

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 18, 2025

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mental Health Sunday

*Celebrating our 285 years in Ministry with the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates,
Conference Minister of Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ*

Prelude: "America the Beautiful"

Ward

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (written by The Rev. Amy Petré Hill)

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

All: Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

p.393

Prayer of Confession (written by The Rev. Shernell J. Edney Stilley)

All: Creator God, You are full of grace and justice. You are Holy and Wholly present with us every moment of our lives. In our rush to compartmentalize and create control in our lives, we

have sometimes ironically allowed seeds of chaos to be planted in our relationships with others. We have sought to put people and their illnesses, struggles, and complexities at bay while we justify ourselves as “normal” or “quirky.” Yet in your Righteousness, Lord, You have seen fit to be steadfastly patient and divinely compassionate with all of your Creation— including us. We confess both our subconscious and willful othering that provides us false protection from our own inner battles. You said that if we confess, you will draw us close and wrap us in your forgiveness that provides both truth and love. We come before you with humble hearts and contrite spirits asking for your pardon. Continue to grant us the invaluable gift of the ability to know one another and walk together in an intimacy that only you can manifest. Into Your care, we commit our collective weakness, assured by Your omniscient strength and love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the Good News: No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

All: Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible. Amen.

*Hymn: “Come, Thou Almighty King” p.8

Scriptures: Revelation 21:1-6 p.1085
John 13:31-35 p.938

Reflection: “Love Made New” The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

Invitation to Offering

In our offering we share not only measurable treasures of time, talents and resources, we also radically commit to sharing immeasurable gifts of forgiveness, grace, compassion, acceptance and loving concern with each other and with ourselves.

Offertory: “Sweet Hour of Prayer” Bradbury

*Presentation of our Gifts 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.**

*Dedication of Offering Prayer (unison)

May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen.

Recognition of The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

*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: "Rock of Ages" p.342

*Benediction

People of Love, as you go from this place, let love be what blesses you, love that is not nice or polite, but knows how to sing in the midst of despair, how to rise up in the midst of death, how to hold fast in the midst of chaos. Let love be the blessing you share, love that is not tolerant or charitable but knows how to care when all seems hopeless, how to listen when others are silenced, how to come alongside when no one else will. People of Love, let love be your blessing, this day and every day until glory comes.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" Rankin

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"Building Up a New World – Looking for Love" Service Prayers for Easter 5C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.

*Other worship materials were provided by the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ.*

*We thank God for Beth Eck who is providing Music today while David is on vacation visiting his mother in upstate New York.*

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Bertha and Raymond Aston sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kneisley.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Sarah and Clyde Martin sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kneisley.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Lee and Susan Hoch.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Chris Schell.

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 19 at 10:00am. If you have any questions, please call or text Millie Kohler.

**Sunday Brunchers** will meet after Worship **TODAY** at the Mercantile Club in Emmaus. **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!

Youth Group will meet on Friday, May 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the lower social hall. All young people are invited to participate. There is something for everyone at Youth Group! If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Lori or Alyson Miller.

**Peanut Butter & Jelly** Collection - We are once again collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry at the end of our Sunday School year. We will be collecting through Sunday, June 8. Please place your items in the box outside of Pastor's Office.

**Attention Soon-to-be Grads!** Please let the church office know if you or a loved one will be graduating from High School, College or a Military program this year. We would like to honor you for all your hard work by putting your name and the name of the school in next month's newsletter. We would love to hear any future plans you would like to share with your church family also. You may call the church office or send us an email. **We will be celebrating all of our graduates in worship on Sunday, June 8.**

**Organ Recital – TODAY at 4:00 p.m. Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church** is planning to formally celebrate their new organ with a special dedicatory organ recital. The Allen Organ Company delivered their beautiful new organ in late October 2024. On Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. they are planning to formally celebrate with a special dedicatory organ recital. Allen Artist, Rudy Lucente, will dazzle and entertain us with his dramatic playing and musical talents. Rudy has been a church organist and musician his entire life in the greater Philadelphia area. Zion's Lutheran invites the whole community to attend. It will be a delight to experience his exceptional musical gifts. There will also be a time to meet Rudy during coffee and cake after the concert. Plan to attend this exciting event!!

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. **TODAY** 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!

**Calling All Bakers!!!** There will be a bake sale as part of the events at the 79<sup>th</sup> 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 at 610-509-1488 (cell number). Thank you!

**Last Day of Sunday School** for the summer months will be Sunday, June 8. Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. starting Sunday, July 6.

**Week of May 18-24, 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

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

Pick up ordered Soup & Sandwiches – Thursday 3-5:30pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Youth Group – Friday from 6-8pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School  
10:15am Worship

**Total Offerings from May 11, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$2,136.00

Mission: \$85.00

Communion: \$25.00

Windows: \$25.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$20.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$40.00

Cemetery: \$1,005.00

Attendance - 63