

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

“Souper Bowl” Sunday

February 8, 2026

Matthew 5:13—20

“Learning how to faithfully and respectfully give public witness to our Faith.”

Gathering Music: “The Giving”

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Jeanne Reidenbach
(Visitors, please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “This Little Light Of Mine”

*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: Liturgist

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

**We are gathered in your house, O God, to celebrate the
light.**

Jesus said, “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but
will have the light of life.”

**We praise you, Lord Jesus, for illuminating our path and
helping us master our fear of the dark, even of the dark
tunnel of death.**

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world ... let your light shine
before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory
to your Father in heaven.”

**Spirit of God, empower our witness to the Light, in this
service of worship and in our whole beings, as women and
men claimed by the Light. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” No. 1

*Invocation: (Unison) Liturgist

God of the winter sky, place a star on our horizon, for we need to lift our tired eyes and weary souls from the multitude of tasks and lists. Raise us to glimpse your wonder, to be struck in awe and to marvel at your love. God of the winter sky, place a star on our horizon and a song in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

God has greeted us with his peace. Let us now pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer Of Confession: (Unison) Rev. Kahler

We have failed as your church, O God. You call us to live faithfully, act justly and bring peace to the earth. Instead, our lives and your church reflect more of our needs and worries and less of the needs and worries of all peoples. Move us beyond ourselves to hear the cry of the world and to respond with acts and deeds of kindness, mercy and justice. May your grace shine through a church that, even with its shortcomings, accepts the call of Christ to serve and care and love and bring peace. May we feel your forgiving spirit now. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

The Scripture Reading: Psalm 112:1—10 Liturgist
Pew Bible pg. 529

The Choir Anthem: “Peace Like A River” Chancel Choir

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:

Matthew 5:13—20

Rev. Kahler

Pew Bible, pg. 838

The Word of God for the People of God

The Response: Thanks be to God

*The Sermon Hymn: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” No.374

The Sermon: “The Gift of Public Witness ”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication: (Unison)

**God only Wise, accept these offerings, the fruit of our labor
and lives, in obedience of our faith, through Jesus Christ, to
whom be the glory forever! Amen.**

The Offering:

Ushers serve

The Offertory Music: “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

*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 Loves Even Me” No. 357

*Benediction: (Responsively)

You are the salt of the earth.

But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything but to be taken out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Amen.

—Based on Matthew 5:13-16.

*The Song Of Departing Friends: “ My Peace”

**My peace I give unto you.
It's a peace that the world cannot give.
It's a peace that the world cannot understand.
Peace to know; peace to live.
My peace I give unto you.**

- *The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve
- *The Worship Leaders exit
- *The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes
- *The Postlude: “Stepping In the Light”

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

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 are presented by Shelly Nussbaum in honor of Vicki Nussbaum birthday on February 14th.

A time of fun, food, and games is planned for our Youth Group next Sunday, February 15th from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Please bring friends and a favorite board game. Contact Janet Smith for more information.

Thank you to all who brought soup for the Men's Fellowship "Souper Bowl" collection. We hope to surpass the 182 cans donated last year. You may still bring your donations to the dining room throughout the month of February.

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. A light meal will be provided by Music and Worship Committee at 6 p.m., followed by communion and worship services at 6:30 p.m. Our theme this year is a five-part series focusing on the “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. We hope you will all plan to join us weekly on this journey to Easter and the Resurrection. Please let Barb Engle know if you can help with one of the meals. Also, there is a need for special music for worship services. Please sign up in the choir area if you can help or let Shelly Nussbaum know if you know someone who could provide music.

The Lenten mailing is available for pickup. We ask you to take yours and any friends or family members you can deliver. This helps us with the cost of postage. Annual Financial Statements for 2025 that have not been picked up are included in the mailing, as well as the order form for the Easter Flower Garden.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the Youth Council is asked to contact Janet Smith. Christian Education Committee is trying to reactivate this group and is asking for assistance from anyone who would like to help our Jr.-Sr. High group become more active, both within the church and in the community.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15: Youth Group Game Time 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 16: Official Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

website: www.zionuccdecatur.org

e-mail: office: office@zionuccdecatur.org

pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's Worship Attendance: 55

Offering: \$ 9165.00

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Scan here to make your donation via Paypal

