



Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

www.oldzionsucc.org

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net



February 2026

Rev. Lori Esslinger, Pastor

Office: 610-966-3436

Cell: 610-393-3522

MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10am-3pm

Church Office Hours

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays

10am-2pm. (please call before stopping in)

Office Contact Inf.

610-966-3601

ozuccoffice@ptd.net

Financial Administrator

Robin Yoder

Secretary

Ellie Deere

Organist

David Carlson

Choir Director

Carolyn Rhoads

Sexton

Richard Shoemaker

Social Media Coordinator

Beth Massa

Consistory Officers

Co-Presidents

Cheryl Martucci

Chris Schell

Secretary

Sharon Trexler

Treasurer

Robin Yoder

From Pastor's Desk...

Change your thinking, transform your life

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

—Marianne Williamson

News from Choir...

Give Choir a try just for Lent! Start Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary for practice. You will laugh, sing and enjoy the fellowship as well as the music. Introduce yourself to Carolyn Rhoads, our Choir Director, and let her know which part you would like to sing.

News from Christian Ed...

Sunday School is open to all children who would like to participate. Children can start at the age of two or when they are potty trained. Classes are held in the lower level of the church. If you have other questions about Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Lori, Susan Jacobs or Deb Schoenberger.

The Chosen is Back! We started Jan. 21 and will conclude March 11. So stop in any Wednesday at 1 p.m. just to take a peek at this excellent show that we share in our lower social hall. All are welcome. We are finished with our time together around 2:15 p.m. or so and you are not obligated to stay after

the showing for the discussion. We always have snacks, beverages, and a clearer learning of how the disciples responded to Jesus and their daily routines. The sessions will continue for about 8 weeks and if the weather is not good, we will postpone the showing by a week.

Confirmation Class:

Let me know if you want to sit in on a class with us. We are learning how to chat with adults as well as learning about our congregation. Here are the upcoming classes and topics. All are welcome.

Feb. 1: Sunday - Souper Bowl after worship: Class time includes helping with the Souper Bowl eating and Clean up: after worship until 2 p.m. plus more History of the UCC

Feb. 15: Sunday 9 a.m. in the lower social hall: Topic: More history of the UCC

March 1: Sunday, Class noon to 2 p.m. Lower social hall, Time with mentors, making and sharing lunch together, Let's talk about Lent

March 15: Sunday, 9 a.m. in the lower social hall: What does the Bible say about Lent? (using our Bibles)

Future dates to be determined soon when spring sport schedules come out.

Let me know when you want to join us so I have enough handouts or enough food :) Welcome anytime.

Stay tuned for the dates of our Trip to the Synagogue for worship with our Jewish Brothers and Sisters at Temple Beth El in Allentown. Plus, our trip to Safe Harbor to serve a meal to the "residents" there plus play BINGO with them after lunch. All Welcome to go along.

Here are some questions from the Confirmation Class PreTest. Could you answer any of these? This is our goal for confirmation. Answers are on the last page of this newsletter.

#6. Name at least one other image of Jesus (or another name for Jesus)._____

#8. What is the Trinity? Draw a simple picture of it.

#9. Name the first 5 books of the Old Testament.

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News from Computer and Media Committee...

If you can't attend worship on Sunday, not to worry! We livestream our service every Sunday at 10:15am on YouTube and Facebook! Both of these options are available on demand, as well... can't watch on Sunday morning? No problem; watch when you can!



To find us on YouTube, you can visit our channel at <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpux8b>. Or just search for Old Zionsville UCC.

If you have any questions about using our Website, or finding our Worship Services online, please contact Beth Massa.

News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

Supper Club

When: Wednesday February 4, 2026, 5:30 PM **(Note the Earlier time)**

Where: Limeport Inn

1505 Limeport Pike, Limeport

RSVP by Sunday 2/1/2026



Sunday Brunchers

When: Sunday February 15, 2026, ~ 12 Noon

Where: Mercantile Club

Railroad St., Emmaus

CASH ONLY

RSVP by Wednesday 2/11/2026

Lunch Bunch

When: Friday February 27, 2026, 12 Noon

Where: Superior Restaurant

102 Main Street, Emmaus

RSVP by Wednesday 2/22/2026

Lehigh Valley Phantoms – The Phantoms Ice Hockey Team is hosting a Faith Night on Sunday, March 15, 2026 with game starting at 3:05 p.m. Ticket cost will be either \$22 or \$28 per person depending on seating level. Pregame and during intermission our concourse will have live music. Following the game Phantoms player Cooper Marody will host a live testimonial talking about his upbringing and faith to the congregations in attendance. Please contact Jane Bedell if you are interested in more details.

