

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

May 4, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

“Cast the Net”

Prelude: “Communion Prayer”

Riggs

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Pastor: After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way...John 21:1

Leader: You’d think, by now, we would get used to him showing up like this

Left Side: inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider

Right Side: showing us the way to abundance is leaning into new possibilities

Leader: We are starting to open ourselves to these hauntings,

Left Side: encouraging us to share what we have and watch it multiply

Right Side: showing us the way to flourishing is together

Leader: We are learning to recognize this ghost asking about love

Left Side: calling us to tend and nourish each other

Right Side: showing us the way to new life is new solidarities

Leader: You’d think, by now we would get used to Jesus in our midst

Left Side: welcoming us to the worship that is love in action

Right Side: showing us the way to transformation is mutual belovedness

All: Let us worship God, because we know in our bones, everywhere we turn, it is the Lord!

Invocation (unison)

Is it you, Jesus? Are you really here? Is the message you gave us really true? Did the story turn out like you said? Can we trust it is

**you in the distance when the night is long and our nets empty?
Will there be more if we share? Can we find you when we eat
together? Do we love you when we feed each other? Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: "Morning Has Broken"

insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Generous Creator, forgive us when we believe the lies that scarcity tells us:

**All: if we just worked harder...I've earned everything I have...
there won't be enough if I share...I have to protect what's mine...
safety comes from holding on to what I have...I can't count on
anyone but myself...Gracious Redeemer, teach us to cast our nets
differently. Amen.**

Words of Grace

One: The Abundant Spirit opens before us the ways of flourishing: the impulse to share is our birthright dignity and justice belong to us all there is more when we contribute to each other's wholeness together, we keep us safe flourishing for all is possible together

All: Praise God who loves us into thriving new life!

*Hymn: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (verses 1 & 3 only)

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Scripture: John 21:1-19

p.945

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

We've come to a moment in our worship where we intentionally practice mutual aid – we share what we have so that we all can flourish. Scarcity teaches us to hold back, to see what we lack instead of what we have, to fear there won't be enough if we give it away. But today, let's cast our nets to the other side of the boat, where abundance lives, waiting for us to recognize it. Let's lean into the imagination of the new world we can build together if we believe in abundance. What could that world look like? So let's build up that new world of flourishing for all with these offerings.

Offertory: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Birchwood

*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

Leader: For the bread broken and shared, for the nourishment of each other,

All: We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

Leader: For dignity and belovedness, for the blessing of together,

All: We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

Leader: For the abundance of love that the world cannot take away.

All: We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

After Easter, after the resurrection, when Jesus wants to be sure his followers know it's really him present again among them, more often than not, he shares food with them. To know the resurrected Jesus, to encounter life beyond death, is to eat together surrounded by abundance. So in the midst of all the death-dealing forces of this world, all the suffering and injustice, let us set the table together, where all are welcome, all know dignity and belovedness, and all are fed.

Communion Prayer

In Eastertide, we remember that our celebrations of new life don't end with resurrection. It is this new day dawning that calls us to keeping living into this newness by building up a new world. So let us practice resurrection and building up a new world this day by building our communion prayer together. First, let us cast our nets into the depths of our joy. **(pause - breathe in and out with the word JOY)**

Now, let us cast our nets into the wideness of our love. **(pause - breathe in and out with the word LOVE)**

Let us cast our nets into the breadth of our vision of God's kingdom come. **(pause - breathe in and out with the word HOPE)**

God of newness and abundance, we set this table with our prayers, remembering that it was you who set the table at that last supper with your friends...[hear the story of the last supper/words of institution]

People of God, Jesus invites to come and eat. As we share in the abundance of God's love, may we come to know the presence of Jesus in our midst, and be reminded that to love Jesus is to feed and nourish each other.

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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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; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

(We share the communion and hold the elements to partake together – bread or gluten free wafers, grape wine or white grape juice)

*Closing Hymn: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

insert

*Benediction

Leader: Beloved community, do you love God?

People: Yes, you know that we love God.

Leader: Feed God's lambs.

Leader: Beloved community, will you keep loving God?

People: Yes, you know that we will keep loving God.

Leader: Tend God's sheep.

Leader: Beloved community, are you blessed by God's love?

People: The God who knows everything knows that we are blessed by God's love.

Leader: Then go forth from this place to live and love abundantly setting a table for all in the midst of injustice growing relationships of justice, dignity and mutual belovedness sharing what you have so that all may flourish.

People: Thanks be to our risen and rising up God!

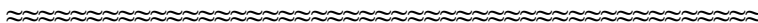
*The Sung Benediction: "Go Now in Peace" (sing with video)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of the day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Postlude in G"

Peterson



Building Up a New World – Cast the Net: Service Prayers for Easter 3C 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 loving memory of father, Michael Serafine, Sr. and brother, Michael Jr. given by Larry and Angela Stahler.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are in memory of Merle and Carl Lorish given by Todd and Jennifer Goudsward.

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.

All Things Free Room (ATF) Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, May 5 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 in our downstairs social hall.

New Member Classes will meet again next Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Want to learn more about our Church? Just join in the discussion meeting 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 next Sunday during our 10:15 a.m. Worship. Please let Pastor Lori know if you are planning on joining the discussion by calling, emailing or texting. 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 **TODAY**. All are Welcome! **Sunday Brunchers** will meet after Worship at the Merc on Sunday, May 18th. **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.

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!

Calling All Bakers!!! There will be a bake sale as part of the events at the 79th Annual Pilgrimage to the Dillingersville Schoolhouse. If you love to bake, please consider donating one of your delicious desserts to support this beautiful and historical schoolhouse. **Bring your dessert(s) to the schoolhouse with you prior to the 10:30am service on Sunday, June 29th.** Please keep in mind that there is no refrigeration available, so you may want to consider not using icing on your dessert. For more information, please contact Teresa Marks. Thank you!

Week of May 4-10, 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

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Supper Club – Wednesday @ 6pm at Main St. Pub

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

ATF Giveaway Set Up – Saturday @ 10am

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
9:00am New Member Class
9:45am Second Sunday Treats
10:15am Worship, New Members Join
Soup & Sandwich Orders Due

Total Offerings from April 27, 2025:

General Offerings: \$979.00

Mission: \$90.00

Electric: \$25.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$30.00

Attendance - 77