

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

<u>Rev. Lori Esslinger</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
<u>David Carlson</u>	<u>Organist</u>
<u>March 8, 2026</u>	<u>10:15am</u>

**those who are able may stand*

Third Sunday in Lent
“Ripe for Harvesting”

Prelude: “God So Loved the World” Stainer
Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader 1: In our bones, there are lineages;
we carry the seeds of division and the seeds of connection.

Leader 2: Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

All: We are called to prayer
that reaps with honesty and awareness
what our ancestors have sown.

Leader 1: In our cells, there are lineages;
we carry the genes of harm and the genes of flourishing.

Leader 2: Look around you and see how we are part of one another.

All: We are called to devotion
that holds with tenderness and justice
what our ancestors have enfleshed.

Leader 1: In our sanctuaries, there are lineages;
we carry the kernels of domination and the kernels of interdependence.

Leader 2: Look around you and see how roots run deep.

All: We are called to praise
that tills with care and clarity
what our ancestors have composted.

Leader 1: In our nation, there are lineages;
we carry the marrow of chains and the marrow of freedom.

Leader 2: Look around you and see how beneath us the water of life flows.

**All: We are called to worship
that thirsts with passion and courage
for what our ancestors have dreamed.**

Invocation (unison)

**Into the stream of those who have labored before us,
Spirit, let us flow.**

Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step.

Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw.

In this moment, in every moment, we pray:

give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.

***Hymn: "O Worship The King"** (verses 1, 3, 5)

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Seeking Transformation and New Life

Call to Transformation

Leader: When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well,
long histories and deep lineages of animosity and pain and oppression
swirled under their feet.

Deep and ancient divisions trained them to see each other only as "enemy."
But in their dance of testing and trust-building,
openness and truth-telling,
vulnerability and transparency,
something new came into being between them.

**All: In this moment, as we seek transformation and new life,
as we practice repentance or turning around,
let us enter this dance and see how honesty and humility
can bridge what separates us from each other and God.**

Prayer for New Life

Leader: For the divisions we've created between
"citizen" and "undocumented,"
"American" and "illegal"
and all the violence those divisions create:

All: God, have mercy.

Leader: For the segregation we've inhabited between
"ghetto" and "good schools,"
for every border and wall and fence and redline
and all the injustice that segregation creates:

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For each time we say "us" and mean, "not them."
For every "those people" and "you people"
and all the fear and distaste that lives under our breaths:

All: God, have mercy.

Leader: Heal us from the ways we deny our kinship
and disregard the dignity and belovedness of each and all of us.

All: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace

Leader: When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well,
ancient prophetic visions and age-old dreams of one human family
swirled under their feet.

Old promises of love and liberation became the living water of new life.

**All: Praise God who forgives us and frees us
inviting us, as siblings in Christ, to make our lives
liturgies of Spirit and truth.**

***Song of Commitment: Love Has Come!** (verses 2 and 3 only) page 256

Scripture: John 4:5-42

page 925-926

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Leader: In today's gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, "others have labored
and you have entered into their labor." How might God be inviting you to
enter into the labor of those who have gone before you in this community of
faith? How might our offerings be both gratitude for and participation in the
visions of our ancestors and the dreams they couldn't even imagine?

Through our offerings, let us enter into their labor.

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Maker

*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 of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

**Let these offerings become seeds taking root in love and justice.
Let these seeds become harvests of liberation for all of us.
Let these harvests become offerings toward the slow work of
healing and transformation.
Amen.**

Choir Anthem

Pastoral Prayer and 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, forever. Amen

***Closing Hymn: "How Sweet The Name of Jesus Sounds"**

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***Benediction**

Beloveds,

Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

As you go from this place,

how will you tend lineages of division?

How will you grow lineages of healing?

What will be the seeds you sow?

What will be the fruit you harvest?

May the God who Creates, Redeems and Sustains us

touch your life with tenderness

hold your hope with fierceness

and guide your heart with courage

as you become living water in a thirsty world.

Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Praise and Exaltation"

Smith



"Ripe for Harvesting": Service Prayers for Lent 3A was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Les Schoenberger.

TODAY'S GREETER is Robin Yoder.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of Howard Lilly.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of Paul J. Christman.

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.

Church Closed? In case of inclement weather or ice in the parking lot at the church that you don't have at home: please look at WFMZ on your computer or on TV for any cancellation or delay information.

Greeters and Liturgists Needed. If you would like to get on our schedule to help in our Worship Services by being a Greeter or Liturgist, please contact the church office. Email and phone number are on front page or put a note in the Secretary's mailbox. Thank you.

