

**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

April 5, 2026

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Resurrection Sunday**  
**"They Left the Tomb"**

Prelude: "Morning in the Garden"

Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 118)

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One: God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory!  
Exalt God's holy name!

**Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

**Invocation** (unison)

**Holy One, just as they came to the tomb to honor you on that early Easter morning, we gather to praise you this day. May our alleluias resound in adoration and shared joy that you are risen and we share in the promise of new life. May we encounter your glory in this assembled community as we follow you from the empty tomb into the possibilities that await. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"**

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**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end.

**All: May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Jesus, you have demonstrated the path of your kingdom, keep us on the road of abundant and transformed life as revived and encouraged participants in your resurrected and glorified body. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace**

Beloved, Jesus is risen. The Holy One is yet alive, and therefore, doing a new thing. Receive the grace of God that requires no resurrection to rise to meet us in our weakness. Embrace the grace of God to move forward boldly in new life. Hold fast to the grace of God to guide you in living the resurrected life.

**\*Hymn: "Because He Lives"**

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Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

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Reflection

### **Invitation to the Resurrected Life**

Early that morning, as the women went to the tomb, they expected to anoint the remains of Jesus. Instead, they received a message from heaven that filled them with both fear and joy. The resurrected life inspires both—fear for the responsibility of carrying the good news and joy for the manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth. As Christ followers, we receive the invitation to live the resurrected life. Let us encourage one another on this journey with divinely-inspired words of affirmation.

### **Affirmations of the Resurrected Life**

### **Thanksgiving for the Resurrected Life**

Holy One, giver of life and new life, restorer and repairer of brokenness, redeemer and sustainer of our souls, we give thanks that, in you, an end becomes a beginning, destruction may lead to renewal, death may seed new life. We thank you that the tomb that contained Jesus body at rest was too small to contain his life. We too leave the tomb, renewed and encouraged that, despite the concerns and uncertainties of our times, that the power of resurrection courses through our spiritual veins. May your glory radiate as we embrace and live the resurrected life. In thanksgiving, hope, and trust, we pray. Amen.

## Invitation to Generosity

Alexander Carmichael said, "The people say that the sun dances on this day in joy for a risen Saviour." Whether clouds obscure the view, the sun takes the gifts it has been given to glorify God. Let us also take the gifts we have been given and use them to bring glory to the Holy One through the generosity of the resurrected life that proclaims that nothing is impossible for God.

Offertory: "Thine is the Glory"

Handel

### \*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 Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

**Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for your generosity. Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community and to witness to your goodness. We dedicate them to the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.**

Choir Anthems

## Holy Communion

### *Invitation*

One: On the night of betrayal, denial, and desertion, Jesus prepared his disciples for life beyond the tomb. He demonstrated with wine and bread what he would later perform in his flesh and blood.

**Many: Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice.**

One; Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table.  
Will you come?

**Many: In awe and wonder, humility and thanksgiving, we come to the table to feast with the Risen One.**

### *Words of Institution*

### \*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**

Sharing in the Gift of Holy Communion

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray.

\*Hymn: "He Lives!"

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## \*Benediction

May the tomb be just a stop  
Reminding us that God's reign knows no bounds  
The realm of God's possible knows no limits  
God's presence always remains  
God's protection endures  
God's glory radiates the day and the night  
And the power of Christ lives in us.  
May we go forth from the tomb  
Renewed and rededicated to witness to this good news  
To live the resurrected life in spirit and in truth  
And to be the good news in the world God loves.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "Triumphal March"

Broughton

**We wish all of our church members and friends a blessed Easter  
and may God be with you always.**



*They Left The Tomb: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday Year A* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Millie Kohler.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Members of the Consistory.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Mr. & Mrs. James Mittl to the Glory of God in memory of Julia & William Yeaker.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hoch 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.

**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!

**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 ATF 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.

**Jewelry Fundraiser (3/15/26-4/12/26)** - There is 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](mailto: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](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net).

**Confirmation Class Dates:** (Classes are on Sundays)

April 12: class after worship until 2 p.m. We are making tacos for lunch.

April 26: class at 9 a.m.

May 10: class at 9 a.m.

May 31: class from 12 - 2 after worship.

June 21: class Noon to 2 p.m. after worship

**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)

**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. **Old Zionsville UCC will be participating in this 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

### **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.

## **Week of April 6 through April 12:**

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

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed 9:00am-1pm &  
Thurs 10:00am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Wednesday: 7pm Finance Committee

Thursday: 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

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

## **Next Sunday, April 12**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Treats

10:15 a.m. Worship

After Worship: C&M Committee, Confirmation Class 'til 2 p.m.

**Soup and Sandwich orders Due**

## **Total Offerings from March 29, 2026:**

General Offerings: \$2093.00

Missions: \$120.00

Bulletin: \$10.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$20.00

Bldg. Repair: \$35.00

Sunday School: \$11.00

OGHS: \$75.00

Cemetery: \$40.00

Communion: \$5.00

Attendance: 65