



Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

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

www.oldzionsucc.org

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net



April 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 Info.

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...

The final part of the Goose Story continued from March 2026 Newsletter:

Geese
honk from behind to
encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally,
and this is important,
when a goose gets sick, or is
wounded by gunshots and falls out
of formation, two other geese fall out with that
goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.
They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until
it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation
to catch up with their group.

**IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE,
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER
LIKE THAT.**

(Reprinted from materials provided by Bonnie J. Collins, EdM, LCSW-R)

Peace, Lori Esslinger



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 6th Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

News from Choir...

Give Choir a try just for a few weeks! Join us on Thursdays at 7:30pm 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. You get off for the summer but worship continues.

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.



Egg Hunt! Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m. for all children up to 6th Grade. Lower Social Hall at 9:30 a.m. Bring your own bag or basket for hunting. Coins in every egg! Share the fun with your church friends.



Confirmation Class

50 Days of Easter Food Challenge

A People of the Table Mission Project for Keystone Conference's 1st Annual Meeting

The Challenge: Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between Easter (04/05/2026) and Pentecost (05/24/2026) and to report the quantities of their donations.

Each church will report its totals (by category) via a web link, and the Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Using categories such as canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, pasta and rice, toiletries, and more will provide an easy-to-visualize picture of the breadth of donations.

Having churches donate locally will allow you to serve the communities in which you live, work, and minister. We want to avoid hauling donations across the commonwealth to a single location when we know the need exists everywhere.

We are also asking delegates to bring a one-pound bag of rice or beans to the Annual Meeting as a representation of their local donation. These items will be donated to the Lancaster Food Hub.

Want to learn more about People of the Table? Check out the page on the Keystone Conference website by clicking [here](#).

Old Zionsville UCC will be participating in the above mission project. But we already do, you say? Yes, we do. But now, the **confirmation class** will count the items you bring in between Easter and Pentecost so we can make a tally and participate in the Keystone Conference Challenge! Have fun. Bring as much as you can and all kinds of things count. We thank you in advance as we celebrate the joy of sharing. Questions? Ask Lori Esslinger - 610-393-3522

News from Computer and Media Committee...

Worship Livestream

A reminder that our Sunday worship services are livestreamed each week on YouTube and Facebook and remain available afterward on YouTube. If you're traveling, under the weather, or unable to attend, you can still stay connected — and feel free to share the link with anyone who might appreciate worshipping with us.

Watch on [our YouTube channel](#) or visit [the "Past Worship Services" page on our website](#). Questions? Contact Beth Massa.

News from the Evangelism and Membership Committee...

Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 4/15/2026

When: Sunday April 19, 2026, ~ 12 Noon

Where: Mercantile Club

427 Railroad St., Emmaus

CASH ONLY



Lunch Bunch– RSVP by Sunday 4/19/2026

When: Friday April 24, 2026, 12 Noon

Where: Bally Family Diner

1605 PA-100, Barto (Main St., Bally)

New Member Classes will be happening soon. Want to learn more about our Church? Just join in the discussions on two Sunday mornings on either of two sets of dates: April 12 and 19 or May 17 and 24 at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the lower social hall. You are under no obligation to join, but if you wish to join the church, we will receive new members on the Second Sunday Class date in worship that week. **Please register in advance with Pastor Lori** by calling, emailing or texting her at least a week before the first session. Topics for discussion include: What IS the United Church of Christ? What IS Old Zionsville UCC? And How do we work together as a congregation? A tour of the Church building happens on the second class session of each pair of classes.

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 improving however we continue to spend more on retail purchases.

Any questions, call or text 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, 5901 Kings Highway South.

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...

All Things Free (ATF) Sort & Store will be held every Monday in April at 10am. 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.



Help is needed for our next Giveaway on Monday, May 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9 for set up. If you are able to help or have any questions, please contact Pastor Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

News from the FUN Group...

Faith Uniting Neighbors

Penny Party – May 2, 2026

Doors open: 4:45pm in the Lower-level social hall

Plan on eating supper here. There will be food available for purchase, including desserts.

Games Begin: 6pm

Bring your pennies (and other change) for bidding on items of your choice. The more you bid the greater your chances of winning! Tickets for bidding are \$2 for a box of 200.

