

Zwingli

United Church of Christ

APRIL

2026

ZWINGLI HILL NEWS
APRIL 2026
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A Letter From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Zwingli United Church of Christ,

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

We shout it every Palm Sunday—but it might not mean what we think it means.

As I write this, we are preparing to enter Holy Week. It begins with that familiar scene: Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, people spreading palm branches and cloaks on the road—a kind of royal welcome. And as he enters, the crowd cries out, “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!”

We often hear this as a shout of praise—and in part, it is. But more deeply, it is a cry of desperation.

The Hebrew word behind “Hosanna” is *hoshi'ah na*—which means, quite simply, “Save us. Please.” This is not just celebration; it is longing. It is protest. It is a people under occupation crying out for deliverance.

Because this parade does not happen in a vacuum. It unfolds in a city controlled by the Roman Empire. And what Jesus is doing is not just a spiritual procession—it is a public, embodied counter-witness. While imperial power parades through one gate, Jesus enters through another, not on a war horse, but on a donkey. Not with soldiers, but with ordinary people. Not with domination, but with humility and hope.

And that raises a question for me—maybe for you, too:

If I had been there, would I have been willing to be seen with Jesus?

In my own life, am I willing to be seen standing alongside those who are crying out for help? Am I willing to join in the risky, visible work of love and justice?

Church, are we willing to stand for what Jesus stands for? Are we willing to say no to oppression and injustice—even when it costs us something? Because that is the path Jesus walks. And it leads, as we know, not only through parades, but through betrayal, arrest, and the cross.

So, we have to ask ourselves: when push comes to shove—when the palms are gone and the powers push back—will we still be there? Or will we, like the disciples, shrink away?

And yet—this is not the end of the story.

The good news is that no matter how we answer, Jesus still saves.

We are given another chance, and another, and another—to stand with Christ. To align ourselves with love. To show up for those on the margins. To live as his hands and feet in the world.

We still get to cry out, “Hosanna! Lord, save us!”
And Jesus still answers.

The question is: will we join him in that saving work? Will we help answer that prayer—by resisting injustice, seeking mercy, and loving our neighbors with courage and compassion?

May it be so.
Amen, and Amen.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2

Zwingli UCC

7 pm

Hand Washing/Communion

Good Friday

Friday, April 3

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

7 pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5

Zwingli UCC

6:30 am – Sunrise Service

7:15 am - Breakfast

9:00 am – Easter Service

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be Celebrated at Both Services

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

Please join the Shepherds after the Easter worship service for a delicious breakfast. We will begin serving at 7:15am in the FLC. There is a sign-up sheet on the Shepherds bulletin board to let us know how many will be joining us. If you would like, you may also sign up to bring either a breakfast casserole or breakfast cake. If you cannot attend church but want to come to breakfast, call Carol at 484-213-6372. Hope to see many of you there supporting the youth who are in charge of this worship service. The Shepherds' Ministry



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS NEEDED.

If you are interested in teaching or being a helper for Sunday School, Please sign up on the table or on the signup genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FADAA2BAAFE3-57802864-zwingli>



ADULT ELECTIVES

April 5

No Class Today – Happy Easter!

April 12

Christian Nationalism in 2026

Join Rev. Dr. Claude & Donna Dencler for a conversation about white Christian Nationalism in 2026. We will consider these questions:

- What is it and why are we hearing about it so much these days?
- What's Christian about Christian nationalism?
- What's an alternative vision of Christianity in our society?

April 19

Grass Roots Experiences on Climate Action

In 2025 Nevaeh Tice traveled to Brazil for the COP30 UN Climate Conference and Missy Rogers participated in the Citizen's Climate Lobby Day in Washington DC. Come to hear from these two Zwingli members about their experiences on climate action.

April 26

Adult Bible Study

Led by Charlotte Kramer

May 3

Adult Bible Study

Led by Jonathan Widgins

WELCOMING OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

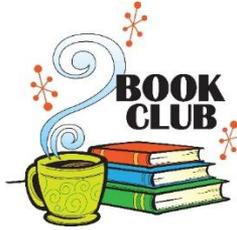
We are pleased to share that Rev. Joslin Love Kearse has accepted the call to serve as Interim Senior Pastor at Zwingli UCC, beginning May 4.

