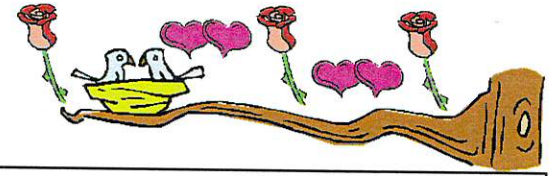


May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Ushers: Confirmands

Brenda Strickler

Door Greeters: Lois Isch

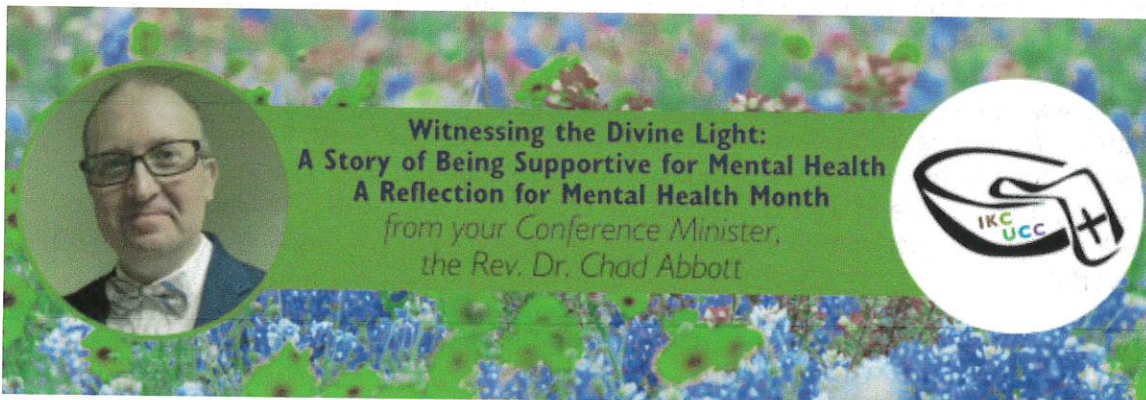
Jerry Hill



				 National Day Of Prayer Courthouse Noon			
4 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am Confirmation 11:30 SPIRIT Pals 1 pm	5	6	Bell Choir Practice 6 pm Chancel Choir Practice 7 pm	8	9	 <i>Adopt A Road</i> <i>9 a.m.</i>	
11 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am Board Meeting 11:30	12	13	<i>Pastor Allen Attending Transitional Pastor Training Indianapolis</i>	14	15	16	Pastor Allen On Vacation
18 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am	19	20	Lunch Bunch 21 Soul Pig 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice 6 pm Chancel Choir Practice 7 pm	22	23	24	Pastor Returns From Vacation
25 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am	 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31	

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott's message on mental health that appeared in the quarterly conference newsletter moved me and I invite you to please read and think about the people in your life had need attention you to come along side in a time of need.



The movement of ministry in the area of mental health in the United Church of Christ is vital to the thriving of our churches and those who have found belonging in our midst. In a season of greater and greater isolation, loneliness, and fear, how we understand supporting one another's mental health can be transformative.

As the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference, I have witnessed firsthand the power of such mental health support. On Memorial Day of 2024, I experienced the trauma of an accident that resulted in me dislocating and breaking my right ankle. It propelled me into a season of pain, both physically and emotionally. In my spirit, there was no doubt I was experiencing what has been called a "dark night of the soul." For months I was unable to walk, drive, or visit the churches in person that are under my care. I had to be assisted by my family on a daily basis to even do the very basic tasks. I found myself experiencing depression, flaring of trauma responses, flashbacks to the accident, and a sense of loneliness that was hard to bear. And that is where my various communities of support came in and helped me make it through two surgeries, months of physical therapy, and getting back into a sustainable rhythm for my life.

As I experienced the pain and the radical physical and emotional shift in my own life, various communities stepped towards my pain with compassion and support. From those who came to mow my grass for 8 weeks while I couldn't, to the knee scooter someone donated, to hundreds of dollars contributed towards Grub Hub cards so my wife didn't have to cook just after my surgery, to those who stayed up with me online into the early morning hours when I had a frightening flashback, to those IKC Sunday school classes who wrote me cards or emails, to those who texted me, called me, prayed with me, and helped drive me places, all the way to our IKC staff who surrounded me in love and care. These were small acts of love and compassion to let me know I was not alone, to let me know that because I could not heal from this

experience without others, their support would be a vital part of what has made me whole again. This is what being supportive for mental health looks like and this was a ministry you lived compassionately towards me as a Conference. Thank you!

I could have easily turned inward and found myself isolated from the world. Others could have easily just gone about their daily lives and assumed God and my doctors would do the healing for me. But, healing is more than just physical or medical. Healing is communal and spiritual, involving a very intentional offering of mutual support. St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that the different parts of the body cannot say "I have no need of you" when the other is hurting. This is one of our key witnesses as the body of Christ, that we care and support one another when the need is there. We are called to do so selflessly and with deep compassion because this is, indeed, how Jesus himself lived his life in the world. He not only saw the need of another, he was able to bear witness to the divine light that lives in every person no matter what they face and that is what makes his story and his ongoing story in us so powerful.

