

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Third and Jackson Streets**

**Decatur, Indiana**

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

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 19, 2026**

**Luke 24:13—35**

**“Look! See! Jesus is with us.”**

Gathering Music: “My Savior First Of All” Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Vicki Nussbaum, Liturgist  
(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “The Way Of The Cross Leads Home”  
*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: (Please Rise) (inspired by Psalm 116) Liturgist

We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer. What shall we return to the Holy One for all the blessings we receive?

**We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.**

The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish. What shall we return to the Holy One for their presence among us?

**We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for God's people.**

The Holy One has given a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and restoration for the world. What shall we return to the Holy One for the gift of covenantal love?

**We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving. Hallelujah! Bless the name of the Holy One!**

\*The Hymn of Praise: “Worship Christ, The Risen King” No.225

\*The Invocation: (In Unison) Liturgist

**Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. Amen.**

Call to Transformation: Rev. Kahler

**Spirit of the Living God, we ask you to meet us in those moments when we recognize that we have caused, through action or inaction, through words or silence, through participation or lack of participation, that we have caused or allow harm to take place. In those moments, allow our hearts to break in order to be mended with the burning fire of repentance and improving. In those moments, let our hearts cry, "what should we do?" In those moments, guide us to wisdom and discernment Holy Spirit, so that we would not only be forgiven but gifted with the work of repair and restoration. Amen.**

Words of Grace:

The Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:17—23 Liturgist  
Pew Bible, pg. 1058

The Choir Anthem: “Joy To The World (All The Boys and Girls)”

Time with the Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

Prayer of our Savior:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Prayer Response: Chancel Choir

The Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 13—35 Rev. Kahler  
Pew Bible, pg.920

The Sermon Hymn: “Lord, Speak To Me ” No. 450

The Sermon: “Recognizing Jesus”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Dedication: (Unison)

**Generous God, we pray that these gifts will bring glory to  
your name and bless your creation through good stewardship,  
Spirit-led discernment, and generous love. Amen.**

The Offering: Ushers Serve

Offertory: “Blessed Assurance”

\* 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: "I Love To Tell The Story" No. 297

\*The Benediction:

**Going On: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday in Easter Year A** 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: "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 Light is carried forth Acolytes serve

\*The Worship Leaders exit

\*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes

\*The Postlude: "Are You Washed In The Blood?"

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Each of Us	A Minister of Christ
Rev. Allen Kahler	Minister
Barb Engle	Congregation President
Jan Miller	Board Secretary
Maggie Bolinger	Office Secretary
Stacey Smith	Church Treasurer
Makayla Smith	Financial Secretary
Shelly Nussbaum	Music Director/Church Organist
Kacie Shaffer	Custodian
Justin Shaffer	Building Manager

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Neil & Sue Keller, Russ Augsburgur	Door Greeters
Maggie Bolinger, Scott Heller	Ushers

Russ Augsburger  
Ushers

Money Counter  
Acolytes

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors: Please sign our Friendship Folder located in each pew.

Our altar flowers and bulletins today are presented by Tom and Elaine Rash in honor of loved ones.

Our Operation Help products for April is **cereal**. Please bring your donations to the dining room or the west vestibule.

The Youth Group wishes to thank everyone who contributed to their calendar fundraiser in March. A total of \$679 was raised to fund their activities.

Men's Fellowship is still in need of 4 large, insulated coolers to use for the Nelson Chicken Sale in June. Please see Scott Heller if you have one you can donate.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the sound system fundraiser. We have reached the goal of \$5000 to cover the repairs to the amplifier and processer and repairs are scheduled to begin this week. We are still in need of funds for the other planned upgrades, and we ask that you consider an additional donation toward the \$2800 cost. Please place your donation in the weekly offering and mark them "Sound System."

Zion will be hosting the Spring meeting of the Northeast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference on Sunday, April 26. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. and will include a discussion of the current bylaws. Our delegates are Bruce and Jeanne Reidenbach.

### **Looking Ahead**

Monday, April 20: Official Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22: Hand Bell Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.  
Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 26: Northeast Association Spring Meeting  
At Zion, 3 p.m.

www.zionuccdeatur.org

e-mail: office: [office@zionuccdeatur.org](mailto:office@zionuccdeatur.org)  
pastor: [arkinpastor59@gmail.com](mailto:arkinpastor59@gmail.com)

Last week's attendance: 44  
Needed each week: \$4045.87

Offering: \$ 2599.00

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal



The **United Church of Christ (UCC)** is partnering with the **United States of Kindness (USK)** and the **Kindland** initiative to launch a **250 Days of Kindness** campaign in celebration of America's 250th anniversary

**What the Campaign Is:**

The **United States of Kindness** is a nationwide call to action for individuals, families, schools, and communities to complete **250 acts of kindness** between **April 25 and December 31, 2026** United Church of Christ+1. The UCC supports this as a way to promote unity, compassion, and a "just world for all."

**How It Works:**

- **Start date:** April 25, 2026 — exactly 250 days before the end of the year.
- **Goal:** One act of kindness per day for 250 days.
- **Acts of kindness** can be small gestures like helping a neighbor, volunteering, writing a thank-you note, or supporting a cause you care about.
- **Registration:** You can sign up to track your acts and share your journey at the official USK site [www.usofkindness.org](http://www.usofkindness.org).