Rev. Joslin comes to us with a deep commitment to pastoral leadership, spiritual care, and guiding congregations through times of transition. The Transition Team and church leadership are grateful for the prayerful conversations that led to this decision and look forward to the gifts and experience Rev. Joslin will bring to our church family.

Please join us in praying for Rev. Joslin as they prepare to begin their ministry with us, and for our congregation as we enter this new season together.

More information about Rev. Joslin and opportunities to welcome them will be shared in the coming weeks.

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Joslin Love Kearse to Zwingli on May 4!



THE CIRCLE OF SISTERS BOOK CLUB!

This Changes Everything

by Tyler Merritt

Wednesday, April 29

7pm

This national bestseller is about a cancer diagnosis that caused Tyler Merritt – beloved author of *I Take My Coffee Black* – to realize that there was no time for anger, unforgiveness, foolishness, or lost friendships. None of us has any time to waste.



**Healthy Moment
Restless Legs Syndrome
By Kristie Lowery
Congregational Faith Nurse**

“He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.” Psalm 121:3

Restless legs syndrome (RLS) is a condition that causes a very strong urge to move the legs. The urge to move is usually caused by an uncomfortable feeling in the legs. It typically happens in the

evening or at night when sitting or lying down. People with RLS have an urge to move their legs when trying to rest and attempt to sleep, along with an uncomfortable sensation in their legs. The sensation may feel like aching, throbbing, pulling, itching, crawling or creeping. It is usually felt inside the legs but can also occur inside the arms. There is nothing visible to be seen on the skin. Common characteristics include sensations that occur when the individual is inactive and sitting for extended periods (i.e. watching a movie). People with RLS may need to keep their legs in motion to minimize or prevent the sensations. Movement helps to lessen the sensations, such as stretching, jiggling the legs, pacing or walking. They may find it necessary to pace the floor or constantly move their legs while sitting. People with RLS may have difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep. In most cases the cause of RLS is unknown. Researchers suspect the condition may be caused by an imbalance of the brain chemical dopamine. Dopamine sends messages to control muscle movement.

Restless Leg Syndrome can develop at any age but is more common with increasing age. It is also more common in women than in men. It is usually not related to a serious underlying medical condition. But it can occur with other conditions including peripheral neuropathy, iron deficiency, kidney failure, spinal cord conditions or Parkinson's disease.

There is no diagnostic test for RLS. A healthcare provider can review symptoms, medical history, medications, and family history. Physical and neurological exams can be performed. Blood tests may help to rule out other conditions that can cause RLS symptoms.

There is no cure for RLS but treatment can help manage the symptoms. Lifestyle changes and activities may provide some relief. These include avoiding or decreasing the use of alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine, maintaining a regular sleep schedule, exercise moderately and consistently, as well as a massage of the legs or taking a warm bath

The sensations that occur with RLS can be hard to explain. People with RLS do not describe the condition as a muscle cramp or numbness but rather as the desire to move the legs. If you have symptoms of restless legs, review it with your physician before it becomes problematic with your sleep and affects your quality of life.

References:

1. *Restless Legs Syndrome*. Mayo Clinic Disease & Conditions. February 25, 2025. Mayo Clinic.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/restless-legs-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20377168>.

Restless Legs Syndrome. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Last reviewed April 7, 2025.

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/restless>



MUSICANS WANTED

We are seeking volunteers to share their musical talents during our worship services - specifically the Offertory. If you play an instrument or love to sing, and are willing to contribute to our worship experience, please sign up here or speak to Steve Emery. Your musical gifts would be a wonderful addition to our services! Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F49AFA62CA02-57181901-summer>

FROM THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDS

We are grateful for your continued generosity and faithful support of our ministry. Your gifts make a meaningful difference in sustaining our church and its mission. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might give. Please see below for the various methods that can be used for offerings:

- Place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or mail it to the office.
- Electronic funds transfer to move your offerings from your bank account to Zwingli on a regularly scheduled basis (forms available in the atrium).
- Or, use your smart phone's camera or a QR scanning app to scan the QR code below. It will take you to Zwingli's secure, online giving page where a one-time donation can be made or a recurring offering right from your seat with a credit card.



Any questions? Please see one of the members of the Ministry of Stewards: Jess Jalboot, Lois Johnston, Bradd Klausfelder, or Sue Wack.