Our annual **OZUCC Night at the Iron Pigs** will be on Saturday May 23, 2026, with first pitch at 6:35PM.

- We will again be seated in the Picnic Pavillion and have the buffet dinner (included in price). This is also a Fireworks show after the game.
- Tickets are still the same price at \$28.00 per person
- The signup is by Sunday March 29, and we will need your payment at time of signup.

News from the Food Pantry...

We are still serving near record numbers of households. The pipeline of food and grants available from the government is not much better than last month. We continue to spend more on retail purchases. As the year comes to an end and you review your charitable giving, please keep the pantry in mind with monetary donations as well as non-perishable food and personal hygiene products.

Any questions, contact Robin Yoder.

The Zionsville Area Food Pantry is open the 2nd Monday of the month 4:00-6:00 PM and the **Saturday** of that same week 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Zionsville Area Food Pantry is located at Zion's Lutheran Church. Their email address is ZAFP5901@yahoo.com and their mailing address is P.O. Box 56, Old Zionsville, PA 18068.

Remember, you can bring items to our Church for the Food Pantry at any time. Stuff needed most for the Food Pantry are: **personal care items, paper products, and all kinds of non-perishable food.** Pick up extra at the grocery store and bring it to Church. Place in the shopping cart in the first-floor social room. Thanks.

News from the ATF Room...



We had 68 shoppers for our January giveaway. Although it was interrupted by snow storms and rescheduled dates, we were happy to see our guests and friends again. Next giveaways will be held on March 9, Monday from 4 - 6 p.m. and March 14, Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by to check it out. We can always use extra hands! Thanks in advance for serving the Lord.

We give thanks to God for Millie for her 7+ years of leadership for the All Things Free Room and Volunteers. The ministry has grown by leaps and bounds under her leadership and we are forever grateful for her time, talent and dedication to this wonderful outreach. As she steps down due to health reasons, our volunteers have been stepping up but there is still room for more help. If you have time to give, some of the jobs can happen from your home. Please let me know so we can discuss how you might be able to give this ministry a boost for this new year! Thanks in advance. Lori Esslinger 610-393-3522

News from the FUN Group...

Faith Uniting Neighbors

Bazaar & Filled Basket Auction

Thank you notes were received from the following organizations which received donations from our end of year distribution.

- Meals on Wheels
- LVHN Lehigh Valley Hospice
- Phoebe Ministries
- Lehigh County Conference of Churches

Angel Tree



The socks we collected were delivered to the Warming Station in Allentown. They were very much appreciated.

Share the Warmth

Thank you to everyone who donated items to warm a person from the inside. All items benefit the Zionsville Area Food Pantry.



"Souper" Bowl Social



Come join the FUN Group for our "Souper" Bowl Sunday immediately following Church on **Sunday, February 1.**

We are looking for a couple of people to volunteer to bring a crockpot of soup. If you can help us, please let a member of FUN Group know by Sunday, January 25 (including what type of soup you will be bringing). If you aren't bringing soup, please bring a dessert to share.

Also, please bring a couple of cans of soup for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry...they distribute hundreds every month!

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

CWS Hygiene Collection

This Spring we are planning to order a CWS Hygiene Kit Party Pack. Instead of asking for people to purchase items and fill a bag with specific items, the Party Pack will include everything we need to complete the Hygiene Kits.

We are, instead, looking for people to underwrite the cost of the Party Pack. Please let a member of FUN Group know if you are interested in participating...or you can put your donation in your envelope and designate it for "Hygiene."



