

**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

June 1, 2025

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**“Opened Minds”**

Prelude:     “Communion Prayer”

Riggs

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**All: for believing we can be born again.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**All: for the diversity of which all of Your creation is birthed.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**All: for the knowledge that we aren’t always right and for the capability to change.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**All: for the desire to change structures and institutions that tell us community is less valuable than the individual.**

One: Creator, today we give you thanks

**All: for the positivity, resistance, and beauty in this some times ugly world.**

Invocation (unison)

**Creator, be with us as we live into all that is possible. You sent us a human to show us the value and dignity and beauty of all people. You created the change of seasons as a reminder of the beauty of our planet. We were not made sinful by design as so many interpretations go – You created us in Your image with the capabilities of loving so vastly and so greatly that healing and reconciliation are possible. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn:     “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

p.586

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Creator, we have been led astray by the systems that promote individuality, greed, absolutism, and patriarchy.

**All: We know that you forgive us because You invite us into new birth again and again. You invite us to embody new understandings of collectivity and new ways of acting in and towards the world – to be witness to the evils of patriarchy and supremacy and the politics of people and ask us instead, to give gratitude and love. Be with us as we change to become more of what You ask us to be – joyful in the journey towards reparations and true Grace.**

#### Words of Grace

We are indeed capable of opening our minds and our hearts and then to move in the world to live like Jesus had. We are looking up and looking out so that we may love, repent, and forgive one another for we do indeed sense the image of You sprinkled throughout all of Creation. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (verses 2 only) p.377

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53 p.920

#### Reflection

#### Invitation to Generosity

The ways in which we can give of ourselves are as vast as Creation on Mother Earth. You're now invited to give accordingly – to give knowing that what we do here matters in the bigger picture of the blessings that the Creator has accorded us.

Offertory: "Look Down On Us" Mendelssohn

#### \*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)

**We give thanks to you Creator, for the invitation to be alive in a world full of possibility with open minds and open hearts to live with great joy until we meet again. Amen.**

#### Choir Anthem

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### Sacrament of Holy Communion

##### Invitation to Communion

All the parts of this shared meal together come from the Earth. The seeds of grain grew with patience, tenderness and love. They were then gathered and milled into a loaf to be shared communally. The grapes used on this cup were also grown with patience, tenderness and love. They were gathered by the hands of migrant workers and pressed into juice to be shared communally. We were reminded at the start of Lent this year that we, too, are from the Earth and that with patience, tenderness, and love we find ourselves here collectively willing to partake of elements that are meant to spark a new type of living in the world. Creator be with us all.

**Many: We remember the land from which we came**

One: Lift up your hearts

**Many: We remember the patience and tenderness needed**

One: Lift up our hearts

**Many: We remember the sacrifice You made to help us believe**

One: Lift up our hearts.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread and asked the disciples to imagine it as both whole and broken, for in both states, it is a symbol of what was and yet still to come. Take, eat, and remember. He then took the cup asking the disciples to imagine what it feels like to be both empty and then full, for in both states, he shared that God is indeed with us. Take, eat, and remember.

Communion Prayer:

Praise to you Creator.

For the gifts of Creation,

-the beauty of nature,

-the rains,

-the songs of the pollinating birds,

-the winds that carry the seeds.

Praise to you Creator.

For the gifts of our human existence, through the hard and the good, through the times we were wrong and the times we were right, you never stop trying to heal us and demonstrate hope when it is needed most.

Praise to you Creator.

For the ability to believe in the finite and the infinite, through our brokenness you invite us to be collected again, And so here at this table, we remember.

\*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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

Sharing the Communion: (Ushers will come to you in the pew to distribute the communion. Pass the tray to the person next to you. Stop. They will hold the tray for you to take the element. Then they pass it to the next person to hold for them to take the element, etc. down the pew. When it gets to the end the usher should hold the tray for the last person to take theirs. **Hold the elements until all are served and we can commune together.**)

Sending Prayer: (unison)

**Through these shared rituals, we are shown what it is to be both whole and broken, and empty and full in order for us to embody the hope of abundant life in the presence of death and that we are not in this alone – that G-d came to help us better know what it is to be a healing community and a healed community. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings"

insert

\*Benediction

"Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift," — Robin Wall Kimmerer, **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** And so it is Beloveds, move forward this week knowing the many ways we are fed begin first with understanding that your breath is my breath and that your actions dictate my actions – tu eres mi otro yo – you are the other me. Amen, Ashe, and Ajo.

\*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: "A Joyous Acclamation"

Smith



**Opened Minds: Service Prayers for the Seventh 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 sponsored by Henry and MaryAnn Heil in honor of the Wedding Anniversary of their daughter, Marianne and Shawn Alliston.

**TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS** are in memory of Blanche and Albert Steiner.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Francis and his parents, Dorothy and Henry Hartman from BettyLou and family.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Cheryl and McGwire Martucci.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Alyson Miller.

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, June 2 at 10:00am. If you have any questions please call or text Millie Kohler.

**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 **TODAY. Sunday Brunchers** next get together will be after Worship on Sunday, June 15 at the Mercantile Club in Emmaus.

**All are Welcome!**

**Peanut Butter & Jelly** Collection for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry ends next Sunday, June 8. Please place your items in the box outside of Pastor's Office.

The next round of **Grief Care** has begun and meets on Wednesday evenings and will run till July 23. There are nine sessions and will be held from 6-8 pm. Each week includes a video, discussion and a snack. We meet in the lower social hall which is air conditioned and comfortable for all. We also have a zoom link if you cannot make it in person. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

Ham and Cheese Sandwich orders now being taken by the Social and Aid Committee. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew and are due by next Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. You may drop your order form in the offering plate, call or email the church office or call Annie. Thank you for your support.

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 10:30 am 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 June 1-7, 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 @ Peppe’s  
Grief Care – Wednesday from 6-8pm  
Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School (LAST DAY)  
9:45am Second Sunday Treats  
10:15am Worship  
Ham and Cheese Sandwich Orders Due

**Total Offerings from May 25, 2025:**

General Offerings: \$1,292.00  
Mission: \$190.00  
Building Repair: \$40.00  
Zionsville Area Food Pantry: \$20.00  
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0  
Cemetery: \$100.00

Attendance - 59