

**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 7, 2024

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Peace Be With You**

Prelude:     "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Irvine

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, the faithful yet fearful people gathered together. It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered:

**All: Peace be with you.**

Leader: Their hearts skipped a beat as they double checked that the lock on the front door was still latched. So the Presence of God spoke a little louder.

**All: Peace be with you.**

Leader: They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled, and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if it were just too magical sounding or too good to be true. So the Christ showed them that his own scars were not the end of the story and that is when the words of God began to feel joyous.

**All: Peace be with you.**

Leader: From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next, they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember that Holy interruption to fear.

**All: Peace be with you!**

\*Opening Hymn:     "Worship Christ, the Risen King"

p.361

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, our confession won't be news to you, but maybe if we allow it to be spoken aloud, You can help us find a way forward.

**All: Holy One, we have doubts. We're not talking about doubts like Thomas—his were perfectly reasonable—after all we too long to see You, touch You, and truly know You.**

Leader: Our doubts feel different. We doubt that the peace you offer is really possible because our own minds are a mess of thoughts.

**All: We doubt that new life is possible because the wounds we bear are still overwhelming.**

Leader: We doubt that You really intended to call us when You called the disciples to be of service in creating a new way of being in the world.

**All: We hear the age-old stories, but we are filled with doubts about ourselves, and if we are honest, doubts about your Holy possibilities.**

One: Holy One, in these moments of stillness, hear our doubts and settle our hearts, souls, and minds...

#### Assurance of Grace

In the midst of the disciples' doubts and worries, in the midst of their fear, the Spirit of God came among them and whispered, "Peace be with you." Beloved People of God, hear the holy invitation of grace offered to every generation: Peace be with you. You are God's beloveds not because of what you have done or not done. You are God's beloveds because of who you are, and who you are is a people called and gifted to be a presence of peace and love in this world. Your shortcomings are forgiven. Grace abounds. God calls to you. Peace be with you. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

p.400

#### Scripture Readings:

Psalm 133	p.539
Acts 4:32-35	p.951
John 20:19-31	p.945

Reflection.....The Rev. David Schnaars

#### Invitation to the Offering

God invites us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship and to share the fullness of who we are with the world. So it is God's holy invitation that asks us to pause and wonder what we want to offer of ourselves to the world. Time? Presence? Kindness? Financial support? Prayers? In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have to offer this day to bring about God's peace on Earth?

Offertory: "Jesus Is All the World to Me"

Thompson

\* Presentation of 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 Dedication (unison)  
**Receive these gifts, O gracious and loving God. Bless them to be used here in Old Zionsville for the shining of Your light and the furtherance of Your mission here of earth. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

The Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Communion p.5

\*The Lord's Prayer (sung)  
**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: "O for a Heart to Praise My God" p.650

\*Benediction

At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, when the faithful yet fearful people gathered together, Jesus came among them and whispered an invitation, "Peace be with you." But that was only the beginning. He showed them the scars and marks of his own humanity and soon he was pointing at theirs as well, telling them "Just as God once sent me, so I send you." Beloved People of God, this hour is only the beginning. Do not be afraid. You have been called and you are being sent into this world to be a force of love, light, hope, and joy. Go forth into this day and into the world in the name of God, the one who creates you; go in the name of the Jesus who shows us the way; and go in the name of the Holy Spirit, who is with us now and always. Peace be with you. Amen.

\*Sung Benediction

**The Lord Whom we love, Whom we worship and Adore, We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us Together And He it is who sends us apart. To be God's people, be God's people. Amen.**

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "Behold, the King Rides Forth" Paxton



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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Bill and Julia Yeakel given by James and Patti Mittl.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Lee and Susan Hoch in memory of loved ones.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jane Bedell.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.



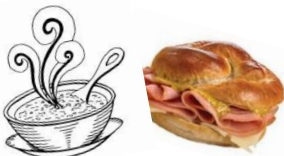
Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.