Jewelry Fundraiser (3/15/26-4/12/26)

Beginning March 15 there will be a designated locked container in the Narthex to collect any old, unwanted jewelry you may have. Our proceeds will be determined by the fair market value of the

items collected less 15%. Some items may ultimately be donated to organizations such as The YMCA Perfect Fit Professional Clothing Boutique, YMCA Bethlehem Pop Up Prom Shop, and more.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will be included as part of our end of year distribution. Please see the attached flyer for more information

COMING EVENTS – Mark Your Calendar

- 5/2/2026 – Penny Party

News from Music and Worship Committee...

February 8 is Scout Sunday. Come to worship that day to meet our Cub Scouts and our Older Scouts. We have several older Scouts who are almost finished with their Eagle Scout projects. Plus, the older scouts went on a trip to Sea Base this past summer and are anxious to share the pictures with us. It will be an interesting Sunday for sure.

Second Sunday Treats - Join us for some delicious snacks to boost your energy for Worship, flavorful coffee and fellowship provided by Wendy and Jack Yeakel in the lower social hall starting at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

February is the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, worship to be held at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church up the hill from us. The service begins at 7 p.m. in the upstairs sanctuary. There is an elevator and stairs. You enter the church at the awning from the parking lot. There will be NO service at OZUCC for Ash Wednesday this year.

New Information: The Silk Flower arrangements that we place on the altar for you instead of real flowers: the money you pay to have that tribute (\$30) will now be going to the Mission Account in our budget. Thanks in advance for supporting the mission program of our church and of our World.

News from the Property Committee

Boiler - Yay! Our boiler has been fixed and paid for in full by many people including your donations to the cause as well as an anonymous donation to pay the rest of the bill. We appreciate everyone's support in this effort. Tapler has been our go-to guy for Boiler repairs and has been faithful to be helpful to us on Sunday mornings and week days when it hasn't been working. Thanks to some other church members who have helped along the way, the system is now back up and running and has been keeping us warm all winter so far. WE appreciate all the many hands who helped to make this happen. And many hands it was!! This boiler is unique and has been with us for many years. We are hopeful it will continue to function well for many more years to come. The Property Committee and all of our church staff who had a hand in this whole process! We need to work together to get things done.... Always!

News from Social and Aid...

February Soup and Sandwich Sale

Social and Aid Committee will be making **Ham and String Bean Soup** for the month of February to order along with their **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches**. Orders forms can be found at the entrances to the Church and in this newsletter.



Orders must be received by Sunday, February 8. Pickup will be on Thursday, February 19 from 3:00-5:00pm.

Please note that soup and sandwich pick up will conclude at 5 p.m. from now onward. Thanks for your help to get there or let them know if you can't make it by 5 p.m. Thank you.

News from the Youth Group...

Youth Group is undergoing some "re-construction". If you have ideas for programs that youth would enjoy. Please speak with Alyson Miller or Pastor Lori. No further meetings scheduled at this time.

OZUCC Mission Statement

The mission of our Church is to be a congregation devoted to our community where we experience and share the loving presence of God by teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, by celebrating God's Word in the Bible, and through loving service to all people.

News From the Office

In case of inclement weather or ice in the parking lot at the church that you don't have at home: please look at WFMZ on your computer or on TV for any cancellation or delay information.

Anyone who would like to participate in **Old Zionsville UCC's Grief Care** sessions this summer is welcome to sign up and mark your calendars. (upon sign up, you will get a confirmation letter which will give your more details about the program.)

This group of 9 weekly sessions will begin on the first Wednesday of June. We will meet in the lower social hall, which is air conditioned, of Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, 5981 Fountain Road, Old Zionsville PA Parking is available in the lot between the church and the parsonage off of Fountain Road. You may enter the building at the first set of red doors which are marked for the chair glide which is there to help you get down the stairs or the red door marked Church office. There is no cost to participate in the program. The modified booklet costs \$8 and is available for purchase at the first session. The whole program will run from June 3 - July 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each Wednesday night.

There will be snacks and drinks provided each week. Each session consists of a video which does the teaching portion of the program, some discussion and some take home reflective reading, exercises and helpful hints to guide you through your grief. These take home parts of the program are found in the booklet.

All are welcome to attend as we support you on your grief journey.

