagant feasts and open invitations, we confess our tables are often small and exclusive. When we should stretch our welcome to others, we limit seats to those we find useful, acceptable, or entertaining. We make plans without accommodating everyone's needs. We choose to leave people out rather than express boundaries that might feel uncomfortable. We choose a shallow sense of peace rather than the deep peace that comes after hard, healing conversations. While you do not require us to include people who cause us to feel unsafe or at risk, you do call us to welcome people we find different, difficult, or annoying. Give us good discernment to include those who challenge us and expand our capacity for compassion so we might love our neighbors as you love us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in faith, hear this good news: God is faithful to increase our compassion, expand our invitations, and increase our patience with others. Receive God's pardon and be at peace. Amen

*Hymn: "He Is Exalted"

p.36

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 14:7-14

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
Broken for you

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

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

Freely given to us
So we might give
Freely to others
Freely given to us
So let us give freely to others

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (see insert)

Call to the Offering and Dedication of our One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker

* Presentation of the 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 for the Offering

**Gracious God, bless these gifts and our lives to your service.
Amen**

Choir Anthem

The Prayers of the People

One: Loving God, you gather us all at your table of grace. Thank you for welcoming us just as we are and teaching us to live and love more like Jesus. We are able to love others because you first loved us and made space for us in your holy family.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you provide for all you've created with generosity and care. We pray for those who hunger for food, for justice, and for belonging. Move us to share what we have with open hands and open invitations. May no one go without the nourishment that sustains life.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you teach us to invite the outsider, to make room for the stranger, and to honor those overlooked by the world. Though we are tempted to seek only places of privilege and people with power, help us follow Christ's example by welcoming those who cannot repay us and building a community where all are valued.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: God of welcome, you call us to take the lower seat when we find ourselves in positions of power, the last place in line when we discover privilege in our pockets, and the final speaking position when our voices are favored. May we find joy in standing back so others may find their way into inner circles. Shape us into a community that makes that kind of space for others.

All: Bread of life, may we freely give to others.

One: Your kin(g)dom is a feast for all people. We pray for your church to become more like your table—wide enough for every story, every struggle, and every soul. Unite us in your love and send us out to embody your radical welcome in the world. Hear us as we offer the prayer which Jesus taught us to 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: "Freely, Freely"

p.436

*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: "Praise the Lord"

Franck

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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Dan and Jan Strobel in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Donald and Phyllis Ritter in honor of their children.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Christopher Schell.

**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.

*By giving generously, you are the light that brings life forth in desolate places. By giving generously, you are the light providing spaces for others to be the light—bringing expertise and sustainable approaches to farming. By giving generously, you are sharing beams of light today, tomorrow, and well into the future.*

Today we will dedicate our **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offerings 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.

**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.

**All Things Free Room (ATF)** Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, March 31 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler.

**Supper Club** will be meeting this week at 6:00pm on Wednesday, Casa Catrina on Brookside Road, Macungie. **Lunch Bunch** is scheduled for Friday, April 25 meeting at 12 noon at East Penn Diner, Emmaus. Please RSVP to Mark or Linda by Sunday, April 20.

**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.

Social and Aid Committee are taking orders for **Chili** and **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches** for the month of April. Order forms can be found in your bulletin or at the entrances to the Church. They are due by Sunday, April 13.

PNEC will be having Zoom Town Halls for **Keystone Constitution and Bylaws Discussions**. The last session will be on 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.

**Egg Hunt!** Egg Hunt for all children up to 6th Grade on Easter Sunday. Lower Social Hall at 9:30 a.m. Bring your own bag or basket for hunting. Coins in every egg! Share the fun with your church friends.

New Member Classes will be happening soon. Want to learn more about our Church? Just join in the discussions on two Sunday mornings on either of two sets of dates: April 6 and 13 or May 4 and 11 at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the lower social hall. You are under no obligation to join, but if you wish to join the church, we will receive new members on the Second Sunday of each month (April and May) during our 10:15 a.m. Worship. Please register in advance with Pastor Lori by calling, emailing or texting her at least a week before the first session. Topics for discussion include: What IS the United Church of Christ? What IS Old Zionsville UCC? And How do we work together as a congregation? A tour of the Church building happens on the second Sunday of each month.

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) starting at 5:30 p.m. and open for two hours. There is also a Fireworks show after the game. Tickets are \$28.00 per person, payment due at signup. Deadline to sign up has been extended to Sunday, April 20. Please see 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)

## **Week of March 30 – April 5, 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

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Supper Club – Wednesday @ 6pm at Casa Catrina

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Set Up – Friday from 6-8pm

Cub Scout Pinewood Derby – Saturday from 9am-1pm

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

10:15am Worship, Baptism

## **Total Offerings from March 23, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2,799.00

Window Fund: \$54.00

Mission: \$190.00

OGHS: \$90.00

Food Pantry: \$20.00

Communion: \$5.00

Parking Lot: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Attendance: 60

# **OLD ZIONSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Phone: 610-966-3601 Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net

## **Baptism of Tessa Emilia Walbert**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

### **Order of Baptism**

We baptize into the Universal Church today  
Tessa Emilia Walbert  
Daughter of Stephanie and Kyle Walbert  
Sister to Madison  
Godparents are Kevin and Tara Walbert

### **Invitation**

Welcome

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**



## Address

### Questions to Parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have this child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parents and Godparents: We do.**

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Jesus Christ?

**Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach this child that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of Our Savior, to resist any evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

**Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm their baptism?

**Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.**

## Congregational Assent

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in Baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Jesus Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support, and care.**

## The Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

## **Act of Baptism**

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water.

By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in this child baptized this day that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the One who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end.  
Amen.

By what name will your child be called?

**Parents: (name their child)**

## **Prayer of Baptized**

Pastor: We give thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for this child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

**All: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

The Baptismal Hymn: "Borning Cry" (on bulletin back cover)

The Presentation of the Rose and Candle

Benediction

Welcome to all of our visitors this morning who are helping to celebrate in the Baptism of Tessa. If you are looking for a church home, we hope that you might consider worshipping with us again.

## **"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"**

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
I'll be there in case you wandered off  
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God,  
to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.