I consider myself so deeply blessed that I had family, friends, colleagues, and churches in my conference who understood Jesus' vision for supporting others and their mental and physical well being. I cherish and do not take lightly the deep and abiding kindness provided to me in the wake of my injury. In all of this, I witnessed the Divine Light that bears God's love in all people. It is a light that has continued to shine in the world and I tell the story of those of you who cared for me every chance I can because it is what being WISE for mental health truly means. There was not a time in those months of struggle where I didn't feel welcomed, included, supported, and engaged in my mental health and that is a testimony to the power of love in the world. May it be so in our lives and in our churches.



Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott
Conference Minister
Indiana Kentucky Conference
United Church of Christ



May

Ushers:

East door: Confirmands

West door: Brenda Strickler

Liturgist:

May 4: Kacie Shaffer

May 11: Tom Rash

May 18: Jan Miller

May 25: Lisa Krueckeberg

Greeters:

East-West: Lois Isch

NE Front: Jerry Hill

Fellowship Hour:

Maggie Bolinger

Jeanne Reidenbach

Tonja Anweiler

Randi Stevens

Count Offering:

Scott Heller

Mowing Schedule:

Apr. 27-May 3: Justin Shaffer

May 4-10: Pastor Allen

May 11-17: Anson Shaffer

May 18-24: Tony Roop

May 25-31: Justin Shaffer

Newsletter Deadline:

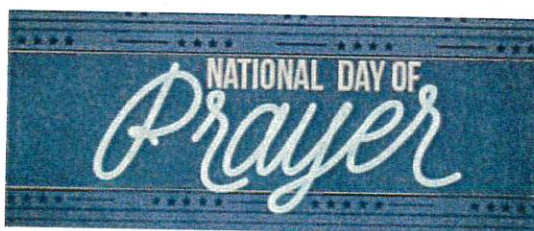
The deadline to submit items for the June newsletter is May 19th. Please email to office@zionuccdecatour.org. or call the church office at 724-3502.

Operation Help:

Our Operation Help for May will be **cereal**. Please place your donations in the tubs in the dining room and West vestibule.

Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at the Soul Pig in Decatur on Wednesday, May 21st 16th at 11:30 a.m. Please see Karen Heller or Russ Augsburg if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.



National Day of Prayer:

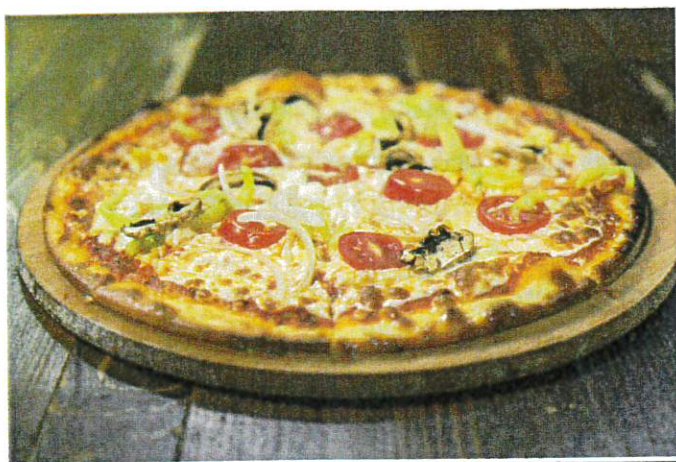
The Decatur Ministerial Association will join in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1st. Community-wide services are held on the Courthouse Lawn beginning at noon. Please join with our friends and neighbors at this time of prayer.

Road Cleanup:

Our Adopt-A-Road day will be Saturday, May 10th. Please meet at the church at 9 a.m. to carpool. Don't forget to wear old clothes and bring gloves.

Automated Contributions:

Forms for those wishing to have automated withdrawals for their tithes and offerings can be found in the vestibules. Please give the completed form to treasurer Stacey Smith.



SPIRIT Pals:

The Big Reveal for this year's SPIRIT Pals will be Sunday, May 4th at 1 p.m. Pizza will be served at 1 p.m., after Confirmation Class. Following lunch, the secret pals will reveal their identities to the young people. Thank you to all who have participated this past school year.

Pastor's Vacation:

Pastor Allen will be in Indianapolis from May 13th to May 15th for Transitional Pastor Training. He and Shannon will then be taking a few days of vacation and will return to Decatur on May 22nd.

New Series for Easter::

For the next several weeks we will study a series of lessons on the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation contains some of the most cryptic language and most fanciful imagery in the entire Bible. It has been used to try to forecast the events of the end times, as well as to call hopeless Christians to fortitude and endurance. Its lectionary placement in the season of Easter is notable, as it draws us to another contemporary application of this book: as a guide to experiencing the resurrected life. John's vision allows us to see the world, the church, and the Christian life in the way God envisions it: not for how it is, but for how it can be. And each week, through the power of the one who makes all things new, we are called to make those possibilities a resurrection reality.

Thank You:

Thank you to all who have helped to make this Lenten Season a successful one. Without the Wednesday evening chefs, special music, Faith Builders breakfast crew, Music and Worship Committee, and Shelly Nussbaum's efforts as Music Director - Organist, Eric & Stacey Smith & Lauren Rowell for videos, these services would not have been possible. A special Thank You to Rev. Kahler for his leadership.

