

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

April 2, 2026

7:00 p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Maundy Thursday
"An Example"

Prelude: "Cleansing Fountain"

Mansfield

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: That night, they sat with each other at table
the fearful, the quiet, the brave

Left side: the hurting, the hurt, the heart

Right side: the complicit, the resistant, the curious

Leader: knowing that the bombs and cages and crosses just outside the door

All: took up space in their own tender hearts of flesh

Leader: And Jesus rose from among them

and his knees said, this is what power looks like

Left side: and the water said, this is what life streams like

Right side: and his hands said, this is what a new world dreams like

Left side: and the towel said, this is what freedom cares like

Right side: and their feet said, this is what courage moves like

Leader: And they did not understand

but they did

All: And nothing changed

but everything did

Leader: This night, we sit with each other at table
wondering what all this means for our own lives

**All: an example laid before us as a new commandment
and our washed feet the story we will tell.**

Invocation (unison)

**In this place, in this moment
let there be love here
love that knows how to reach all the way to the end
love that kneels and serves
love that wraps its arms around betrayer and protector alike
love that sets an example and a path to follow.
In this place, in this moment
let there be love here
so that we remember and know who we are. Amen.**

***Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This"** (verses 1 & 2 only)

page 314

Seeking Transformation and New Life

Call to Transformation

"You will never wash my feet."

That's what Peter said when Jesus reached him with a basin and towel.
Not because he was ignorant or obstinate or disrespectful.
It was because he couldn't let go of the hierarchies that lived in his body.
It wasn't appropriate. It wasn't proper. It wasn't right.
But Jesus said, "show up to the relationship, Peter, not what you think is
right:

this, here, is an example."

I wonder how many times in the last week or month or year we have
thought,
that's not appropriate,
they're not doing it right,
unable to release our own sense of respectability and decorum,
the hierarchies that live in our own bodies.

Where have we encountered Jesus' example and said,
"You will never wash my feet."

Let us open our hearts to vulnerability and transformation as we pray.

Time of Silent Reflection

Prayer for New Life

Leader: When we are so sure we are right
that it keeps us from loving,

All: wash our feet, God.

Leader: When we insist on being the savior
instead of showing up in solidarity,

All: wash our feet, God.

Leader: When the hierarchies in our bones
thwart our practices of mutuality,

All: wash our feet, God. Amen.

Words of Grace

Leader: Love.

Love is the path and the direction.

Love is the water and the feet.

Love is the forgiveness and the chance to try again.

Love is the example and the pattern.

Love.

All: Praise God who loves us to the end.

***Hymn: "Why Should He Love Me So?"** (verse #1 only)

page 325

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

page 937-938

Reflection

Video from the Chosen

Invitation to Generosity

When we gather together in worship as a community, we don't just take an offering because we or others in our community need money and other resources. We also do it as a practice, a way of following Jesus' example into mutual relationships that reveal God's loving ways in the world. So let us give our offerings now as a sign of our ongoing striving to be a part of the ways of love.

Offertory: "In the Shadow of the Cross"

Glyncannon

***Presentation of our Offerings 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)**

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, may these offerings be gestures of tender fierceness, of vulnerable intimacy, of table-turning love, of power upending service in a world that craves domination and privilege. Through them, may we wash the feet of those who most need to know that they are loved beyond measure. Amen.

***Hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"** (verse 1 only)

page 320

Service of Holy Communion

***The Lord's Prayer** (sung, standing)

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

Almighty God, we thank You for your great mercy given to us in this Sacrament, whereby we are made partakers of Christ and all his benefits. So enrich us by the Holy Spirit that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal body and all our days may be spent in your Love and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

Benediction

Beloveds, go forth from this place
listening for what your washed feet will tell you
about us and them
about fascism and crucifixions
and how acts of tender care in the midst of it all
are our calling, our resistance, our path of freedom.
May your feet
become the story you tell
and your following
become an example of the love
so revolutionary that it dies
and becomes a new day rising.

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "Solemn March"

Beethoven



"An Example": Service Prayers for Maundy Thursday 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, disability and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Wendy Yeakel.

TODAY'S GREETER is Ethel Hollenbach.

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.

Holy Week Schedule:

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

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)

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.

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.

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. 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 worship service; call or email the Church office (610-966-3601), ozuccoffice@ptd.net; or call Annie Souder to place your orders. 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 3:00-5:00pm.

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 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.

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.

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.

Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 4/15/2026

Sunday April 19, 2026, ~ 12 Noon
Mercantile Club
427 Railroad St., Emmaus
CASH ONLY

Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 4/19/2026

Friday April 24, 2026, 12 Noon
Bally Family Diner
1605 PA-100, Barto (Main St., Bally)