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

This year's Lenten Project will be to support Mitzvah Circle in Lansdale. Mitzvah meets people in crisis with practical support and with the respect everyone deserves. They provide ongoing assistance, referrals, coaching, and support by individually assessing and building personal relationships. This is accomplished by removing barriers, eliminating bureaucracy, and inviting people in crises by contacting them directly. In 2024, they served more than 500,000 people with the help of 3,620 volunteers, 13 full-time staff, and 345 community partners

After learning what people need to move forward, Mitzvah Circle chooses from over 100 different items to prepare care packages containing clothing, shoes, diapers, period supplies, books, household goods, toiletries, and more. Every package is hand-picked by volunteers to match the family's specific needs.

Please consider supporting this local worthwhile program either financially or by donating items. Pick up a Lenten offering envelope at church or send your donation making sure to specify that it's for the Lenten project. If donating items, immediate needs include diapers, baby wipes, period supplies, toiletries, and new linens, towels, or kitchen basics. A table for the items will be available in the Atrium.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

If you want to be part of the Prayer Circle, please let the church office know, and we will send you the link. We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Butch and Pastor Alan *each Wednesday of the month from 12:00 to 12:30.* We feel that heartfelt communal prayer is especially needed consistently as we continue to deal with individual, family, and church concerns, as well as other societal issues and direction.

SGS MEMBERS

April 2 is our regular meeting day. Something different, we will be delivering a small plant along with a small organza bag of Easter candy to our members who may not be able to attend church in person. Please plan to attend for this important time. **DON'T FORGET TO PACK YOUR LUNCH.** See you on the 2nd at noon. We probably need only 4 bags of candy. I will pick them up.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
Questions? See Carol or Pam.



Spring Clean-Up
Saturday, April 18
9 a.m. – Noon

Please help Zwingli UCC with Spring Clean-Up!

Bring your favorite garden rake, gloves or shovel!
There are a lot of sticks to pick up!

Refreshments Provided

(Rain Date: April 25)



👩‍👩‍👧 CIRCLE OF SISTERS: “PAINTING WITH A SIS”

Join us Saturday, May 2nd at 2 PM in the Family Life Center for a fun afternoon of painting and fellowship! We’ll create a simple step-by-step painting, so no experience is needed. Enjoy wine and cheese while we paint. You’re welcome to bring a bottle of wine or a favorite cheese to share. Sign up on the Shepherds Board. A small fee for supplies may apply.



PAPER RETRIEVER CONTAINER

Unfortunately, the paper recycling company has discontinued servicing our area. The company said that it was far and they only had one driver. Thank you to all those who participated in this program and helped our environment.

Souderton-Telford
Historical Society
presents



A Self-Guided Tour of
community treasures
May 16, 2026

To order tickets, please scan this QR code:



Ordering

For more details, please click on the following link:

<file:///C:/Users/Lisa%20&%20Tom/Downloads/2026-01%20JAN-FEB%20FINAL.pdf>

Save the date: May 16, 2026. The Souderton - Telford Historical Society is sponsoring an event "Art in Sacred Places" from Noon to 5 PM. Our church is part of the event. Tickets for adults are \$12 each until March 31 and \$15 each after that. Children under 12 are free. There are six local churches participating on this self guided tour. Ticketers are available on the Souderton - Telford Historical website or at Zwingli. Don't miss out.



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU – KEEP US IN THE LOOP

If you are a loved one is admitted to a hospital, rehabilitation center, or any healthcare facility, we kindly ask that you reach out directly to the church office or one of our pastors. Let us know if you'd welcome a pastoral visit or prayer support. We deeply value the opportunity to walk alongside you during times of healing and uncertainty. Calling the church office is the surest way for us to stay connected and offer the care and comfort your deserve.



STAY INFORMED

If you want to stay current on what Zwingli Ministries and Council are doing, pick up a Pre-Council Report from the vestibule or contact Lisa in the office for an electronic copy. See the engaging ideas that your leaders are sharing!



HELP OUR GENERAL FUND

Purchase a grocery store gift card from Zwingli Church, and 5% of your purchase goes to Zwingli's General Fund. On Sunday mornings or through the church office during the week, you can purchase a \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift card to Giant Stores or Landis Supermarket for grocery shopping. This fundraiser supports the ministry of Zwingli UCC.

Thank you for your participation in this program!



