

**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

February 22, 2026

10:15am

*\*those who are able may stand*

**First Sunday in Lent**

**“Led by the Spirit...Backed by the Word”**

Prelude: “Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?”

(Allen)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

**All: Come, beloveds, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.**

Leader: In the midst of our hunger for comfort,  
provoked by lies of scarcity,

**All: this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.**

Leader: In the midst of our longing for safety,  
enticed by promises of security,

**All: this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.**

Leader: In the midst of our clinging to power,  
lured by the ease of complicity,

**All: this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.**

Leader: The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

**All: Come, beloveds, to worship,  
venturing deeper and deeper into the wilderness  
of our broken and beautiful world.**

**Invocation (unison)**

**In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness,**

**lead us, Holy Spirit.**

**In the hungering and the holding and the humbling,  
accompany us, Holy Spirit.**

**In the tempting and the testing and the turning,  
move us, Holy Spirit.**

**In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing,  
guide us, Holy Spirit.**

**Ground in us, as we ground in you.**

**Breathe with us, as we breathe with you.**

**Turn with us, as we turn toward you.**

**As the new way emerges, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "Come thou Almighty King"**

page 8

### **Seeking Transformation and New Life (Call to Turning Around)**

Leader: Our worship today invites us to dwell with the story of Jesus' 40-day journey in the wilderness struggling with demons, one of the origin stories for the Christian season of Lent. In this story, the tempter or the devil uses scripture to try and provoke Jesus into going against his calling to embody radical love.

*Time of silent reflection* [As a way to embody this moment of reflection, you might invite people to hold a bible in their hands as they reflect and pray together, especially if there are pew bibles nearby and accessible].

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Leader: For the ways our faith has told  
unChristian stories of Christian nationalism,  
and the ways they shape us,

**All: God, have mercy.**

Leader: For the ways our scriptures have told  
unjust stories of white supremacy,  
and the ways we perpetuate them,

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: For the ways our traditions have told  
unloving stories of transphobia and stranger-fear,  
and the ways we have embodied them,

**All: God, have mercy.**

Leader: Compel us to learn and tell the truths of our Christian lineages.

**All: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace**

Leader: Let your soul receive this rest:

God's story of love surpasses even the most powerful human distortions.

**All: Praise God who forgives us and frees us  
continually inviting us to take up our role  
in the unfolding story of redemption and new life.**

**\*Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

page 244

Scripture: Matthew 4:1 - 11

page 837

## **Reflection**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Leader: The season of Lent invites us to take stock of and deepen our spiritual practices. How might God be inviting you to deepen your spiritual practice of generosity in this season? Let us offer whatever gifts we have to resist the tempter's lies of scarcity and turn toward abundant life and flourishing for all.

Offertory: "O Divine Redeemer"

(Gounod)

\*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)**

**Jesus resisted the tempter's lies of scarcity by remembering  
we do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
What are some of these nourishing words  
to which we can dedicate our offerings?  
To these sacred stories, this holy work, these blessed words, we  
dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

### **Service of Holy Communion**

(see communion Booklet, page 9)

\***Hymn: "Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days"**

See Insert

\***Benediction**

In the midst of our hunger for comfort,  
provoked by lies of scarcity,  
may this Lent journey bless us with bread and abundance.  
In the midst of our longing for safety,  
enticed by promises of security,  
may this Lent journey bless us with angels and costly solidarity.  
In the midst of our clinging to power,  
lured by the ease of complicity,  
may this Lent journey bless us with prayer and turning around. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "Canon in D"

(Pachelbel)



*Led by the Spirit...Backed by the Word: Service Prayers for the Lent 1A* was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

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

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Larry Stahler.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Gurgick in memory of Julia & William Yeakel.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Millie Kohler in honor of family and in memory of loved ones.

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.

**Church Closed?** 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.

**Greeters and Liturgists Needed.** If you would like to get on our schedule to help in our Worship Services by being a Greeter or Liturgist, please contact the church office. Email and phone number are on front page or put a note in the Secretary's mailbox. Thank you.

**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 puts 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

### **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 three of the upcoming classes and topics. All are welcome.

**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)

### **Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Today 2/22/2026**

When: Friday February 27, 2026, 12 Noon

Where: Superior Restaurant

102 Main Street, Emmaus

### **Supper Club – RSVP by Sunday 3/1/2026**

When: Wednesday March 4, 2026, 6:00 PM

Where: Morgans

3079 Willow St, Coplay (North Cedarcrest at corner of Willow St.)

### **Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 3/11/2026**

When: Sunday March 15, 2026, ~ 12 Noon

Where: Mercantile Club

Railroad St., Emmaus

CASH ONLY

### **Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 3/22/2026**

When: Friday March 27, 2026, 12 Noon

Where: Trivet Restaurant

4102 Chestnut St, Emmaus

**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 see 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.

**Corn Pies and Ham & Cheese Sandwiches** will be offered to purchase in March by our Social and Aid Committee. Corn Pies are \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Order forms may be found in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday during the worship service; call or email the Church Office (610-966-3601), [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net); or Annie Souder to place your orders. **Orders must be received by Sunday, March 8, 2026. The pick-up will be Thursday, March 19, between 3-5pm, in our downstairs Social Hall.**

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, February 23 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you can help or have any questions, please call or text Pastor Lori at 610-393-3522.

