

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(* Please stand either in body or in spirit.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Acts 2:42—47

“How can we share what we hold in common?”

Gathering Music: “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Justin Shaffer
(Visitors, please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “Sing To The Lord” Chancel Choir
*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 23) Liturgist

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving
and praise!

**The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads
us on the right path.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction,
not fear and timidity.

**Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and
concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength,
love and compassion, hope and peace.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the
Holy One!

**Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days
of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

*Hymn of Praise: “I Will Sing The Wondrous Story” No. 508

*Invocation: (Unison)

Liturgist

God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life:

Rev. Kahler

Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace:

Rev. Kahler

The Scripture Reading:

John 10: 1-10

Liturgist

The Choir Anthem:

“Surrender Medley”

Pew Bible pg. 934

Chancel Choir

The Time For Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer Spoken and Silent:

The 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

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2: 42—47

Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, pg. 948

The Word of God for the People of God

The Response: **Thanks be to God**

*The Sermon Hymn: “They’ll Know We are Christians By Our Love”
No. 284

The Sermon:

“Living In Community”

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication: (Unison)

Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.

The Offering:

Ushers serve

The Offertory Music: “Revive Us Again”

*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: “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

No.462

*Benediction:

By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth 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: “Footsteps Of Jesus”

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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
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 Augsburg
Maggie Bolinger, Scott Heller
Ushers
Russ Augsburg

Door Greeters
Ushers
Acolytes
Money Counter

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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.

Today’s altar flowers and bulletins are presented by Neil and Sue Keller. in honor of family birthdays.

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

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the sound system fundraiser. We have reached our goal and work will begin on April 30th.

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.

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. The UCC supports this as a way to promote unity, compassion, and a “just world for all.”

- Start date was 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.

Bible Study group will resume their studies on Thursday, May 7th with a six-week series on 1 Corinthians. Everyone is invited to meet in the lounge at 10 a.m.

Quarterly financial statements are no longer being prepared for everyone. Please see Makayla Smith or Stacey Smith if you want to get yours.

Our RaiseRight order will be submitted tomorrow for anyone needing to place an order. This is an excellent opportunity to get gift cards for confirmations, graduations or Mother's Day. Please see Stacey Smith.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, April 29: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 3: First Sunday Communion, 10 a.m.

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pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's Worship Attendance: 54

Offering: \$ 5355.00 (Incl. \$1400 Sound System)

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Scan here to make your donation via Paypal



