

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net) Web page: [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://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*

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
"A Sabbath"  
*Memorial Day Weekend*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

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

One: God, strengthen our faith

**All: by firing up our imaginations**

One: Because we know the Holy Creator works through us

**All: So we can begin to stitch back together our community!**

One: Powerful images are not empty or without meaning

**All: but true symbols that guide us to probe this war-filled world.**

One: Isn't this why God gave us an imagination anyway?

**All: So we can look with the eyes of faith beyond surface impressions**

One: to see what is really going on in our world

**All: in order to recreate new worlds of flourishing for all!**

Invocation (unison)

**Liberating God, the imagination for what you want out of your people has been found and sprinkled throughout our Holy Scriptures and experienced in our own lives. The hard message of a clear lesson in this book is that God has searching eyes on corruption and those who openly participate. Let us rest in that. Give us wisdom to allow the creative symbolism and storytelling of our scripture to guide us in what needs to be done to discern the presence of this harm and then to remember joy and to embody love, peace and gratitude on this day and all the hard days ahead. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "America, the Beautiful"

p.799

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (unison)

**God of the Other, we say to you that we cannot remember the last time we listened, truly listened to the Other and sought understanding, let alone see the childlike glory in another's spirit. We come forward to say that starting today, we change by becoming more present in our interactions with all of your creation and we hold no judgement and cast no shame on someone trying to exist in this cold complicated and beautiful world.**

Words of Grace

We are indeed a Beloved Community capable of working towards collective flourishing for it is bright as crystal flowing from the throne of God. We are the light and let us shine brightly as we accompany others to abundance and collective freedom. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Once to Every Man and Nation" (verses 1, 2 & 4)

p.733

Scriptures: Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5

p.1086

Reflection

A Drone Look at our Three Cemeteries

Invitation to Generosity

We honor the many ways your book guides us to be witnesses in the world towards justice. Let us give generously with our time and our resources so that through our relationships with all we can become a new world and a new people.

Offertory

\*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.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)

**Still speaking God, we are witness to who Jesus is – from antiquity to modernity. Faithfully, we experience a grace that renews and enlivens us. Bless our offerings so others can be witness to the ways we live into your word so that our communities may be refreshed and restored. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

\*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: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (verses 1, 2 & 4) p.804

\*Benediction

Let us go forth knowing that our spiritual and religious journey as Christians begins with one word, one name, one person: Jesus. Now let us be an example of what that means so others can witness our compassion and solidarity to the weeping, to the joyful, and to those we don't share common ideologies so that all might be refreshed in body and in spirit.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude

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*A Sabbath: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter* was written by Rev. ellie hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Ruth-Ann Schell given by Craig and Linda Schell.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of loved ones from Robert and Annie Souder.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Gisela Thiel.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jan Strobel.

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.

**Lunch Bunch** is planned for Friday, May 30 at 12 noon at the Macungie Diner. Please let Linda or Mark know if you are planning to attend. **Supper Club** will be Wednesday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Peppe's Pizza and Grill, 2485 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville. Please RSVP for this by Sunday, June 1. 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.**

The next round of **Grief Care** is scheduled to start this 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.

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!

**Open House!** Saturday, June 28 from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. there will be an Open House at the Dillingersville Schoolhouse! Experience first-hand this one-room school which is on the National Register of Historical Places.

**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 25-31, 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)

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Grief Care – Wednesday from 6-8pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday @ 12 noon

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

**Total Offerings from May 18, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$1,857.00

Mission: \$50.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$120.00

Building Repair: \$90.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$30.00

Attendance - 44