



December

Ushers:

East door: Scott Strickler

West door: Brenda Strickler

Liturgist:

Dec. 7: Lisa Krueckeberg

Dec. 14: Maggie Bolinger

Dec. 21: Janet Smith (Christmas Comm.)

Dec. 28: Scott Heller

Greeters:

East-West: Scott Heller

NE Front: Jan Miller

Fellowship Hour:

Barb Engle

Sandy Uhrick

Carol Schwartz

Count Offering:

Myra Gaunt

Operation Help

Our Operation Help products for December will be baking items. 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.

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for submitting items for the January newsletter is December 17. Please email to office@zionuccdeatur.org. or call the church office at 724-3502.

Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at El Camino Real in Decatur on Wednesday, December 17th at 11:30 a.m. Please see Karen Heller or Russ Augsburgers if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

Annual Reports:

Please submit any reports for the 2025 Annual Report to the office no later than **January 15th**. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated so that the report can be mailed in late January or early February.

No College Boxes:

No College Boxes will be sent in December. Our next boxes will be sent January 11th. We will have 1 boy and 1 girl next semester.

Christmas Communion:

Christmas Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, December 21st. We hope you will join us as we anticipate the birth of our Savior.



Flower Charts:

Flower and Bulletin Charts for 2026 can be found in the West Vestibule. Flowers are \$30 per week and bulletins \$10. Please note the names of those who are being honored or remembered.



Puzzle Library:

We have started a Zion puzzle exchange. It can be found in the lounge by the front door off the 3rd street entrance. The rules are simple. When you finish a puzzle, bring it in and exchange it for another puzzle. All piece sizes welcome. Donations are welcome if you have some at home you would like to share. Happy puzzling!

Thank You:

"We want to thank you all for the cards, prayers, and visits during the passing of Mary. Also, thanks for the funeral dinner provided and the hands that prepared it. Your words and thoughts were very much appreciated during the time."

Bob Strickler Family

Fundraising Opportunity!

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to announce the launch of our new gift card purchase program through **RaiseRight**! This is a simple and effective way to support our church just by buying the everyday things you're already purchasing. When you buy gift cards through RaiseRight, the church receives a **rebate of 1.5%–13%**, depending on the brand. There is **no extra cost to you**—you get the full value of the gift card, and the church receives the benefit!

RaiseRight offers a wide variety of gift cards, including:

Restaurants: McDonald's, Arby's, Taco Bell, and more

- **Gas Stations:** Marathon, BP, Shell,
- **Retail Stores:** Kohl's, Target, Walmart, Amazon
- **Even prepaid cards:** American Express, MasterCard Food & Fuel, and Visa—all with **NO activation fees!**
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- Both **physical and digital gift cards** are available.
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How to Order: There are order forms and a list of participating companies in the dining room. Please call the office at 724-3502 if you would like the list of participating companies and/or an order form mailed to you. Please give completed forms to Stacey Smith.

- Follow this link to enroll in our program. https://raiseright.onelink.me/Gei8?af_web_dp=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.raise-right.com%2Fenroll%3FenrollCode%3DGI6WCYDDCWKH&af_xp=custom&pid=invitelink&c=dashboard&deep_link_value=EnrollmentCode%3Fcode%3DGI6WCYDDCWKH&af_dp=swsapp%3A%2F%2FEnrollmentCode3Fcode%3DGI6WCYDDCWKH



Thank You:

Thank You to all who adopted a name for the United Way Angel Tree to provide for local children in need this Christmas season. We were able to help 20 children have a merrier Christmas this year.

Thank you as well to all who donated food to the Harvest Food Table. We were able to help 2 individuals as well as giving a large amount of food to Operation Help. The need for food assistance is significantly higher in the colder months.

Philharmonic Concert:

Please note that there will be no Philharmonic concert this Advent season. Our attendance has been falling and expenses have increased dramatically in the last few years. Music and Worship Committee has decided not to schedule the event this year but will evaluate the situation next year.

Condolences:

We offer our sympathy to the family of Mary Strickler, who passed away November 8th at Woodcrest. Funeral services were conducted at Zion on November 12th. Mary served Zion faithfully for many years in many capacities. Please keep Bob and the rest of her family in your prayers.

We also offer our sympathy to the family of Ron Feller, elder son of Rev. Wm. Feller, who passed away in Michigan November 9th. Please keep Jackie and their children in your prayers. Cards may be sent to:

Jackie Feller
527 Lancaster Ct.
Saline, Michigan 48176

"Blue Christmas" Service:

We are adding a new worship service to our Christmas season, a "Blue Christmas Service" on Sunday, December 21st. This service supports those for whom the holidays may be a challenge due to loss, grief, or adversity, as well as for those wishing just a quiet space. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. The service will not be live-streamed to ensure the privacy of those in attendance.

**Christmas Fund:**

"When They saw the Star, they were filled with Joy." Matthew 2:10

For more than a century, the UCC Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to active and retired UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. In 2024, more than \$1.7 million in support was provided to 766 individuals as a sign of our mutual love and ministry. This special offering is collected throughout the month of December. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or in the vestibules.

