



October

Ushers:

East door: Tim Bolinger

West door: Maggie Bolinger

Liturgist:

Oct. 5: Janet Smith -Worldwide Communion

October 12: Kacie Shaffer

Oct. 19: Bill Carpenter

Oct. 26: Vicki Nussbaum

Greeters:

East-West: Brennan & Wanda Miller

NE Front: Ken Uhrick

Fellowship Hour:

Lisa Krueckeberg

Karen Hilty

Amber Carpenter

Shannon Kahler

Count Offering:

Scott Heller

Mowing Schedule:

Sept. 28-Oct. 4: Scott Heller

Oct. 5-11: Justin Shaffer

Oct. 12-18: Eric Smith

Oct. 19-25: Ken Ihrick

Oct. 26-Nov. 1: Anson Shaffer

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for submitting items for the November newsletter is October 20th.

Please email to office@zionuccdeatur.org.

or call the church office at 724-3502.

Operation Help:

Our Operation Help products for October will be **soup and stew**. As the weather turns cooler, soup makes a hearty meal. Please place your donations in the tubs in the dining room and West vestibule.

Lunch Bunch:

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 Augsburgers if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

UNICEF

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.

Condolences:

We offer our condolences to the family of Donna Roth, who passed away September 2nd, with services conducted by Pastor Allen on September 13th. Please keep her family in your prayers.

College Boxes:

With the new school year in full swing, we will begin sending our College Boxes the second Sunday of October. Please give names of your students to Janet Smith by October 5th. Your donations of snacks and school supplies may be placed in the bin in the dining room before Sunday School.

Monetary donations to cover postage are also welcome. We currently have 3 students to receive boxes.

Congregational Meeting:

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, October 5th following worship. The Search Committee invites you to attend to vote to call Rev. Kahler as our Settled Pastor. During their two years at Zion. Pastor Allen and Shannon have prayed about their future and what opportunities God might be placing before them. Over the summer they decided to search for a Settled Pastor position rather than another interim position. Upon hearing that the candidate previously chosen by the Search Committee had withdrawn from the process due to changes in his personal life, Rev. Kahler asked to be considered for the position of Settled Pastor at Zion. Both he and Shannon have developed a love for Zion and a connection to Decatur and felt a deep sadness at the thought of leaving. The permanence of a Settled Pastorate will allow for our continued growth and development together. After prayerful discussion, the decision was made by the Search Committee, and approved by the Spiritual Council and Official Board, to present and recommend to you the Rev. Kahler as a candidate for Settled Pastor of Zion UCC.

There will also be proposals offered for consideration at the October 5th meeting to replace the badly damaged roof on the parsonage and complete other needed renovations at the parsonage.

Bible Study:

Our Bible Study of the Book of Acts will continue Thursday mornings through October 16th. Please meet in the lounge at 10:30 a.m.

Neighbors In Need:

Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This offering will be received on Sunday, October 5th.



Worldwide Communion:

World Communion Sunday is October 5th, 2025. This year's World Communion Sunday resources highlight three powerful scriptures that remind us of our unity in Christ. From 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, we learn that the church is like one body made of many different parts, each important and needed. Psalm 133:1 celebrates how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in harmony. And in John 17:21–23, Jesus prays that all believers may be one, just as He and God are one. Together, these passages invite us to celebrate our differences while remembering the unity we share at Christ's table. On World Communion Sunday, we remember that when we share the bread and cup, we are joining with believers around the world at Christ's table.

SPIRIT Pals:

With the school year in progress, the Evangelism and Visitation Committee is once again sponsoring the SPIRIT Pal project. **Secret Pals In Response Involving Teens** pairs adult volunteers with a teenager in the congregation to remember special events and recognize student activities throughout the year as a Secret Pal. Please see Jan Miller by October 5th if you are willing to be a mentor or if your child wishes to participate.

Northeast Association Meeting:

The Northeast Association Fall meeting will be held at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola on October 5. Our delegates are Bruce and Jeanne Reidenbach. Also attending will be Rev. Kahler and Barb Engle.

Trunk Or Treat:

We are planning a "Trunk Or Treat" event for neighborhood children during the city's Trick or Treat Hours on Friday, October 31st. Hours are 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in our parking lot. We hope you will come and join in the fun as we share treats with the neighborhood families. You are encouraged to dress in costume, but it is not required. Last year we had 160-180 children come for treats.

Chili Party:

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 and the party begins 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.

Website:

Our newly designed website is now complete, and we hope you will check it out. There are several new elements available, and you may read the bulletins and newsletters, as well as contribute via the PayPal code. Please let Maggie know if there is any information you would like to see added. Photos may also be submitted via email for inclusion.

Rev. Dr. Ouellette Visit:

Rev. Dr. Monica J. Ouellette, Associate Minister of the Indiana/Kentucky Conference, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, October 19th. She and Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott have been visiting each church in our conference over the last several months.

Active Intruder Training:

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 invited to join Pastor Allen in the lounge to view this webinar October 14th at 2 p.m. You may also view this on your own device.

Insurance Board Presents:

Active Shooter Training Webinar for Your Ministry

Our active shooter training equips ministries to respond effectively in an emergency. It covers recognizing potential threats, understanding evacuation routes, practicing lockdown procedures, and communicating with law enforcement while assisting others.

REGISTER HERE

*Registration is limited. A recording will be available on our website after the event.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025
2 PM ET via ZOOM

THE SPEAKER
CHAD CUNNINGHAM
Insurance Board
Director of Loss Control

Photo is for informational purposes only. Chad Cunningham is the Vice President of Insurance and Training for American Family Life. A life insurance professional, he has been instrumental in helping churches and ministries understand the importance of active shooter training. Chad was also the first national leader for the IALC Training Institute in the United States, where over the course of 15 years he trained thousands of church leaders. Chad also spent 24 years of his professional experience with the Insurance Board of America, where he supervised the work of thousands of local and state leaders in the community. Chad is a life insurance professional and was an active member of the department. Chad is currently employed as an insurance professional, and currently serves as the Vice President of the Insurance Board of America.