

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

April 13, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Palm Sunday

Prelude: "Hosanna! Christ Is King"

Livingston

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: People of Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, bring your garments and branches—Jesus is coming into town! Shout Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Our deliverer has come! Let all the hungry be fed!

One: Jesus, the servant king, has come to show us a new kind of power.

All: Hosanna! Our liberator will set the prisoners free!

One: Let us worship the one who will save us from corruption. Shout Hosanna to the King of Kings!

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! The bread of life has come to sustain us.

Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, we gather on this Palm Sunday and find ourselves in solidarity with the crowds who shouted for salvation. We know our needs, both individually and collectively. Our hunger for righteousness and justice compels us to proclaim, "Hosanna! Save us!" two thousand years later. As we begin this journey toward the cross, from admiration to despair, we know we are well-nourished for the path ahead. You have prepared us, fed us with love and truth, and refreshed our spirits throughout the Lenten season. Let us carry the spirit of Hosanna in our hearts, ready to serve and love, knowing the journey continues toward resurrection and renewal. May the bread we break, both physical and spiritual, remind us of your presence in every step. Guide us on this path and sustain us for the work ahead. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

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Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Because human beings often choose corrupt powers to save us, let us confess the ways in which we have shouted "Hosanna" to the empire rather than trusting in Jesus.

All: Holy and saving God, we confess we have sought comfort in systems of power that promise salvation through dominance, control, and division. We place our hope in the forces of wealth, status, and self-preservation, rather than in the humility of Christ. We align ourselves with the powers of this world, turning away from the radical love, justice, and peace embodied in Jesus. We fail to notice how the cries for justice of the oppressed mirror the "Hosannas" of hope. We ignore the cries of the poor, the marginalized, and the suffering, choosing instead the easy path of complicity. We turn a blind eye to the earth's cries and the injustices so many endure. Forgive us, O God, for placing our trust in the powers of this world rather than in the power of your love. Renew our hearts and minds and lead us back to the path of true salvation, where love, justice, and peace reign. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, hear this good news: Jesus comes not with armies or powers of this world, but with the radical gift of love and forgiveness. Though we have often turned away, God in Christ offers us grace and peace. In Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are made whole. Amen.

*Hymn: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" (verses 1 & 4 only)

p.370

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 19:28-40, John 12:12-16

p.913

Reflection

Palm Parade

The Celebration of New Members

(see insert)

Call for the Offering

Offertory: "Fling Wide the Gates"

Stainer

*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)

Gracious God who saves, we bring our gifts to you. We offer our time, talents, and resources for your work in the world. May these gifts be a sign of our trust in you, and may they nourish your mission of love, justice, and hope for all. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthem

The Prayers of the People

One: God of compassion, who breaks bread with us at the table of justice, we pray for all who hunger in this world. We remember those who struggle under oppressive systems, those whose voices are unheard, and those whose needs are unmet.

All: Hosanna, save us.

One: We pray for those who suffer from the scarcity of resources, whether food, shelter, or safety. Remind us that true justice is found in sharing the bread of life with one another, offering not only sustenance for the body but dignity and respect for all.

All: Hosanna, save us.

One: We ask you to stir our hearts to action—to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and speak out against injustice. Strengthen us in the broken bread of Christ, who gave all for the sake of the world, and may we be willing to do the same.

All: Hosanna, save us.

One: We pray for the leaders of this world, that they may have hearts open to the cries of the oppressed and the wisdom to lead with fairness and compassion. Guide them as they seek peace and justice for all.

All: Hosanna, save us.

One: Help us, O God, to be witnesses of your love, working to build a world where all people can partake of the bread you offer, and where justice and peace reign. We offer this prayer, trusting in the power of your love to transform the world. Hear us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray saying:

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: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"" (verses 1 & 3 only) p.300

*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: "Behold, the King Rides Forth" Paxton

Be sure to greet our newest members before you leave :)

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**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown in honor of their 39<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Millie Kohler.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Nancy Civitts.

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.

**Second Sunday Treats** are being served downstairs today from 9:45-10:10.

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

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, April 14 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler.

**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.

Orders for **Chili** and **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches** made by our Social and Aid Committee are due **TODAY!** Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew. Orders may be dropped in the offering plate or call/email the church office. Pick up is on Thursday, April 24 between 3 and 5:30pm.

New Member Classes on Sunday mornings in May. Want to learn more about our Church? Just join in the discussions on two Sunday mornings on May 4 and 11 at 9:00 a.m. 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 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 session begins. 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.

**Lunch Bunch** will meet on April 25 at 12 noon at East Penn Diner. Please let Linda or Mark know if you are planning to come. **Supper Club** will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Main Street Pub, 505 Main Street, Bally. Please RSVP for this to Linda or Mark by Sunday, May 4. All are Welcome!