The following help is needed:



- Donation of baked goods
- Individuals for various positions, including Cashier at Food Counter, Cashier at Coin Sale Table, Cashier at Bidding Numbers Table & 50/50 Drawing, Announcer, Runners, etc. Please let a member of FUN Group know if you can help
- Donation of non-perishable food (canned goods, boxed mixes, etc.) and paper products (tissues, toilet paper, etc.) for prizes. We have a sufficient number of other types of prizes.

CWS Hygiene Collection

On March 17, we packed 48 Hygiene Kits for CWS.

You can still help underwrite the cost of this project, if you are interested. You can give your donation to a member of FUN Group or put it 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.

News from Music and Worship Committee...

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 6th Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

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, April 12, 2026.

News from Social and Aid...

In March 2026, the profit from the Soup and Sandwich Sale was \$1541.48. 80% to the Church: \$1233.18 and 20% to the Cemetery: \$308.30.

April Soup and Sandwich Sale - Social and Aid Committee will be making **Beef Vegetable Soup** for the month of April to order along with their **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches**. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association. Order forms can be found at the Narthex and in this newsletter.



Orders must be received by Sunday, April 12. Pickup will be on Thursday, April 23 from 3:00-5:00pm, in our lower Social Hall.

News from Outlook Committee...

Sticky Bun Fundraiser - Our Outlook Committee is selling Sticky Buns as a fundraiser for Church repairs. The Sticky Buns are made by Shady Mountain Market and are approximately 8" round yielding 7 individual pieces. The Sticky Buns are \$8.00 each. Order forms may be found in this Newsletter, the bulletins, or on the table in the Narthex. Orders are due by Sunday, May 10 and Pick-up date is Thursday, May 21 from 3pm to 5pm in the lower Social Hall of the Church. Orders may be placed in the collection plate on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 610-966-3601 or by emailing the church at ozuccoffice@ptd.net.

News from the Cemetery Committee...

Old Zionsville UCC Cemetery Plants and Memorials

- No planting of trees, flowers, or shrubbery of any kind.
- Nothing may be placed in the cemetery that would impede the mowing through the rows of graves.
- Winter Arrangements must be removed by Palm Sunday.
- Summer Arrangements must be removed by November 14th.
- Trustees have the right to remove any decorations, wreaths, plants, etc. deemed objectionable or which become unsightly.
- Cemeteries closed: Dusk to Dawn.
- No Pets. Working service animals are allowed in accordance with all Federal and State laws.

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

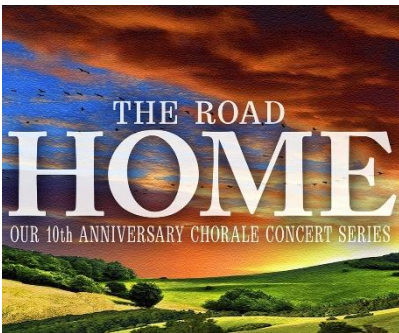
Anyone who would like to participate in **Old Zionsville UCC's Grief Care** sessions this summer is welcome to sign up and mark your calendars. (upon sign up, you will get a confirmation letter which will give you more details about the program.)

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.



Travel "The Road Home" with the Lehigh Valley Chorale

Join the Lehigh Valley Chorale on Saturday, May 9, for our spring concert series, The Road Home, celebrating 10 years of our group. These concerts are a celebration of where we came from, where we are, and where our incredible ensemble is going. Concerts will be held at Miller Symphony Hall in Allentown at 2:00 and 7:00 PM.

For this historic moment, we will be joined by the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, comprising nearly 40 skilled musicians. Works will include choral-orchestral pieces by George Frederic Handel,

Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn, Stephen Sondheim, and Christopher Tin. Selected additional composers include Stephen Paulus, Stacey Gibbs, Charles Albert Tindley, and the Chorale's first-ever commission by award-winning composer and conductor Dominick DiOrio.

Tickets are available through the Miller Symphony Hall box office:

<https://millersymphonyhall.org/event/lehigh-valley-chorale-presents-the-road-home/>.

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. **Specifically, we need a liturgist for Sunday, June 7, and greeters for the Sundays of June 14 and 21.** 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.



Offerings and Donations Received from March

General Use	\$17,512
Flowers	\$200
Benevolence	\$690
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$761
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$148
All Things Free	\$338
Cemetery	\$660
Utilities	\$30
Building Repair	\$690
Bulletins	\$90
General Expenses	\$14,588
includes gas	\$2,080
includes electric	\$292

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. There is a ½ sheet of green paper with room for you to explain your reimbursement request in the office on the shelf above Robin's In-box.

