

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 28, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Glyncannon

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: We delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

All: Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.

One: Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

All: Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.

One: Come, let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

All: Amen and Asè (pronounced "ah-shay" and is Swahili for Amen).

Invocation (unison)

Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives. Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love. Plant us together in your peace. Root us together in your hope. Transform us together by your equal justice for all. In your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "In the Garden"

p.635

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (unison)

Creating God, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation. Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart. Help us to grow your garden of love. Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope. Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom. Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives. Give us new life, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Merciful God, your love for us grows deep and wide. We ask for your forgiveness in those times when we fail to follow your example; when we choose greed over advocating for human rights; and when we choose silence over speaking truth to power. Create in us your power to change our hearts and minds from earthly scarcity to your divine abundance. Renew in us the courage to get into "good trouble" even when the arc of peace and justice is long. Strengthen us to be branches so that all might know of your garden of forgiveness and love. In your mercy, we pray.
Amen

*Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God" p.654

Scripture: John 15:1-11 p.939

Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Invitation to Generosity

One: Cultivating God, in your generosity, we receive new blessings with each passing day.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: You offer us light from the sun, moon, and stars to guide, nurture, and lovingly shine upon all creation.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: Your loving generosity is more than we could ever hope for and beyond imagination.

All: Great is your faithful abundance, O God.

One: Let us give our offerings with a heart of gratitude for God's Garden of blessings and love.

Offertory: "In Christ There Is No East or West" Reinagle

* 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 of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)
Compassionate God may these gifts be blessed by your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches of despair to bring us hope. Shine your light of peace on our weariness to bring us justice for all. With Christ as our vine, save us from all that seek to bring us harm. May these fruitful gifts be a blessing in your garden of love. Amen.

Choir Anthem

*The Pastoral Prayer...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: "I Then Shall Live" p.604

*Benediction

One: Great is your faithfulness, O God, our strength and our Redeemer.

All: Without you, nothing would be possible.

One: Without you, there would be no light in the darkness. But, in Christ, we see that all things are possible.

All: In Christ, we are the branches on his vine living according to your divine purpose. Creating God, help us to see your faithfulness as we leave this place of worship.

One: Let us grow in your mercy. Strengthen us as we seek to produce much fruit for the harvest of your love here on earth as it is in heaven. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Sing Aloud to God, Our Strength" Hughes

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**Much Fruit: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter** was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Linda Benner in memory of her parents, Anna and Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Emily Dreas in memory of her husband, Carlton Dreas.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Ruth Stansfield.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Lee Hoch.

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.

**Philly Soft Pretzels** will be sold after worship today in honor of National Pretzel Day, April 26. Thanks for your support!

The **All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, April 29 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please remember to not block the chair path when leaving donations in the stairway. Please call Millie with any questions.

**Wooden Crosses** – We are still selling wooden crosses for the Cemetery, in your garden at home 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.

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.**

Have you gotten your **Lottery Calendar** for May yet? Please see Cheryl Martucci after church to get yours or if you could help the church by selling a few. All proceeds will go to our General Fund. Thank you!



**GriefShare** begins this week 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.

Our Social and Aid Committee will be offering **Beef Pies** along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** for the month of May. **Orders must be received by next Sunday, May 5.** (They are only making 200 pies, get your order in asap.) Pick up will be on Thursday, May 23 between 3-5:30 p.m. in the downstairs social room. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the church or in your bulletin. All proceeds are split between the General Fund and the Cemetery Association. Thank you for your continued support.

**Supper Club** for May will be 6:00pm at Chestnut Ridge at Rodale, South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Emmaus. Please let Mark or Linda know if you are planning to attend by Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. **Sunday Brunchers** will meet after Worship at the Mercantile Club on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. And **Lunch Bunch** will be going to Powderbourne Sportsman's Club, 2071 Baus Road, East Greenville on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon. Please RSVP for this by Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. All welcome!!

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 28, 2024:**

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

Dillingersville Planning Meeting – Tuesday @ 7:30pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Grief Share – Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

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

10:15am Communion Worship

Beef Pies & Ham and Cheese Sandwiches Orders Due

## **Total Offerings from April 21:**

General Offerings: \$2,288.00

Window Fund: \$202.00

Mission: \$140.00

Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$20.00

Utilities: \$30.00

Building Repair Fund: \$20.00

Ukraine Relief Fund: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$90.00