

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

(\*)Please stand either in body or in spirit

First Sunday after Christmas

January 04, 2026

Matthew 2:1—12

“What does it mean for us to see and accept unexpected gifts?”

Gathering Music: “Silent Night” Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Maggie Bolinger

(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*The Prelude calls us together. It is a time of quiet reflection to focus ourselves  
in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

\*Call to Worship: (Inspired by Psalm 147) Liturgist

Extol the Holy One! Praise the God who protects, strengthens,  
and redeems!

**God is the source of peace. God nourishes us with abundance.**

Extol the Holy One! Praise the God who protects, strengthens, and  
redeems!

**The Holy One is the Still Speaking God, whose word reaches  
the hearts of the receptive.**

Extol the Holy One! Praise the God who protects, strengthens,  
and redeems!

**Creator makes all things new and prepares our days. Praise  
the Holy One!**

\*The Hymn of Praise: “Go, Tell It On The Mountain” No.138

\*The Invocation: (In Unison) Liturgist

**Wise God, renew our minds so that we may be present with  
You as you are among us. Renew our spirits so that we may  
worship you and praise your name. Renew our hearts so that  
we might be receptive to your wisdom, correction, and call.  
In you, we find compassion and hope, courage and clarity,  
righteousness and grace. Surround us and forge us as a  
community committed to bring you honor and glory. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

Jesus is our peace. He has reconciled us to God; born in a manger and  
died on the cross. We meet in the name of Jesus and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life: Rev. Kahler

**Holy One, a new year invites us to begin again. As we reflect  
on the future, we ask that your grace would meet us as we  
strive to be the people you have called us to be. Help us to heal  
spiritually, emotionally, relationally, materially, physically,  
and financially. Strengthen us and reorient our expectations  
of ourselves and one another. Give us courage to be true to our  
faith and values. Remind us that we carry no burden that you  
do not share with us. Shine your radiance through us. Amen.**

Words of Grace:

Scripture reading: Psalm 147:12-20 Liturgist  
Pew Bible, Pg. 545

The Choir Anthem: “One Small Child” Chancel Choir

Installation of 2026 Official Board:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

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 Prayer Response:

Chancel Choir

The Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:1—12

Rev. Kahler

Pew Bible, Pg. 835

The word of God for the People of God

The Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon Hymn:

“We Three Kings”

No. 166

The Sermon:

“The Gift Of Unexpected Gifts”

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: (Unison)

**Creator, receive these offerings as we dedicate them to you  
and your kingdom. Magnify them and continue to bless us  
so that we may collectively meet the needs and hopes of our  
community and world. Amen.**

The Offering:

Ushers Serve

Offertory: "Christmas Tidings"

\* 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.**

\*The Hymn of Commitment: "What Child Is This?" No.137

\*The Benediction:

*The Remnant: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Christmas Year A* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

\*Song Of Departing Friends: "God Be With You"

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

\*The Light is carried forth

Acolytes serve

\*The Worship Leaders exit

\*The Moment for Silent Prayers

Chimes

\*The Postlude: "Joy To The World"

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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

Church Treasurer

Lisa Krueckeberg

Financial Secretary

Shelly Nussbaum

Music Director/Church Organist

Kacie Shaffer	Custodian
Justin Shaffer	Building Manager
+++++	
Tim & Maggie Bolinger	Door Greeters
Bill Carpenter, Aithen Shaffer	Ushers
Myra Gaunt	Money Counter
Ushers	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.

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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor's report, final 2025 financial reports, trustee report, and other organizational reports will be presented. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Barb Engle has the information for the Lenten Devotionals for those willing to help with this project. They are due back to Barb no later than January 25<sup>th</sup> so they may be included in the Lenten mailing in early February.

### **Looking Ahead**

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Epiphany

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.

Sunday, Jan. 11 College Boxes

[www.zionuccdeatur.org](http://www.zionuccdeatur.org)

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pastor: [arkinpastor59@gmail.com](mailto:arkinpastor59@gmail.com)

Last week's attendance:

Offering: \$870.00

Christmas Eve attendance: 65

Needed each week: \$4085.87

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal

