

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 5, 2026

7:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Service

Prelude: "Morning in the Garden"

Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Hope is alive!

All: Hope is alive, indeed!

One: God's love is eternal!

All: Hallelujah!

Let us give thanks for what God has done.

Invocation

God of grace and power,
we come rejoicing in Christ's empty tomb.

We come trusting in the good news
that tells us Christ is with us.

For the Risen Christ is living proof
that You care about our lives, O God.

The Risen Christ offers to us glimpses of hope,
even in our tears.

As the tomb is not quiet.

It speaks. It proclaims!

It is a promise of eternal life!

All: Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.

***Hymn: "Christ Arose"**

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Prayer of Confession

One: God of resurrection grace,
Help us in our pain, despair and fear
so that we are not prone to follow
the path of hopelessness.

Help us, to instead, be like the Risen Christ,
and rise up, as a brave and holy people,
living beyond our pain, despair and fear
by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love.

All: Help us, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God hears our prayers of grace and mercy,
and raises our countenance from despair,
into resurrection joy!

God meets us in our human suffering,
comforts us in our tears,
and offers to us new hope,

All: Hallelujah!

***Hymn: "Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

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Scripture Reading: John 20:1 - 18

page 944-945

Reflection

Invitation to Offering

On this day, we remember that Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb
with the intent to anoint the crucified body of Jesus;
and astonished, she finds an empty tomb where Jesus once laid.
Now what?

God's angels and the Risen Christ meet Mary Magdalene in her sorrow,
and speak hope into her heart.

For the Resurrection narrative reveals that love is alive and moves
among us!

The Risen Christ helps us to remember that despair is not the end of
our journey.

The Risen Christ also speaks of God's ever-present love,

and gives the church resurrection hope.

In that, as an Easter people, we manifest God's never-ending love in the world

by the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources.

For it is with Christ's limitless and restorative love,

that we humbly and graciously offer back to God a portion of what God has given us.

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.

***Dedication of our Gifts: (unison)**

God of love,

**We offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts
as a sign of our love for you and the world.**

We ask a special blessing on these gifts

**where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up,
so that all may come to know of your abiding love.**

O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthems

Holy Communion

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One:

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit;

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love:

We praise you for Jesus Christ,

who reminds us that even in fear-filled days,

cloaked with the powers of death,

your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.

For we rejoice with all your people

and with the angels,

because life is stronger than death!

As we proclaim the glory of your name:

**All: Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,
whose mercy gathers us together in community,
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.**

Story of the Meal

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises,
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said,
and what he did; for our benefit.

On the night before Jesus died,
He took a loaf of bread,
Gave thanks, broke it, and said,
"Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this, in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,
"This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me."

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**All: We remember Christ's life of love, and friendship, and teaching,
We remember Christ's dying, and rising to life again.**

Prayer to the Spirit

Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.

These simple elements are shared in community,
so that we may taste and see your goodness
and become one body in Christ.

**All: For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
that all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forevermore. Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer (sung and 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

Distribution: Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

One: The body of Christ,

All: the bread of life.

One: The lifeblood of Christ,

All: the cup of blessing.

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.

Fed by your love,

and strengthened by your life;

we humbly accept your call to go

into this world to live with hope,

and to share your joy.

You commission us to

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

and love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign"**

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***Benediction**

May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.

May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled.

And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.

For Christ is risen! Praise God!

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Triumphal March"

Broughton

We welcome all who are visiting today. May God Bless you in this time of worship. Please join us again on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. until the beginning July when our worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us in the lower social hall after this service for some refreshments. Our Easter Egg Hunt happens there at 9:30 a.m. You are welcome to stay and enjoy the festivities.

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*To Give Thanks for What God has Done, Service prayers with Communion for Easter Sunday*, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Les Schoenberger.

**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 Yeakel.

**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.

**Egg Hunt!** Egg Hunt **TODAY**, at 9:30 a.m. for all children up to 6th Grade. Lower Social Hall. Coins in every egg! Share the fun with your church friends.

**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

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

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

**Next Sunday, April 12**

9:00 a.m. New Members Class

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

Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

*Happy*

EASTER