The next round of **GriefCare** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, June 3 and run until July 29. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

**2026 Easter Flower Orders** - To place your order for Lilies or Tulips please find the order forms in the Narthex. Drop the order form in the offering plate any Sunday or call / email the church office. Orders with payment must be received on or before Sunday March 15, 2026. Cost per 6" pot of Tulips or Lily is \$11.50. Please make any checks payable to "Old Zionsville UCC". *Thank you!*

**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. Flyer posted on bulletin boards for more information.

## **Holy Week Schedule:**

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7:00 p.m. Communion Worship

Good Friday, April 3 – 7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5 – 7:30 a.m. Communion Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for Children up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

**Prayer list:** Peter, Janet, Kay, Donna, Carrie, The Samuelson & Arner Families, Scott, Heil Family, Tenants in Heil Bungalow, Muth Family, Marge, Julie, Bogert Family, Kathy, Foster, Barbara, Mory Family, Larry, Ron B. Family, Larry & Audrey, Family of Dolores Trexler, Dick & Beth, Kenneth, Buster

**Military:** Drew Stahler Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser

## **Week of February 23 through March 1:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday, 10am-3pm.  
(other times by appointment)

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed 10am-2pm, &  
Thurs.11:30am-3:30pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Wednesday: 1pm Chosen (last week)

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir

Friday: 12 noon Lunch Bunch, Superior Restaurant

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

**Next Sunday, March 1** 9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship, No Communion  
12 noon – 2pm Confirmation Class  
Hygiene Collection for CWS

## Total Offerings from February 15, 2026:

General Offerings: \$2509.00

Missions: \$175.00

Flowers: \$40.00

Bulletin: \$20.00

Bldg. Repair: \$30.00

Parking Lot: \$20.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Lenten: \$100.00

Hygiene Project: \$20.00

Memorial: \$50.00

Attendance: 60

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CLAUDIA F. HERNAMAN, 1873

C. M.

ST. FLAVIAN  
Day's Psalter, 1562

*Rather slowly*

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us didst fast and pray,  
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,  
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas - sion - tide,  
4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con - quer sin.  
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last! A - MEN

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman (1873)

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN, Day's Psalter (1562)

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## **Insert for Sunday, March 1, 2026**

## **Second Sunday in Lent**

Additions – Using Bulletin from canceled Service of February 22

**Today's Liturgist** is Robin Yoder.

**Today's Greeter** is Millie Kohler.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Dreas in memory of our son, Todd M. Dreas with love from Mom & Dad, Jeff, Cheryl & family and Jan, Steve & family.

**Today's Chancel Flowers** are sponsored by Judy Hoch in memory of Colby Hoch.

**Today's Bulletins** are sponsored by the Lee Hoch family in memory Colby Hoch from Uncle Lee, Aunt Susie and cousins Lance and Sarah.

NO Communion today

Follow the screen to be sure to sing along with the extra responses today (all extra responses come from the Evangelical and Reformed church hymnal 1941)

Response after Scripture reading: (page 491 in old E&R hymnal): Gloria Patri

After Invitation to Generosity, we will sing: "We Give Thee but Thine Own": (page 506 in Old E&R hymnal) This is sung while the ushers are coming forward.

Instead of Holy Communion today, we will have the Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer spoken and seated.

At conclusion of The Lord's Prayer, we will sing the response: "Hear Our Prayer Oh Lord" (page 501 E&R Hymnal)

After the Benediction, we will sing the Three-Fold Amen.

Have a blessed week!

**All Things Free Room** (ATF) next Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, **March 2** at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. If you can help or have any questions, please call or text Pastor Lori at 610-393-3522.

The next **All Things Free 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. For further information, please contact Pastor Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522.

### **Week of March 2 through March 8**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday, 10am-3pm.  
(other times by appointment)

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed & Thurs 10am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure she is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store

6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Wednesday: 6pm Supper Club – Morgan’s

Thursday:

7:30pm Choir

**Saturday: Turn Your Clocks Forward for Daylight Savings Time!**

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

### **Next Sunday, March 8**

9:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Worship

Soup & Sandwich Orders Due Today

**Total Offerings from February 22, 2026:** No offering information due to snow closure on Feb. 22.

*In moderate time*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

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WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW, 1864

S. M.

ST. ANDREW  
JOSEPH BARNBY, 1860

We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. A-MEN.

Text: W. How  
Music: J. Barnby (St. Andrew)  
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## Prayer Responses

5 - 5 - 5 - 5

GEORGE WHELPTON, 1847-1930

*ff Devoutly*

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

Author: G. Whelpton  
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