2026 FLOWER, BULLETIN AND POSTAGE SPONSORSHIPS

Would you like to sponsor the flowers on the chancel one Sunday morning or the printing of the bulletin or help us with our card ministry?

Chancel flowers are \$50.

Bulletins are \$15.

Postage Donation of \$30 or drop off a sheet of first class stamps

Please pick up a form from the bulletin board next to the office to sponsor the above. Once completed, attach a check and drop it off in the office. You can also mail it in or put it in the offering plate. Our mailing address is 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964. We appreciate your support.

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

April 5	The Chalmers Family Lois and Lee Hunsicker
April 12	The Burns Family Gene Mattes
April 19	Joanne and LaMar Kratz Jonathan Kratz, Jim See
April 26	Maureen Hartman, Liz Bibic Tom and Toni Kramlik
May 3	Susie and Dale Woodland Dave and Carol Reiff
May 10	Marissa Tice & Family Kristie Lowery, Mark Comden
May 17	Jen Smeed, Miles Smeed Pam and Pete Myers

LAY READER

April 5	Lee Hunsicker
April 12	Julie Neff
April 19	Jim See
April 26	Ed Bibic
May 3	Julie Neff

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

April 5	Laurie Reynolds
April 12	Jen Smeed
April 19	Jason Burns
April 26	Erin Chalmers
May 3	Laurie Reynolds

REFRESHMENTS

April 5	Myra See, Sue Rauch
April 12	Missy Rogers, Beth Swartz
April 19	Carol Reiff, Nancy Hafler
April 26	Ministry of Educators

ACOLYTE

April 2	TBD – Maundy Thursday
April 5	Harrison Neff – Happy Easter!
April 12	Callie Leake
April 19	Caleb Jalboot
April 26	Evan Chalmers
May 3	Alex Vogt
May 10	Adrien Tice
May 17	Caleb Jalboot

GIFT CARD SALES

April 5	No Sales – Happy Easter!
April 12	Lisa Cinciripini
April 19	Maureen Hartman
April 26	Pam Myers
May 3	Carol Wenger
May 10	Betsy Villareal
May 17	Lisa Cinciripini

MONEY COUNTERS

April 5	Ministry of Stewards
April 12	Ed and Liz Bibic
April 19	Kristie Lowery, Marian Eide
April 26	Mike and Jess Jalboot
May 3	Charlotte Kramer, Carol Reiff
May 10	Erin Chalmers, Carol Wenger
May 17	Sue Wack, Bradd Klausfelder

NURSERY COVERAGE

April 5	Kathy Pendleton, Julie Neff
April 12	Jen Smeed, Monica Jalboot
April 19	Becky Klausfelder, Kristie Lowery
April 26	Joanne Kramlik, Pam Myers

May 3 Chelsea and Dean Winkler
May 10 Nancy Hafler, Beth Burns
May 17 Erin Chalmers, Missy Rogers

TRUSTEE ON DUTY

April 5 Rich Hartman
April 12 Rich Hartman
April 19 Tom Cinciripini
April 26 Butch Hafler
May 3 Tom Cinciripini
May 10 Rich Hartman
May 17 tbd

FACEBOOK

April 5 Lisa Cinciripini
April 12 Tony Villareal
April 19 Flo Rutherford
April 26 Flo Rutherford
May 3 Sue Wack
May 10 Erin Chalmers
May 17 Dale Woodland

SOUND SYSTEM

April 5 Tbd – Sunrise
Tbd – 9am
April 12 Miles Smeed
April 19 Mark Comden
April 26 Diane Chinault
May 3 Rick Rogers
May 10 Miles Smeed
May 17 Mark Comden

***PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot participate on your scheduled Sunday, please call one of the other individuals on the list and arrange to switch dates.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAILING
ARTICLES FOR THE MAY 2026 MAILING IS
MONDAY, APRIL 20 !**

Bible Quiz



According to Matthew’s account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

Zwingli UCC Staff

Alan Miles, M.Div..... Acting Senior Pastor
 Steve Emery.....Director of Music/Organist
 Lisa Cinciripini..... Office Administrator
 Kristie Lowery.....Office Assistant

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Office Hours

M- TH: 8:30-4:30, F: 8:30-3:30 Closed Daily 12-1

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At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges.

We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family, including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. Our commitment is that all members feel and be safe as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community, and daily lives.

9-12-21

PUZZLE



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4"

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."