To register, contact the Rev. Lori Esslinger at MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com or call the church office at 610-966-3601. You can take a look at our web page too for more information about our church <www.oldzionsucc.org> You do not need to be a member of the church to participate.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Envelopes can be found at the end of your pew and at the entrance to

the Church for those wishing to give. This collection begins on February 22 – 1st Sunday of Lent and concludes on Palm Sunday, March 29.

The United Church of Christ is always responsive to disasters both here and globally. If you wish to donate money to any global disasters, 100% of your donation will go to aid relief. Make your check payable to Old Zionsville UCC and clearly mark it for Disaster Relief. Thank you

Annual Reports: if you would like a copy please call or email the church office.

Our Parking Lot between the church and parsonage is small. It can be difficult to back out of your space if you park straight in toward the church building and there is someone parked in the handicap spaces along the parsonage lawn. PLEASE be careful! Park at your own risk in those handicap spaces. We are working on alternatives and safer ways to park in that little lot. You are always welcome to park in the front horseshoe and along Fountain Road in the several spots there.

Greeters and Liturgists! Please consider being a Greeter or a Liturgist during Worship. Call the office or email to get your name added to our List. Thank you!

Approved Consistory Minutes can be found posted on the bulletin board at the side entrance to the Sanctuary for anyone wishing to take a look!!

Do you have **batteries** ready to throw away? Don't throw them away! **Bring them to the church to recycle!!** We are still collecting **all kinds of batteries to recycle** at Staples. To date we have raised over \$200 toward Staples purchases. There are small boxes at the front and ramp doors for your "contributions." Or you can put bags of batteries outside of Pastor Lori's office. Thanks! Keep them coming. You are an awesome support of this interesting way to recycle and get credit at Staples for future purchases.



Staples will accept the following kinds of batteries for recycling:

Batteries to recycle by bringing them to the boxes at church:

- Lithium ion (Li-Ion)
 - Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)
 - Nickel zinc (Ni-ZN)
 - Non-rechargeable lithium
 - Rechargeable nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)
 - Single-use alkaline
 - Small sealed lead acid (SSLA/Pb)
- They accept ink cartridges too!

Offering Box - A secure box is located in the rear of the sanctuary for you to deposit your offering **or** other important papers if you happen to be in the church when the office isn't open. It has been secured to the wall and is locked. It will be opened on a Sunday morning so the offerings in there can be combined with those in worship that day. Thanks for your continued support of our church.



Our Church is now 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.

There are two **Bulletin Magnifier Sheets** available for you to use in worship. They are the size of a full sheet of paper and can be found in the side pocket on the sound system. Pick one up and try it out, then return it to the sound system after worship.

Church Lost and Found Box – is located on top of the mailboxes next to Pastor’s Office. There is always something in it. Check it out and see if you lost anything! Or call the church office.

2026 Consistory Members & Committees They Represent

Co-Presidents of Consistory: Cheryl Martucci (610-967-3044) – Christian Ed/Music & Worship
Chris Schell (267-772-4437) - Cemetery

Secretary of Consistory: Sharon Trexler (484-357-4908) – Social and Aid, Sonshine Group

Diane Berger (484-547-5502) - Personnel

Robert Schmeltzle, Jr. (484-357-6144) – Outlook

Brenda Shoemaker (610-967-5450) – Property

Susan Hoch (610-751-0645) – Membership and Evangelism

Amber Kriebel (484-708-7608) – Scouts

Roger Miller (484-515-0891) – Outlook

Jack Yeakel (484-764-1342)

Tammy Walbert (610-390-1869 – Computer and Media

Church Treasurer: Robin Yoder (610-428-1884) – Finance, FUN Group,
Zionsville Area Food Pantry

Again **Wendy Yeakel** has done an outstanding job with our downstairs bulletin boards!
Please check them out next time you are at the Church. Thank you Wendy for sharing your talent!!