**A Big Thank You to Rev. David Schnaars** for leading our Worship today. If you have a Pastoral Emergency between now and April 22, please call the church office, Kathy Latshaw, or SharonTrexler. They will contact the Pastor on call.

Join us in Worship next Sunday with The Rev. Homer Royer and Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> with The Rev. David Schnaars.

The **All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, April 8 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please do not block the chair path when leaving donations in the stairway, thank you. Please call Millie with any questions.

**Sunday Brunchers** will meet at the Mercantile Club (cash only) after Worship on Sunday, April 21 at 12 noon. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to Mark or Linda. **Lunch Bunch** will be on Friday, April 26 at 12 noon at Ritz Barbecue, Allentown. RSVP to Mark or Linda by Tuesday, April 23. All are welcome for good food and company.



**Soup and Sandwich Orders** for April are due **TODAY**. Pick up will be on Thursday, April 18 between 3:00-5:30 p.m.

The FUN Group is collecting **FULL & TRAVEL SIZE size toiletries** for The Lehigh Conference of Churches Project Toiletry until May 12. The full size toiletries help individuals and families throughout Pathways housing services. Travel size toiletries are used by the people that utilize showers at the drop-in center. A collection box is located on the bench in front of Pastor Lori's office. **Listings of toiletries needed can be found in both entrances of the Church.**

**Philly Soft Pretzels** will be **sold next Sunday, April 14th** after worship **and on April 28th** after worship in honor of National Pretzel Day, April 26. If you are considering buying more than 4, please let Lisa Talecki or the Church office know so they can make sure to have enough for all. Thanks for your support!



**Wooden Crosses** – We are selling wooden crosses for the Cemetery, in front of your house or to hang on the wall. These are beautifully made and decorated. See samples after Worship or pick one up for Memorial Day. They are selling for \$30.00 each. See Richard Yeakel or Lisa Talecki.

Next **Youth Group Meeting** will be held on Friday, April 26, from 6 - 8 p.m. All Welcome!



**GriefShare** will be offered at Old Zionsville United Church of Christ starting on Wednesday evening, May 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This nationally acclaimed course consists of 13 weeks of meetings for support offered to people who have lost loved ones. Each session includes a video to offer thoughts and ideas to learn about. There is a workbook which is helpful for each participant to have to follow along, take notes of the video, and then do some homework before the next session. There is also time to share and support each other through grief. There is no cost for the sessions, but the fee for the workbook is \$15 or whatever you can afford. We meet in the handicap accessible, air conditioned lower social hall at OZ UCC which is found at the intersection of Fountain Road and Kings Highway in Old Zionsville. To register for these sessions, or ask questions, you can contact The Rev. Lori Esslinger at [MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com](mailto:MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com) or by calling the church office at 610-966-3601. The course concludes July 24, 2024.

Celebrate history at the **Dillingersville Schoolhouse** located at 7226 Schoolhouse Lane, Zionsville. Informal worship begins at **10:30 a.m. on June 30, 2024** under a big tent on the grounds, rain or shine. This service is open to all and especially those who enjoy the outdoors and being in nature. Tours of the schoolhouse are available. We are engaging the Heidelberg Brass Band to offer their Polka Service during our Worship Service. Invite your friends and family to join us for a lively morning worship with extra music after the service to lead us into our home-made lunch and bake sale offered for donation. This is a great day to learn about local history, the beginnings of education in this area, and to spend some time in the outdoors. Parking is available on site. Questions? Call 610-966-3601.

### **Week of April 7, 2024:**

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

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

10:15am Worship with The Rev. Homer Royer

Pretzel Sale after Worship

### **Total Offerings from Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024:**

7:30 a.m.:

General Offerings: \$1,711.00

Mission: \$65.00

Communion: \$10.00

Windows to the Future: \$10.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$65.00

Attendance: 50

10:15 a.m.:

General Offerings: \$1,199.80

Mission: \$20.00

Windows to the Future: \$57.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Attendance: 90