

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 20, 2025

7:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Resurrection Sunday

Prelude: "Morning in the Garden"

Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Introit: Choir (*helpers begin putting items back in the chancel*)

The Call to Worship

Leader: At early dawn, when the light was just emerging
and the shadows still long and deep the earth began to
sing a tender and persistent hallelujah.

**All: And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt.
Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed.
Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, with the salt of tears still crusting
their eyes the women began to sing a grieving and
faithful hallelujah.

**All: And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and
Questions. Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed.
Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, when no one could remember the
sound of hope or the promise of a new day rising the
world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

**All: And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing.
Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed.
Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies
and injustices we gather to sing a grateful and liberating
hallelujah.

**All: And this Easter feels like protest and praise.
Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

Invocation (unison)

Resurrecting God, we meet you in the empty tomb where our griefs and joys, despairs and hopes intermingle. Through our prayers and praise this Easter day, open our hearts to remember that the power of love and life will overcome every death-dealing force, no matter how pervasive or persuasive. In this troubling and joyful time, dazzle us with good news, Holy Rising Up One, in whose path we follow and name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: "Majesty"

#10

Call to Prayer

There can be no resurrection without facing the power death, the daily crucifixions that we experience and participate in continuing. So, centered in our resurrection hope and trusting in God's grace, let us turn unflinchingly toward these truths, and open ourselves to transformation and new life.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: How many times have we succumbed to the despair and distraction sown by the chaos machine and forgotten God's prophetic promises, unable to remember the power of steadfast Love and persistent Justice.

All: God, have mercy.

Leader: How many times have we reacted with disbelief to the truths testified by those we perceive as less powerful, treating the ones who know death-dealing oppression best as untrustworthy, uninformed, and insignificant.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: How many times have we dismissed the visions and wisdom of marginalized voices as idle tales, and failed to recognize this witness to a new future of flourishing for all?

All: God, have mercy.

Words of Grace

Leader: How many times does God greet our failures with grace and mercy!

All: Hallelujah. Praise our Resurrecting God!

Leader: How many times will God forgive us and call us beloved!

All: Hallelujah. Praise our Rising Up God!

Leader: How many times will God free us in love to begin anew!

All: Hallelujah. Thanks be to the God who makes all things new.

*Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #360

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12 p.919

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called in this moment to use whatever resources you have to build up a new world of flourishing for all? You are invited to bring your life-affirming, resurrecting intentions to this offering so that together we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm until all know the true power of Love.

The Offertory: "Victory in Jesus" Bartlett

*Presentations of Our Gifts and The Doxology #815

**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)

**To the witness of new life emerging, God open us.
To the work of new world building, God commit us.
To the power of love persisting, God dedicate us.
For the calling of faith rising up, God equip us.
Amen.**

The Choir Anthem

Service of Holy Communion p.1
(*Communion Liturgy Booklet*)

*The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) #631

*Closing Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
(verses 1, 2, 3 only)

#45

* Benediction

This blessing comes at early dawn when the day has not yet emerged and the night lingers on our skin. Hallelujah. Even now, new life. This blessing emerges through grief when the sorrows have not yet left us and the hope has not yet found us. Hallelujah. Even now, resurrection. This blessing calls from emptiness when we have more questions than answers and fear turns to amazement turns to joy. Hallelujah. Even now, rise up. Christ is risen indeed. Go in peace to rise up in protest and praise until new life is witnessed, known, and enjoyed by all creation. Amen.

*Extinguishing the Candles

*The Postlude: "Welcome, Happy Morning" Havergal

Be sure to stop downstairs for some beverages and sweets to celebrate New Life in Christ!



Building Up a New World – At Early Dawn Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heil in honor of their daughter, Marianne Alliston's Birthday.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are in memory of loved ones sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Souder.

TODAY'S GREETERS are members of our Consistory.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Les Schoenberger.

Welcome to all of our worshipers this morning! May you receive a blessing by being here today. If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the narthex. We would love to have you come back and join us for the exciting happenings in the next weeks and months. The church is growing. Come be a part and find your spirit renewed.

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.

All Things Free Room (ATF) Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, April 21 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.

Order forms can be found in your bulletin for May **Soup and Sandwiches** made by our Social and Aid Committee. Orders are due Sunday, May 11 and can be dropped in the offering plate or call/ email the church office. Pick up is on Thursday, May 22 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 Friday 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. We are working to create a zoom link for this program in case you can't make it in person. Each week includes a video, discussion and a snack. We meet in the lower social hall which is air conditioned and comfortable for all. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.



Next Sunday - Don't miss Sunday April 27 at 10:15 a.m.!

This is **Holy Humor Sunday** plus we are inviting you to **dress down and be casual** in your attire on that day. Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-

"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after

Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors told jokes and sang fun songs during worship. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it. Join us for "Holy Humor Sunday" on April 27 at 10:15 a.m. Bring your Kazoo to play along!

Penny Party - ALL HANDS ON DECK!! We need lots of help to make the **Penny Party** on **May 3, Saturday**, Successful! Can you **bake something for our dessert table**? Cake, pie, cookies, no bake treat, candy. If everyone makes one thing, we will have a grand assortment to sell. **Bring items to the church on Friday, May 2 between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. or Saturday 9:30 -10 a.m.** Thanks in advance for your help. The party runs from 4:45 p.m. to about 8 p.m. It is fun, fast moving and a sight to behold. Come on out just to watch the action. Bring your coins if you want to play, a few bucks to buy the numbers and some money if you want to have supper with us. You won't be sorry!! Talk with me, or any FUN Group member for more information. FREE for everyone to attend. For all ages. Even kids love this event! See you there!

Matthew Yenser is selling **Applebee's Burgers for a Cause** certificates for Emmaus Football. For \$10, purchase a certificate for ANY burger on the menu! Burger prices range from \$12.49 to \$14.99. Dine-in only. One certificate may be redeemed per person, but more than one certificate can be used at the table at a time. Certificates are valid at participating locations in PA, NJ, Delaware and Maryland. Orders are due by Friday, April 25. Certificates are delivered on May 8. You can place your order with Melissa. See her or Matthew in Church. Thank you!

Fundraiser at Alburdis Area Community Center. The Merissa L Frye Small Cell Cervical Cancer Memorial Foundation is having a **Designer Purse Bingo!** Doors open at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 18 at the Alburdis Community Center, 220 West 2nd Street, Alburdis. Games begin at 1:00 p.m. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, cash only. For tickets or more information please contact Nicole Steirer at 484-695-1802 or Kerrie Hetherington at 610-657-8136. Flyers posted on Church bulletin boards.

Week of April 20 – 26, 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, Brenda has some vacation days scheduled)

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Parking Lot – Sealing on Wednesday & Thursday

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Pick Up Ordered Chili & Sandwiches – Thursday from 3-5:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday, 12 noon @ East Penn Diner

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Holy Humor Worship

Total Offerings from April 13, 2025:

General Offerings: \$2,483.00

Mission: \$85.00

Communion: \$5.00

Utilities: \$45.00

Parking Lot: \$70.00

Cemetery: \$50.00

Attendance: 73