Offerings and Donations Received from January

General Use	\$9,290
Furnace	\$25
Christmas Offering	\$100
Flowers (including Poinsettias)	\$154
Benevolence	\$145
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$60
All Things Free	\$104.51
Cemetery	\$10
Utilities	\$60
Building Repair	\$40
Bulletins	\$20
Memorial	\$20
Key Deposit	\$20
General Expenses	\$14,553
includes gas	\$1,508
includes electric	\$273

Please remember there is a third box on your offering envelopes should you wish to give offering toward our Parking Lot Maintenance, Cemetery, Building Repairs or any Property Expenses. Just designate in what area the money should be placed. Thank you.

In order to be reimbursed, or to receive credit as a church donation, original receipts for labor and materials purchased on behalf of the church must be received in the office within 60 days of the date from purchase.

If you wish to sponsor Bulletins or Flowers, please call the church office, 610-966-3601 or email at ozuccoffice@ptd.net. Bulletins are \$10.00, Altar Flowers are \$40.00, our Seasonal silk arrangement is a donation of \$30.00 to our Mission Fund. If you are already signed up to sponsor Altar Flowers and would like us to use our silk arrangement, please let the office know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so Ellie can cancel our arrangement with Rich Mar Florist for that Sunday. Thank you!

Deadline for material to be included in our March Newsletter is February 17. Please place all info in the Secretary's mailbox or email to the office at ozuccoffice@ptd.net

Answers to Confirmation questions above:

6. Shepherd, The Vine, Friend, The Gate, Son of God, Emmanuel, Rabbi, Teacher - the list goes on and on.
8. Father, Son, Holy Spirit - the image is 3 interconnected/overlapping circles - in similar shape of a triangle with rounded edges
9. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy - bonus answer: The First 5 books of Moses or The Pentateuch or The Torah

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Sunday School 9:30am Usher Training 10:15am Worship with Holy Communion Installation of Consistory Immediately following Worship: Souper Bowl 12noon Confirmation Class – Souper Bowl to eat & clean up	2 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	3 7pm Cubs	4 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 1pm Chosen 5:30pm Supper Club, Limeport Inn	5 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9am Sunday School 9:45am 2 nd Sun. Treats 10:15am Worship – Baptism Boy Scout Sunday Soup & Sandwich Orders due	9 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	10 7pm Cubs 7pm FUN Group	11 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 1pm Chosen 7pm Finance	12 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9am Confirmation Class 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 12 noon Sunday Brunchers, Mercantile	16 10am ATF Sort & Store	17 7pm Consistory	18 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 1pm Chosen 7pm Ash Wednesday Svc at Zions Lutheran	19 3:30-5pm Soup & Sandwich Pickup 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Communion 1 st Sunday of Lent	23 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	24 7pm Cubs	25 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 1pm Chosen	26 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 12 noon Lunch Bunch, Superior	28



Faith Uniting Neighbors (aka FUN) Group

Jewelry Fundraiser

3/15/26 – 4/12/26

Time to clean out that old jewelry box or drawer!

DONATE your unwanted, used jewelry...

Men's, women's, gold, silver, new, old, estate, vintage, modern, fine, costume, watches, cufflinks, tie clips/tacks, class rings, service pins, bracelets, etc.

Even broken pieces, broken watches, tangled chains, & single earrings.

ALL items welcome! ANY condition!

PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY FOR YOUR DONATION.

If you want a receipt for tax purposes, include your name and address in/on the box or bag you donate.

Place your donations in a sealed plastic bag or small box and drop it in the designated locked container in the church Narthex.

Feel free to share with your family, friends and neighbors.

Proceeds will go out into the community as part of our end of year distributions.

Thank you for your support!

Old Zionsville UCC

P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

February Soup and Sandwich Sale

Ham and String Beans along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** will be offered to purchase in February by our Social and Aid Committee. Ham and string beans will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday during worship service; call or email the Church office (610-966-3601), ozuccoffice@ptd.net; or Annie Souder

to place your orders. Keep the bottom of this form for your records if you sell to others. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association.

Orders must be received by Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Pick up will be Thursday, February 19, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Total # of Ham & Cheese Sandwiches: _____
at \$5.00 each: \$ _____

Total # of Quarts of Ham and string beans: _____
at \$8.00 each: \$ _____

Total Amount Owed: \$ _____



Pick up Thursday, February 19, 2026, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Name	Phone	Soup	Sandwiches