

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

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Resurrection Sunday

Prelude: "Morning in the Garden"

Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

*The Call to Worship

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: The bread of life has broken the power of death! Let
no one go hungry again!

All: Alleluia! Jesus is alive! Let all creation rejoice!

One: Christ is risen, conquering hate and violence! Let the
people of God find wholeness and healing.

**All: Alleluia! Let restoration begin! The kin(g)dom of
God is at hand!**

One: Let us join in the eternal feast, where hope overflows
and the despair of this life is vanquished by love.

**All: The bread of life is risen and alive. Let us worship
the one who leads us now in compassion and
justice!**

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Spirit of the risen Christ, you dwell among us as we
sing, pray, and rejoice in your victory. Because you
have conquered death, nothing can separate us from
your presence. So, with full hearts and nourished souls,
we celebrate this day of extravagant love. Let our
worship be a reflection of the feast you have prepared,
where no one is left hungry, and all are made whole.**

May our work in this world bring the table of heaven to earth. We pray this in the name of the bread of life, who was born in a town called House of Bread. Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#367

Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Often our imaginations can hardly conceive of the transformative spirit of resurrection life. Let us confess the ways we have limited God's work in this world.

All: Resurrected Christ, you faced the depths of death and suffering and emerged victorious. You were broken yet made whole, for the love of God's good world. Yet, we confess that we forget love has the final victory. You prove your love for us by taking our small efforts and magnifying them into dramatic change. You challenge our limited potential and expand our reach into new horizons of love and justice. You are a good teacher, showing us how to take what little we have and trust in your abundance. Yet we cling to our scarcity, doubting that what we offer could ever be enough. You took a little boy's small lunch— five loaves and two fish—and fed a multitude. Forgive us when we think too small, failing to believe you can multiply our efforts for the good of your world. Forgive us, bread of life, for underestimating your power and ignoring the call to join in your work. Inspire us to dream boldly, give generously, and act faithfully, trusting that your love can transform even the smallest offering into a feast of justice and grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, hear this good news: If we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from unrighteousness. May you carry this peace everywhere you go, bringing the spirit of resurrection to a hurting world.

*Hymn: "Celebrate Jesus" (*Sing through one time*)

#362

Scripture: John 20:1-18

p.944

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

From the manger in a town called House of Bread, Jesus came to show us God's love. We believe Jesus lived a fully human life. He chose to take on our weakness and remained faithful until the very end. We believe Jesus was and is the bread of life, broken for all, and made whole in resurrection. We believe the table is set for all people, and there will always be enough. We believe the bread of life compels us to seek justice so all might have the spiritual, emotional, and physical nourishment they need. We believe Christ is risen, death is defeated, and no one can separate us from the love and joy that surround us today and every day. We believe in the renewal of all things. Even now, the bread of life is at work, healing and restoring all that was broken. We believe one day we will all gather around God's table, united in peace, joy, and justice for all people. Alleluia! Amen.

Call to the Offering

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 for the Offering (unison)

Holy God, we bring to you our gifts and offerings with the same spirit of abandon that inspired Peter to jump into the sea to greet Jesus. Let our generosity flow from the joy of knowing that the bread of life has come to heal us and restore us to wholeness. Use our gifts to nourish our communities and satisfy the hunger of our world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: Risen Christ, bread of life, just as you are alive, so is your mission to feed the hungry—in heart, soul, and mind. Today, we bring our prayers, trusting in your faithfulness to make all things new.

All: Alleluia! Let creation be healed by the bread of

life.

One: Embolden your church to proclaim your resurrection with words and actions that nourish the hungry, heal the broken, and challenge systems of oppression. May we reflect the hope of new life in all we do. Equip us to participate in Jesus' ministry of feeding and care for all people.

All: Alleluia! Let creation be healed by the bread of life.

One: Where famine and drought desolate the land, let your people share the bread of hope, the bread of life. Teach us true generosity, that Christ's table may be extended to the far reaches of the Earth.

All: Alleluia! Let creation be healed by the bread of life.

One: In places and communities where apathy and desperate thinking have taken root, inspire hope and creativity. Teach us to find abundance where others only see scarcity, and to trust your power to multiply what we offer.

