

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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

October 12, 2025

Access Sunday

Luke 17: 11-19

“Don’t let gratitude go unexpressed”

Gathering Music: “Softly And Tenderly” Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Kacie Shaffer, Liturgist

(Visitors: Please sign the Friendship Folder)

The Prelude: “Standing on the Rock”

*Please take a moment and quiet your minds and open your hearts as
we focus ourselves in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

*The Call to Worship: (written by Rev. Kim Schoelen) Liturgist

In the midst of the mess

Life is meant to be experienced

In the middle of our “Not yet” or “after I get my life together”

We are invited by God to live fully

From within our body, minds that unpredictably throw chaos into
our lives

God calls us into the fullness of life, NOW!

It is a radical act to live well when the world demands our exile

Let us accept God’s invitation.

*Hymn of Praise:

“Jesus Calls Us”

No. 375

*Invocation: (Unison)

Liturgist

God of disabled joy, you meet us in every moment, reminding us that we are not only allowed to experience the fullness of life at any point in time, but we are called to live abundantly wherever we are. May we enjoy robust, complicated, and grace-filled days accordingly. Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ:

Liturgist

Please pass the peace through our words and through our actions in a world that desperately needs to see the results of following the Prince of Peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Prayer for Transformation & New Life & Words of Grace: Rev. Kahler
(written by Pastor Maggie Guekguezian)

The People of God Cry Out to the Lord:

Lord God, you who know our pain and our joy in the depths of your being:

We come before you feeling broken, weighed heavily by the world,

Feeling as outcasts and exiles within our own bodies and spirits we cry out to you, desperate for relief, desperate to be called into life.

We cry out to you! Hear our prayer!

Lord God, we have heard in a thousand ways and more that we must not live and thrive where we are, how we are, as we cannot help but be, as created by you, Holy One; Grant us relief, O God! Can there be any relief as we are?

Can we live and thrive in bodies that are outside of the illusion of complete control: in chronic illness? in

**blindness? in deafness? in chronic pain? in incontinence?
in hormonal irregularity? in need of mobility aids?**

in any of the ways a human body can differ from so-called correctness and normalcy?

Or must we be made into what we have heard since the beginning of our lives is right?

Grant us relief, O God! Can there be any relief as we are?

Can we live and thrive in minds that are outside of the illusion of complete control: in divergent intellectual development? in our inability to sit still and focus on command? in our difficulty to understand or be understood?

**in the voices we hear or things we see beyond our control?
in the multiple selves our single bodies may contain? in Anxiety and Depression? in our intrusive thoughts? in our high or low support-needs? in any of the ways a human mind can differ from so-called correctness and normalcy?**

Or must we be made into what we have heard since our childhood is right?

Tell us, O Lord! Tell us!

Tell us, O Lord! Tell us!

Assurance and New Life:

Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Holy One tells their people, exiled in Babylon to...

build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children, raise them so that they may in turn marry and bear children, to prosper and live right where they are!

So we—in the great diversity of our minds and bodies, in the beautiful variety of human-being we have named disability—may receive these words from the prophet and know that...

We do not have to wait to live, that we must thrive as we are, that the vision of the Kingdom demands that...

**All with hearing aids and sign language, we thrive;
in wheelchairs on flare-up days or every day, we thrive;
with canes for guidance or support, we thrive;
in baffling, hyper fixation, and special interests, we thrive;**

**with the aid of medication and therapy, we thrive;
in personal and collective prayer, we thrive!**

However we are and wherever we are

God calls us to live!

By whatever means we need,

God calls us to live!

Through taking care of one another,

God calls us to live!

Let us steadfastly love one another as God loves us and put our many gifts and abilities of body-mind together and make it so!

With the help of God and one another, make it so! Amen.

The Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Liturgist

Pew Bible pg. 676

The Special Music:

Vicki & Shelly Nussbaum

Time For The Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily**

**bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

The Prayer Response: “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”
 **Hear our prayer, O Lord,
 Hear our prayer, O Lord.
 Incline Thine ear to us,
 And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

The Scripture Reading: Luke 17: 11-19 Rev. Kahler
 Pew Bible, Pg. 910

*The Sermon Hymn: “Count Your Blessings” No.563

The Sermon: “The Prayer That You Don’t Pray”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

 Invitation to Generosity: (written by Rev. Jacob Nault)

 Prayer Of Thanksgiving: (Unison)

**God who loves as exactly as we are, thank you for this
opportunity to celebrate the gifts of our disabled siblings. With
these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work
with you to create a world where all your creation can thrive.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and
liberation for all. Amen.**

The Offering: Ushers serve

The Offertory Music:

*The 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: “He Touched Me” No. 504**

***The Benediction:**

*The Song of Departing Friends: “Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

*The Worship Leaders exit

*The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve

*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes

*The Postlude: “My Savior’s Love”

Each of Us A Minister of Christ

Rev. Allen Kahler Minister

Barb Engle

Jan Miller Board Secretary

Maggie Bolinger

Stacey Smith Church Treasurer

Lisa Krueckeberg Financial Secretary

Shelly Nussbaum Music Director/Church Organist

Kacie Shaffer Custodian

Justin Shaffer Building Manager

Brennan & Wanda Miller, Ken Uhrick

Tim & Maggie Bolinger

Scott Heller
Acolytes

Money Counter
Ushers

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors are asked to take a few moments to sign the Friendship Folder located in each pew and place in the offering plate.

Please join us in the dining room after worship for a time of fellowship and cookies, coffee, and punch.

Our altar flowers and bulletins are presented today by Gerry and Karen Hilty in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary and Lisa Kruekeberg's birthday.

Our Operation Help products for October will be soup and stews. Please place your donations in the bins in the dining room and West vestibule.

Our Bible Study of Acts will conclude this Thursday, October 16th. Please meet in the lounge at 10:30 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at Spare Time Lanes, 1306 N. Hwy 27, Berne, on Wednesday, October 15th at 11:30 a.m. Please see Karen Heller or Russ Augsburgur if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

We will collect funds to benefit UNICEF the entire month of October. UNICEF benefits children in need throughout the world. Plastic pumpkins are available in the vestibules for your donations.

Rev. Dr. Monica J. Ouellette, Associate Minister of the Indiana/Kentucky Conference, will be our guest speaker for Rev. Kahler's installation service next Sunday, October 19th. The service will begin at 2 p.m., followed by a reception in the dining room. We invite everyone to join us as we begin this next step in our mutual ministry with Rev. Allen and Shannon Kahler.

The Official Board will meet today in the lounge. Please meet at 11:30 a.m.

In response to recent events, The Insurance Board has received requests from churches and middle judicatories for resources and risk mitigation webinars concerning active intruder situations. Interested persons are encouraged to join Pastor Allen in the lounge to view an Active Intruder webinar on Tuesday, October 14th at 2 p.m.

As cooler temperatures arrive, it is time for the Men's Fellowship Chili Party on Sunday, October 26th. The Kahlers will be hosting at the parsonage, beginning at 4 p.m. Please bring a container of chili for the community pot, a covered dish to share and lawn chairs. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, table service and drinks will be provided. It will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Looking Ahead

Today, Oct. 12: Official Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Active Intruder Webinar, Lounge, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15: Lunch Bunch, Spare Time Lanes, 11:30 am

Bell Choir Practice 6 pm

Chancel Choir Practice 7 pm

Thursday, Oct. 16: Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19: Installation Service for Rev. Kahler, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26: Chili Party, Parsonage 4-6 p.m.

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pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's Worship Attendance: 41 Offering: \$3080.32 (NIN Offering \$480)

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Scan here to make your donation via Paypal

