

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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

September 28, 2025

1 Timothy 6:6—19

“Learning to be content is the ultimate game—changer.”

Gathering Music: “God Leads Us Along”

The Welcome and Announcements:

Liturgist: Justin Shaffer

(Visitors, please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “Since I Have Been Redeemed”

*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 146)

Liturgist

Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

**We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!**

Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

**Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

**The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God  
who reigns forever!**

\*Hymn of Praise:

“How Great Thou Art”

No. 4

\*Invocation: (Unison)

Liturgist

**God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls.**

**Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with  
your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through**

**your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. 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 and New Life:**

**Rev. Kahler**

**Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.**

**Words of Grace:**

**The Scripture Reading:**

**Luke 16:19—31**

**Liturgist**

**Pew Bible pg. 910**

**The Choir Anthem:**

**“Search Me, O God”**

**Chancel Choir**

Time For Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer:

**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, and Power, and Glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Prayer Response:

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading:

1 Timothy 6:6—19

Rev. Kahler  
Pew Bible, pg. 1036

\*The Sermon Hymn:

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

No.398

The Sermon:

“Re-thinking Happiness ”

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication: (Unison)

**Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.**

The Offering:

Ushers serve

The Offertory Music:

“Bound For The Kingdom”

\*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: “Jesus Is All The World To Me” No. 510

\*Benediction:

**Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

\*The Song Of Departing Friends: “Lord Dismiss Us”

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing,  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Thy love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Traveling through this wilderness. Amen.**

\*The Light is carried forth

Acolytes serve

\*The Worship Leaders exit

\*The Moment for Silent Prayers

Chimes

\*The Postlude: “Jesus Calls Us”

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Each of Us

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

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Scott and Brenda Strickler	Door Greeters
Aithen Shaffer, Scott Strickler	Ushers
Ushers	Acolytes
Karen Heller	Money Counter
+++++	+++++

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.

Altar flowers and worship bulletins are presented today by Tony and Terra Roop in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Bible Study continues this Thursday morning in the lounge at 10:30. Please join us as we continue our study of the Book of Acts.

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

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.

We will celebrate Worldwide Communion next Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Communion is a sacred meal that unites Christians across every culture and community. 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.

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will vote to call Rev. Kahler as our Settled Pastor. We will also be considering proposals to replace the parsonage roof and complete some needed repairs and renovations in the parsonage. The Official Board plans to do some fundraising to offset the anticipated expenses. We hope you will attend as we consider these important decisions in the life of Zion.

The Stewardship Committee will meet after the congregational meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Please meet in the Chi Rho room to prepare the 2026 budget.

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 special offering will be received next Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Wednesday, Oct. 1: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 2: Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5: Worldwide Communion

Neighbors In Need Offering

Congregational Meeting 11 a.m.

Stewardship Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Northeast Association Meeting, Angola, 3 p.m.

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

Last week's Worship Attendance: 40

Offering: \$1684.35

Needed each week: \$4045.87