All: Alleluia! Let creation be healed by the bread of life.

One: May the bread of life bring wholeness to those who grieve, suffer, and struggle to survive. Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, offering both comfort and tangible aid.

All: Alleluia! Let creation be healed by the bread of life.

One: When we doubt your resurrection power, renew our faith. When our vision is narrow, open our eyes to the possibilities. May we live in this Easter reality, proclaiming hope and bringing the bread of life to everyone who is hungry. In Christ, who fills our hearts and tables with life everlasting, we pray.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

One: Hear us now as we sing the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

*The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

#631

**Our Father, which 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. or thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Come to the table of the risen Christ, the bread of life, where bread once broken now feeds the multitudes, where the cup once poured out now overflows with hope. Here, no one is forgotten, no one is excluded, and no hunger goes unsatisfied. Bring your doubts, your hopes, and your dreams. This feast is for you. Jesus, who dined with his friends and fed the hungry, invites us now to share this sacred meal of memory. Come, taste, and see the goodness of God.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

Risen Christ, bread of life, we come to your table with gratitude for your abundant love. Bless this bread and cup, symbols of your body and blood, broken and poured out for the healing of the world. As we share this meal, nourish our spirits with your grace. Empower us to live lives worthy of the beloved community you call us to be, proclaiming resurrection in all we do. Alleluia! Amen.

The Words of Institution

We gather at this table in remembrance of Christ, alongside disciples old and young, from every walk of life. We are confident that through Jesus Christ, we are all nourished and made whole.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Let us pray: **Holy God, you nourish and provide for us. Help us savor this timeless meal of the bread and the cup. May we graciously receive this gift so we might share its abundance with others. Jesus, you believe in the life-changing power of a shared meal. Grant us the courage and strength to ensure God's table is everyone's table. Holy Spirit, you are our great sustainer. Stretch us to find new ways of making sure those who are hungry become fed. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Communion *(we hold the elements and partake Together, grape wine and white grape juice)*

Choir Anthem

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Loving and faithful God, we thank you for this sacred meal that reminds us of the bread of life, broken for the whole world. You have fed us and filled us with the hope of resurrection. Alleluia! As we leave this table, may we carry the bread of life into the world, bringing comfort to the hurting, food to the hungry, and hope to the hopeless. Strengthen us to serve as your faithful disciples, proclaiming justice, mercy, and peace to every soul we encounter. Amen.

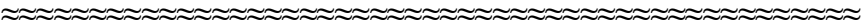
*Closing Hymn: "Because He Lives" #358

*Charge and Benediction

Siblings in Christ, you have been fed and now have full hearts and bellies. Go into the world, nourished by the bread of life to share Christ's abundance with a hungry world. Remember, there is always enough for everyone in the kin(g)dom of God. Go forth to love and serve, for the table is set, the feast is prepared, and the world awaits God's goodness in you. May the God of new beginnings fill you with joy. May the Risen Christ accompany you with peace. And may the Spirit of resurrection empower you with courage. Alleluia! Amen.

*Extinguishing the Candles

*The Postlude: "Welcome, Happy Morning" Havergal



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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 Millie Kohler.

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.

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 one of the members of FUN Group 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 (melissayenser@aol.com). See her or Matthew in Church. Thank you!

Fundraiser at Alburtis 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 Alburtis Community Center, 220 West 2nd Street, Alburtis. 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.

Join us for the **79th Annual Dillingersville Pilgrimage** on **Sunday, June 29, 2025**, for a memorable day of worship, history, and community! Experience an outdoor service under a large tent, surrounded by the beauty of nature at the historic 1841 stone schoolhouse, located at 7226 School House Lane in Zionsville. The combined Lutheran, Mennonite, and U.C.C. congregations will gather for a service at **10:30 a.m.**, followed by a German-style picnic lunch and delicious homemade baked goods. Stay for an exciting **12:30 p.m.** performance by **Palzer Krischer**, a German/PA Dutch folk group, featuring local musician Scott Reagan and his band from Altrip, Germany. This unique concert, blending PA Dutch and Palzisch (Palatine German), will be a highlight you won't want to miss!

Week of April 20 – 26, 2025:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.
Other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Hours: Office will be closed this week.

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 Order 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