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7:00 p.m. Communion Worship

Good Friday, April 3 – 7:00 p.m. Worship, Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday, April 5 – 7:30 a.m. Communion Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for Children up to 6th Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

Egg Hunt! Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m. for all children up to 6th Grade. 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing puts you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Envelopes can be found at the end of your pew and at the entrance to the Church for those wishing to give. **This collection begins on February 22 – 1st Sunday of Lent and concludes on Palm Sunday, March 29.** The United Church of Christ is always responsive to disasters both here and globally. If you wish to donate money to any global disasters, 100% of your donation will go to aid relief. Make your check payable to Old Zionsville UCC and clearly mark it for Disaster Relief. Thank you

Confirmation Class:

Let me know if you want to sit in on a class with us. We are learning how to chat with adults as well as learning about our congregation. Here are three of the upcoming classes and topics. All are welcome.

March 15: Sunday, 9 a.m. in the lower social hall: What does the Bible say about Lent? (Using our Bibles)

Corn Pies and Ham & Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in March by our Social and Aid Committee. Corn Pies are \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Order forms may be found in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday during the worship service; call or email the Church Office (610-966-3601), ozuccoffice@ptd.net; or Annie Souder to place your orders. **Orders must be received by Today, Sunday, March 8, 2026. The pick-up will be Thursday, March 19, between 3-5pm, in our downstairs Social Hall.**

The next **All Things Free Giveaway** will be held on March 9, Monday from 4 - 6 p.m. and March 14, Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by to check it out. We can always use extra hands! Thanks in advance for serving the Lord. For further information, please contact Pastor Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522.

2026 Easter Flower Orders - To place your order for Lilies or Tulips please find the order forms in the Narthex. Drop the order form in the offering plate any Sunday or call / email the church office. Orders with payment must be received on or before Sunday March 15, 2026. Cost per 6" pot of Tulips or Lily is \$11.50. Please make any checks payable to "Old Zionsville UCC". Thank you!

Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 3/11/2026

When: Sunday March 15, 2026, ~ 12 Noon

Where: Mercantile Club

Railroad St., Emmaus

CASH ONLY

Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 3/22/2026

When: Friday March 27, 2026, 12 Noon

Where: Trivet Restaurant

4102 Chestnut St, Emmaus

Supper Club – RSVP by Sunday 3/29/2026

When: Wednesday April 1, 2026, 6:00 PM

Where: Main Street Pub (Seafood Night)

505 Main St., Bally

Lehigh Valley Phantoms – The Phantoms Ice Hockey Team is hosting a Faith Night on Sunday, March 15, 2026 with game starting at 3:05 p.m. Ticket cost will be either \$22 or \$28 per person depending on seating level. Pregame and during intermission our concourse will have live music. Following the game Phantoms player Cooper Marody will host a live testimonial talking about his upbringing and faith to the congregations in attendance. Please see Jane Bedell if you are interested in more details.

Our annual **OZUCC Night at the Iron Pigs** will be on Saturday May 23, 2026, with first pitch at 6:35PM.

- We will again be seated in the Picnic Pavillion and have the buffet dinner (included in price). This is also a Fireworks show after the game.
- Tickets are still the same price at \$28.00 per person
- The signup is by Sunday March 29, and we will need your payment at time of signup.

The next round of **GriefCare** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, June 3 and run until July 29. 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.

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 12 and 19 or May 17 and 24 at 9:00 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.

Jewelry Fundraiser (3/15/26-4/12/26) - Beginning March 15 there will be a designated locked container in the Narthex to collect any old, unwanted jewelry you may have. Our proceeds will be determined by the fair market value of the items collected less 15%. Some items may ultimately be donated to organizations such as The YMCA Perfect Fit Professional Clothing Boutique, YMCA Bethlehem Pop Up Prom Shop, and more. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be included as part of our end of year distribution. Flyer posted on bulletin boards for more information.

Week of March 9 through March 14:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday, 10am-3pm.
(other times by appointment)

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed & Thurs 10am-2pm
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: 6pm Scouts
4-6pm ATF Giveaway
7pm Property
Tuesday: 7pm Cubs
7pm FUN Group
Wednesday: 7pm Finance
Thursday: 7:30pm Choir
Saturday: 10am-12 noon ATF Giveaway

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

Next Sunday, March 15 9:00 am Confirmation Class
9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship
12 noon – Sunday Brunchers, Mercantile
3:05 pm Phantoms

Total Offerings from March 1, 2026:

General Offerings: \$3829.00	Comm: \$43.00
Missions: \$220.00	Bldg. Repair: \$10.00
Flowers: \$80.00	Sunday School: \$13.00
Bulletin: \$40.00	FUN/Hygiene Project: \$54.00
Pastor's Discretionary: \$40.00	OGHS: \$100.00
Heat/Elec: \$10.00	Lent: \$5.00
	Cemetery: \$50.00
Attendance: 63	