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 April Newsletter is
April 20. Please place all info in the Secretary's mailbox
or email to the office at ozuccoffice@ptd.net**

Hospitals do not notify churches when their members are admitted; please let us know should a loved one become hospitalized. Thank you

To add names to our Prayer List please call or email the church office.

A Note of Thanks

Dear friends,

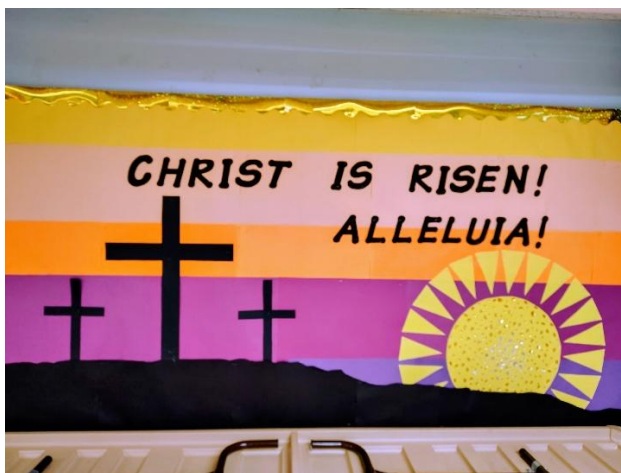
Thank you very much for the cards and prayers following the death of my Godson, Kris. Your warmth and kindness mean a lot to me.

Sincerely,

Angela Stahler

Check this out!

Take a look at the beautiful Bulletin board in the lower social hall by Wendy Yeakel.



Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 6pm Supper Club, Main St. Pub	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Communion Worship	3 Good Friday 7:00pm Worship	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter 7:30am Communion Worship 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Egg Hunt 10:15am Communion Worship	6 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	7 7pm Cubs	8 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	9 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 9am New Members Class 9am Sunday School 9:45am 2 nd Sunday Treats 10:15am Worship After Worship: C&M Committee Confirmation 'til 2pm Deadline for Soup & Sandwich Orders	13 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	14 Cubs 7pm 7pm FUN Group	15 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 7pm Finance	16 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9am New Members Class 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Receive New Members Loose offering goes to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund 12 noon Sunday Brunchers, Mercantile	20 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	21 7pm Consistory	22 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm 7pm Cemetery	23 Soup & Sandwich Pickup 3-5pm 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 12 noon Lunch Bunch, Bally Family Diner	25
26 9am Confirmation Class 9am Sunday School 10:15pm Worship	27 10am ATF Sort & Store 6pm Scouts	28 7pm Cubs	29 Pastor Lori Office Hours 10am-3pm	30 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

Hosanna in the Highest!

Old Zionsville UCC Joy at the Table on Palm Sunday





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

April is Beef Vegetable Soup and Sandwich Sale Time

Beef Vegetable Soup and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in April by our Social and Aid Committee. Beef vegetable soup is \$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, April 12, 2026.

The pick-up will be Thursday, April 23, 2026, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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

Total # Quarts of Beef Vegetable Soup
at \$8.00 each: \$ _____

Total Amount Owed: \$ _____



Pick up Thursday, April 23, 2026, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Name	Phone	Soup	Sandwiches



**Old Zionsville
United Church of Christ
5981 Fountain Road, PO Box 215
Old Zionsville PA 18068-0215
610-966-3601**

**PENNY PARTY
MAY 2, 2026**

Please join the **FUN Group** at our Penny Party.

Where: Lower-level social hall

4:45 pm – Doors open

5:00 pm – Light Supper for purchase, including desserts

6:00 pm – Games Begin

Bring your pennies (and other change) for bidding on items of your choice.

Cost: 200 tickets/box for bidding: \$2.00

Parking: Free

Old Zionsville United Church of Christ

STICKY BUN FUNDRAISER

Our Outlook Committee is selling Sticky Buns as a fundraiser for Church repairs. The Sticky Buns are made by Shady Mountain Market and are approximately 8" round yielding 7 individual pieces. The Sticky Buns are \$8.00 each. Orders are due by Sunday, May 10 and Pick-up date is Thursday, May 21 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lower Social Hall of the Church. Orders may be placed in the collection plate on Sunday Mornings or by calling the Church office at 610-966-3601 or email the Church at ozuccoffice@ptd.net.

Plain _____

Nut _____

Raisin _____

Nut and Raisin _____

Total Number of Sticky Buns: _____

TOTAL OWED AT \$8.00 A PIECE: \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____