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 April 13 – 19, 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

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Pick Up Ordered Fruit/Nut Rolls – Tuesday from 5-6:30pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Maundy Thursday – Communion Worship @ 7:30pm

Good Friday – Worship @ **7pm**

**Next Sunday** – 7:30 am Easter Communion Worship

*Donuts and Coffee after Worship*

9:00am Sunday School

9:30am Egg Hunt

10:15am Easter Communion Worship

### **Total Offerings from April 6, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2,611.08

Mission: \$125.00

Communion: \$10.00

Building Repair: \$70.00

Parking Lot: \$80.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Attendance: 63

# Reception of New Members

April 13, 2025

## The Invitation

Leader: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in the household of faith:

**Donna Mikolajczyk**  
**Mike Mikolajczyk**  
**Adam Mikolajczyk**  
**Brailynn Mikolajczyk**  
**Sherri Harrison**  
**Neil Harrison**  
**Melissa Yenser**  
**Rick Yenser**

## The Address

Leader: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the Church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism, and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Pastor: Hear the words of Jesus: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Leader: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidates: I do.**

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

**Candidates: I promise with the help of God.**

Leader: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence, and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidates: I promise with the help of God.**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Leader: Let the congregation stand now, as we unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

*(the congregation may be seated)*

Pastor (to all candidates): By our baptism we were made one with the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in our pilgrimage of faith which has brought all of us to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been our spiritual home, and we celebrate our presence in this household of faith.

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**



## **Welcome and Reception**

Leader: Let us, the members of Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Leader and Representatives: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen**

## **Benediction**

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***Please help to welcome these new members into the fellowship of Old Zionsville UCC!***

Today we welcome into the faith and family of Old Zionsville UCC:

Rick and Melissa Yenser married October 8, 2011. Missy is a local gal baptized and confirmed at the Vera Cruz E.C. Church. Rick was baptized and confirmed at the Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church on Emmaus Avenue in Allentown. They have a son, Matthew, who will be 13 years old in June. You know Matthew as our Christmas Angel as well as a spirited youth who has been incredibly faithful in coming to Sunday School since they first wandered across the street to visit Santa and the train at an event many years ago. You will still see them walking to Sunday School each week. Missy completed an Associates Degree of Applied Science to become a Medical Assistant and is currently employed at the practice of

David Bub, M.D., P.C. Rick completed a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychology. He now works as a Licensed Professional Counselor at West End Counseling and Wellness. This family enjoys an active life of following Matthew's pursuits at Eyer Middle School where he participates in football and theater.

We are grateful to know the Mikolajczyk Family because they came to the Fall Bazaar and Basket Raffle! Donna and Brailynn attended church the Sunday after that event and we have been loving their presence with us ever since. Mike was baptized and confirmed at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown. Donna was baptized at the Trachsville Lutheran Church and then confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus. After High School, she completed an Accounting/Legal degree from Goldey Beacom Jr. College. Mike went on to complete a Bachelor's degree after high school in Marketing and Management. They married in December of 1984 and now have four children: Jessica, Brittany, Adam and Brailynn, and 5 grandchildren! Mike worked for KidsPeace Hospital & School for 23 years. During that time, Mike & Donna did Foster Care for 60+ babies & young children. Mike and Donna both retired in 2019. But the family gatherings continue on! I heard that Mike cooks for 15 people on a Sunday afternoon after church! There is never a dull moment for this family. Adam and Brailynn were baptized at St. John's UCC, Fogelsville in 2006. Currently our friend The Rev. Denise Fry is pastor there and she checked with the church leadership and they remember Adam and Brailynn! Adam lives in Whitehall and plays sports for Special Olympics and the Miracle League. Brailynn lives at home but she works in Food Service at LVHN - Cedar Crest as well as plays sports with Special Olympics and the Miracle League too. She also enjoys learning American Sign Language.

Sherri (Wardle) and Neil Harrison were married in the year 2000. They moved into the Old Zionsville area in 2019 and were looking for a combination church that embraced the traditional style with pews and also provided a contemporary feel. The family includes 2 adult sons, Dustin and Caleb, and Neil's Father whom we lovingly refer to as Gpa. Neil was born in England and still has family there. He completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Lehigh University in May of 1989 and has worked for Crayola for 20 years. Sherri grew up in Green Lane and has an Associates Degree in Business Administration. She is the in home care giver for Gpa. Most of you know her from her commitment to the All Things Free (ATF) Room where we greatly appreciate her energy and her eye for antiques and stylish clothing. Neil shares his love for the Lord through music and we have heard his wonderful voice in song during the past years as well as an amazing message a few years back too.