

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

(*)Please stand either in body or in spirit

December 28, 2025

Gathering Music:

Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements:

Liturgist: Scott Heller

(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

Prelude:

*(Please take a moment and quiet your minds and open your hearts
as we enter this time of worship.)*

*Call to Worship: (From Psalm 148)

Liturgist

Let all of Creation

praise God.

Let the mountains and all hills, fruit trees, and all cedars

praise God.

Let the wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds

praise God.

Let all Kings, Queens, and Rulers, Prime Ministers, Presidents and
Governors

praise God.

Let people of every age and every status

praise God.

Let all the heavens, sun and moon, shining stars, and sparkling seas

praise God.

* Opening songs:

Invocation:

Liturgist

Holy Love, we delight in your presence among us. We anticipate

your wisdom, assurance, and challenge. Soften our hearts, enliven our spirits, and expand our minds so that we may reflect your heart, spirit, and mind. Through our remembering, give us courage to face these times and hope to seek your kingdom. In the name of the One who came to us and lives and reigns with you, we pray. Amen.

Litany in Celebration of The UCC Christmas Fund:

Rev. Kahler

Jesus never mentioned clergy.

We can't imagine church without them.

Jesus had nothing to say about staff.

All this would grind to a halt without them.

Jesus was mum on college, and seminary, on internships, and continuing education.

We want someone who's trained in this stuff.

Jesus did not tell us to designate people to love, care, visit, preach, baptize, marry, bury, teach, write, meet, make music, lead, organize.

We're glad we did it anyway.

Jesus did not require us to have church professionals.

But thank God we do.

For preachers and teachers.

Thanks be to God.

For childcare workers and nurses,

Thanks be to God.

For music-makers and worship leaders, for administrators in all their kinds,

Thanks be to God.

For trustees and all providers of hospitality,

Thanks be to God.

For church professionals of every kind, let us pray:

God, you did not declare any of these positions necessary, and yet our life of praise and prayer is better because of

them. Thank you for their skills, their training, their conscientious ministries. Bless our professionals, God. Strengthen them for their work, continue to fit them for their high callings. Show us how to support and care for them. Help us to minister to them as they minister to us. Amen.

Christmas Carols:

Prayers of the People: (Remembrance, Gladness, Gratitude and Need)

Pastoral Prayer:

Prayer of our Savior:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Meditation: “Everything Sings Praise to God” Rev. Kahler
(Based on Psalm 148)

The Moment of Offering:	Liturgist
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Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Wise God, we present these offerings to you and dedicate our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom. May your will be done, our siblings needs be met, and your name be known

**through what we share in praise and thanksgiving for all you
have given to us in time, talent, and treasure. Amen.**

The Offering: Ushers Serve

Offertory:

* Doxology:
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.**

* Closing Songs:

* Benediction:

*Song Of Departing Friends: “As With Gladness Men Of Old”

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord,
may we evermore be led to Thee.**

*The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve

*The Worship Leaders exit

*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes

*The Postlude:

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Each of Us	A Minister of Christ
Rev. Allen Kahler	Minister
Barb Engle	Congregation President
Jan Miller	Board Secretary
Maggie Bolinger	Office Secretary

Stacey Smith
Lisa Krueckeberg
Shelly Nussbaum
Kacie Shaffer
Justin Shaffer

Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Music Director/Church Organist
Custodian
Building Manager

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Scott Heller, Jan Miller
Scott & Brenda Strickler
Myra Gaunt
Ushers

Door Greeters
Ushers
Money Counter
Acolytes

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors: Please sign our Friendship Folder located in each pew.

Altar flowers are presented today by Tim and Maggie Bolinger in honor of Tim's 75th birthday and granddaughter Natalie Osborne's 16th birthday. Worship bulletins are in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary December 19th.

Flower and Bulletin Charts are now available for 2026 in the West Vestibule. Flowers remain at \$30 and bulletins are \$10. Please note if this is in memory or honor of someone or a special event.

Our Operation Help products for January will be **canned meat and peanut butter**. Please place your donations of non-perishable items or canned goods in the bins in the dining room and West vestibule. Demand at Operation Help has increased considerably and any donations are much appreciated.

We invite everyone to join in the Packing of the Greens on Saturday, January 10th. We will meet at West End at 8:30 for breakfast and at 9:30 here at church to take down the Advent decorations. Men's Fellowship will also be taking down the Nativity and outdoor décor. Please see Maggie or Tim Bolinger if you are interested in breakfast so a reservation can be made. You are welcome to come to breakfast even if you are not able to help with the decorations.

Organizational and committee reports to be included in the 2025 Annual Report are due in the church office by **January 15th**. Please submit any address changes as well for the directory. The Lenten mailing will go out in mid-February.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 18th. Pastor's report, final 2025 financial reports, trustee report, and other organizational reports will be presented. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Jan. 4 Installation of 2026 Official Board

Wednesday, Jan. 7: Handbell Choir Practice 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8: Bible Study, Lounge, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Packing of the Greens
Breakfast, West End, 8:30 a.m.
Church 9:30 a.m.

www.zionuccdeatur.org

e-mail: office: office@zionuccdeatur.org

pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's attendance: 64 Offering: \$8280.00 (Incl. \$215 Christmas Fund, \$1000 Mary
Blue Christmas attendance: 23 Strickler Memorial)
Needed each week: \$4085.87

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal

