

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 27, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Holy Humor Sunday

Prelude by Glad, A Cappella Singing Group – Easter Song Video

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Joy Break #1

Call to Worship

Pastor: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear...Jesus came and stood among them.

Leader: What if we told you we come to this sanctuary because there is no safety behind locked doors.

All: Jesus speaks peace among us. We do not carry this all alone.

Leader: What if we told you we gather together to remember that fear can't keep love from showing up.

All: Jesus breathes the spirit among us. We do not carry this all alone.

Leader: What if we told you worship is a place where we touch the wounds this world makes in us.

All: Jesus reaches out his hands to us. We do not carry this all alone.

Leader: What if we told you we join our hearts in prayer and praise to practice moving disbelief toward recognition.

All: Jesus tells truths among us. We do not carry this all alone.

Leader: What if it was all true?

All: My Lord and my God! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Invocation (unison)

In the midst of our overwhelm and fear, Tender God, we do not expect to meet you. Yet you are here, among us, holding out your

hands to us, breathing Spirit over us, showing us again and again that nothing can separate us from you. Surround us with your peace in this moment, Jesus; let our fears rest in you. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angel Said"

insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Leader: Where we have locked the doors to new awareness with defensiveness...

All: Jesus, breathe peace. Unlock our understanding.

Leader: Where we have closed off to others in fear...

All: Jesus, breathe peace. Open our hearts.

Leader: Where we have demanded proof of wounds in order to care...

All: Jesus, breathe peace. Teach us compassion.

Leader: Where we have insisted others owe us vulnerability to gain our solidarity...

All: Jesus, breathe peace. Show us how to be trustworthy.

Words of Grace

Leader: Receive the good news, beloved ones of the Holy One: no locked door, no overwhelming fear, no guarded disbelief can keep out God's forgiveness and resurrecting love. We are set free to keep building up a new world.

All: My Lord and my God! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Joy Break #2

*Hymn: "God Bless You Merry Sinner"

insert

Joy Break #3

Scripture: John 20:19-31

p.945

Reflection

Joy Break #4

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: We believe in God, who made us in His image.

People: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

Pastor: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

People: He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

People: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator - He is our joy!

Pastor: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

People: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joy Break #5

Litany

One: "Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu."

All: "When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too."

One: "I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin."

All: "When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him."

One: "I thought about that smile. Then I realized its worth."

All: "A single smile just like mine could travel the whole earth."

One: "So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected."

All: "Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!"

Joy Break #6

Invitation to Generosity

Leader: Knock, knock.

People: Who's there?

Leader: Phillip.

People: Phillip who?

Leader: Hahaha.

Offertory: Video: "You Put This Love in My Heart: Glad"

*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)

In the presence of fear, may these gifts bring hope. Where doors are locked, may these offerings open new possibilities. To the world in need, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Joy Break #7

Leader: Knock knock

People: Who's there?

Leader: Lettuce.

People: Lettuce who?

Leader: Hahaha

The Prayers of the People 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, for ever. Amen

Joy Break #8

*Closing Hymn: "Go Tell It On The Mountain" insert

*Benediction

People: "Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please give me the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor to the future with apprehension. Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer."

Leader: "Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face."

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Be Ye Glad" by the A Cappella Group: Glad

This Holy Humor service today is brought to you making fun of the Devil because JESUS LIVES!

~~~~~

**"Building Up a New World – Locked Doors" Service Prayers for Easter 2C** 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 in memory of Anna and Joseph Benner  
From Linda Benner.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Kathy Latshaw.

**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.

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, April 28 at 10:00am. Our next Giveaway is on Monday, May 12 from 4-6pm and Saturday, May 17 from 10am-12pm. If you are able to help please call or text Millie Kohler.

Order forms can be found at the entrances 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.



**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! **Sunday Brunchers** will meet after Worship at the Merc on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. **Lunch Bunch** will be on Friday, May 30 at 12 noon at the Macungie Diner. Please let Linda or Mark know if you are planning to attend. 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.

**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!

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 27 – May 3, 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 to make sure she is in the office)

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Parking Lot – Line Painting on Monday & Tuesday

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Penny Party – Doors open at 4:45pm

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

9:00am New Member Class

10:15am Communion Worship

## **Total Offerings from April 20, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$3,525.00

Mission: \$190.00

Communion: \$63.00

Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$149.50

Parking Lot: \$60.00

Cemetery: \$20.00

Attendance-7:30am: 49; 10:15am: 87