



January

Ushers:

East door: Bill Carpenter

West door: Aithen Shaffer

Liturgist:

Jan. 4: Barb Engle

Jan. 11: Maggie Bolinger

Jan. 18: Tom Rash

Jan. 25: Justin Shaffer

Greeters:

East-West: Tim Bolinger

NE Front: Maggie Bolinger

Fellowship Hour:

Janet Smith

Elaine Rash

Stacey Smith

Scott & Brenda Strickler

Count Offering:

Myra Gaunt

Operation Help

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.

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for submitting items for the February newsletter is January 19th. Please email to office@zionuccdeatur.org. or call the church office at 724-3502.

Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at the Galley in Decatur on Wednesday, January 21st at 11:30 a.m. Please see Russ Augsburger if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

Annual Reports:

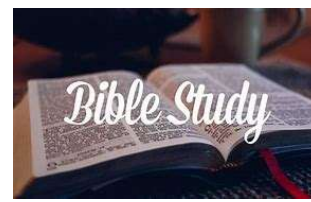
Please submit any reports for the 2025 Annual Report to the office no later than **January 15th**. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated so that the report can be mailed in late January or early February.

College Boxes:

Our next College boxes will be sent January 11th. We will have 1 boy and 1 girl this semester.

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.



Bible Study:

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 8th with a series on the book of Ecclesiastes. Everyone is invited to join together in the lounge at 10:30 a.m.

Charitable Contributions:

As we begin the new year, please be aware of the many ways you may support the church financially. Those who have required distributions from a pension or investment account may have the withdrawal sent directly to the church and avoid a taxable event. This can also be done with direct distribution from a brokerage account to the church. Please see your tax professional or financial adviser for current information.

Annual Congregational Meeting:

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



Packing Of The Greens:

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.

Fundraising Opportunities!:

The **RaiseRight!** Gift card program will continue throughout the upcoming year. This is a simple and effective way to support our church 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% at 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. Both physical and digital gift cards are available. 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



There is also a Community Rewards program available through Kroger, where a percentage of your purchase becomes a charitable donation to Zion. To enroll, sign into your Kroger card and look for "Community Rewards" on your account page.

Financial Secretary:

Thank you to Lisa Krueckeberg for her service to Zion in the position of Financial Secretary. She is retiring from that position on January 1st. We appreciate her faithful service.

Lenten Devotionals:

Barb Engle is organizing the 2026 Lenten devotional. Please see her if you can help by writing a daily devotional to share. They will be due back to Barb by January 25th so they may be printed and included in the Lenten mailing in early February. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.



Thank You:

Thank You to all who have served Zion in the past year and who continue to do the many tasks that are required to allow us to serve our Lord and our community. We have a dedicated staff, Official Board and numerous volunteers who work faithfully, and we are grateful for each one.

Installation of 2026 Official Board:

Installation of the 2026 Official Board will be held on Sunday, January 4th during worship. Please pray for all those who have been chosen to serve the congregation in this important way.



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Youth Group Mission Project:

As we approached the holiday season, I challenged Jayce and Claudia during our Sunday School lesson to earn an extra \$20 by doing additional jobs for neighbors and family. Our goal was to learn sacrifice and effort by helping someone else—specifically by purchasing a flock of 30–50 chickens for a family somewhere in the world. We chose **Heifer International**, a wonderful charity that helps families start sustainable businesses. With chickens, a family gains eggs and meat for food, income from selling extras, and the opportunity to pass on livestock to another family so they, too, can provide for themselves. When we were ready to donate, we discovered that Heifer International was **doubling donations**, meaning our gift would help *twice* as many families. After sharing this opportunity with our church, and thanks to your incredible generosity, **together we are now helping 50 families** around the world. What a beautiful reminder of what happens when a small act of faith grows into something much bigger!!

Randi Stevens



