

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

(*)Please stand either in body or in spirit

One Great Hour Of Sharing

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

John 9:1—41

“The healing of a blind man sparks different questions: Do we Know Jesus??”

Gathering Music: “Abide With Me” Shelly Nussbaum
The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Russ Augsburg
(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “All Creatures Of Our God And King”
*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

Some days, it’s hard to recognize the signs, when what we have
come to know and rely on is ablaze and everything looks like ashes.

Do you not know what God can do with ashes?

**Then God knelt down and formed humanity from the dust
of the ground, and breath breathed new life. (Genesis 2:7)**

Some days, it’s difficult to believe the signs, when truths are erased
and buried and there is nothing left to witness but the bare dirt.

Do you not know what Jesus can do with dirt?

**Then Jesus spat in the dirt and made mud spreading it on
the man’s eyes and visions appeared of a new day rising.
(Mark 9:6-7)**

blame and find fault when we encounter differing abilities and embodiments, as if they mean wrongness or offense

God, have mercy.

For the times when we have used language that draws a line between disability and sin, using blind or deaf or lame as if they mean ignorant, doubting, unfaithful

Christ, have mercy.

For the moments we have disbelieved and disregarded the needs, stories, and experiences of those who are disabled as if access was a problem, a burden and we know better

God, have mercy.

Open us to new stories of disability from those who know them best.

Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace:

Let your soul receive this rest: There is no story we can't unlearn, and no way of loving we can't learn anew.

Praise God, who forgives us and frees us always inviting us to change and become a new creation from the ground up.

The Scripture Reading: John 9:1—23 Narrator, Pastor, Liturgist
Pew Bible, Pg. 932

The Special Music: “O Worship The King” Heavenly Ringers

Time with the Youth:

Prayers of the People:

These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. We offer these gifts with a cheerful heart as our love offering to brothers and sisters we may never meet. Bless the gifts, just as you have each of us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

The Offering:

Ushers Serve

Offertory: "I Love To Tell The Story"

* 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:

"Amazing Grace"

No.202

*The Benediction: (Responsively)

God has shown us there is enough. When things are tight and the future seems uncertain,

We choose to give a love offering to the world.

God's love shapes us and molds us to share from our own blessings.

We choose to give a love offering to the world.

Go forth from this place and be

a love offering to the world.

The Signs: Service Prayers for Lent 4A was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective

*Song Of Departing Friends: "Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name"

**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;**

**Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease;
With eager hearts we wait Thy word of peace. Amen.**

- *The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve
- *The Worship Leaders exit
- *The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes
- *The Postlude: “I Will Sing Of My Redeemer”

Please be seated for Congregational Meeting

+++++

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |

+++++

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Bob Noack, Bob Hildebrand | Door Greeters |
| Brenda Strickler, Kacie Shaffer | Ushers |
| Terra Roop | Money Counter |
| Ushers | Acolytes |

+++++

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

Our Midweek Lenten services continue on Wednesday evenings. We gather at 6 p.m. for a light meal, followed by worship services at 6:45 p.m. Our theme this year is a five-part series focusing on the “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John.

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at the Indiana Pancake House in Decatur this Wednesday, March 18th at 11:30 a.m. Please see Russ Augsburger if you plan to attend. Everyone is invited for a time of good food and fellowship.

Our Operation Help products for March is **canned vegetables**. Please bring your donations to the dining room or the west vestibule. Demand at Operation Help has increased considerably and any donations are much appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Through our support of OGHS, funds for comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. Our offering is collected today.

There is still time to help our youth group with their fundraiser calendar. You are asked to pick a date and pay that amount to Janet Smith. For example, you may sign up for March 15th and pay \$15. More than one person can sign up for a particular date.

Men's Fellowship is looking for large insulated coolers to use for the Nelson Chicken Sale in June. Nelsons will no longer be providing them so we are looking for 8-10 coolers to be donated. Please do not donate a new one, as they cannot be used for other purposes once they have been used for chicken. Please see Scott Heller if you have one you can help.

Looking Ahead

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

Weds., March 18: Lunch Bunch, Indiana Pancake House 11:30

Midweek Lenten Services

Meal 6:00 p.m.

Service: "I Am The Good Shepherd" 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 19: No Choir Practices

Friday, March 20: First Day Of Spring!!!

www.zionuccdeatur.org

e-mail: office: office@zionuccdeatur.org

pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's attendance: 45

Offering: \$

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal

