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May

Ushers:

East door: Kacie Shaffer

West door: Brenda Strickler

Liturgist:

May 3: Bill Carpenter

May 10: Maggie Bolinger (Mother's Day)

May 17: Ken Uhrick

May 24: Janet Smith (Pentecost)

May 31: Scott Heller

Greeters:

NE Front: Jerry Hill

East-West: Ken Uhrick

Fellowship Hour:

Maggie Bolinger

Jeanne Reidenbach

Tonja Anweiler

Randi Stevens

Count Offering:

Scott Heller

Operation Help

Our Operation Help product for May will be **soup**. Please bring your donations to the dining room or the west vestibule.

Demand at Operation Help continues to be substantial and any donations are much appreciated.

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for submitting items for the June newsletter is May 20th. Please email to office@zionuccdeatur.org. or call the church office at 724-3502.

Lunch Bunch:

The Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch at the Nine Mile on Wednesday, May 20 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.

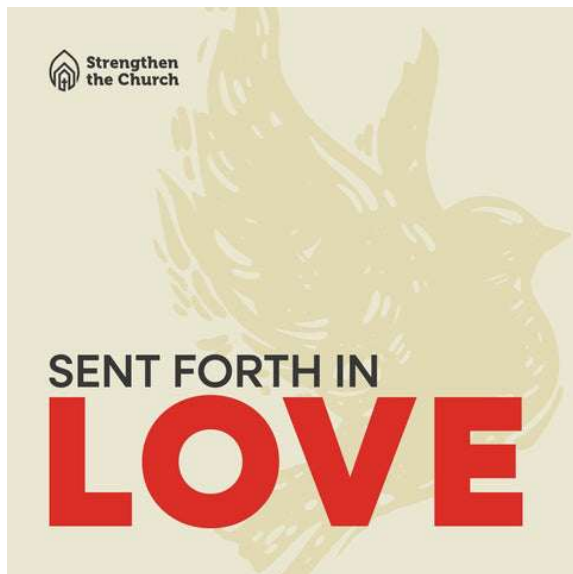


National Day of Prayer:

May 7th is National Day of Prayer. The Decatur Ministerial will conduct services at the Peace Monument at noon. The public is invited to attend. Lisa Krueckeberg will sing the national anthem.

Adopt-A-Road

We will meet on Saturday, May 9th for our road clean-up. Please be at the church by 9 a.m. to carpool and don't forget your gloves and old clothes.



Strengthen The Church Offering:

The "Strengthen The Church" special offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. The theme this year is "Sent Forth In Love." This offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The Offering is divided between the Indiana/Kentucky Conference and the National Ministries.

Condolences:

We offer our condolences to the family of Lois Gehrig, who passed away on Monday, April 6th. We also offer our sympathy to the family of Gerry Hilty, who passed away on Wednesday, April 15th. Gerry will be remembered for the many ways he and Karen served Zion over the years. Services were conducted by Pastor Allen on April 21st.

Thank you!:

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.

Monthly Communion Services:

We will begin monthly communion services on the first Sunday of each month beginning on May 3rd. Communion will still be held in celebration of Easter and Christmas as in the past.

Bible Study:

Our 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.

SPIRIT Pals Pizza Party:

SPIRIT Pals will meet on Sunday, May 17th for their pizza party and to identify the adult Pal. Pizza will be served at 1 p.m.

Thank You:

Thank you to all who have generously contributed to our special offerings. Our offering to support Shelly Holloway Holden resulted in a \$1050 check to help them with expenses during her continued rehabilitation from a health emergency January 22nd.

We were also able to fully cover the expenses for the sound system upgrades. A total of \$7989.22 was donated and will greatly enhance our video services.



250 Days of Kindness:

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.”

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 www.usofkindness.org.

The UCC has been a long-time supporter of the **Kindland** initiative, founded by the Values-in-Action Foundation, which promotes kindness in schools and communities. The UCC’s partnership with USK includes:

- Promoting the 250 Days of Kindness challenge.
- Encouraging congregations to participate and share stories.
- Highlighting kindness as a core value in faith and civic life.

Supporters note that kindness initiatives can:

- Strengthen community bonds.
 - Improve mental health and belonging.
 - Reduce violence and divisiveness
- **Christmas In July:**
 - The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a “Christmas In July” garage sale on Saturday, July 25th from 9am-noon. Only Christmas items will be sold. Spring Cleaning will be a great time to round up those Christmas decorations you no longer need or use. Some examples of items are Christmas tins, candles, ornaments, greenery, dishes, pictured, cookie cutters, trees, lights, outdoor statues, lighted yard characters and Nativity scenes. Watch for updates as July approaches. Proceeds will go to church upkeep.

Mental Health Month:

May is Mental Health Awareness month. The sacred stories of our faith traditions offer us hope and encouragement for everyday life. When it comes to mental health and wellbeing, we invite you to celebrate the power of faith to positively influence the mental health of our communities. New brain science confirms what our ancestors knew: God's love has healing power. For emotional, social, and mental wellbeing, faith assures us of two factors: (1) you are not alone and (2) you are loved. 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. We continue to be part of a global movement of God's healing Spirit and for sharing hope with people living with mental health issues, often invisible, yet very real and painful. Help us end the stigma and shame of mental health challenges.

The World Loves You Back

By James Crews

*Even if no one ever touched you with the
tenderness you needed,
believe that the world's been holding
you in its arms since the day you were born.
You are not an accident, or afterthought.
Let rain on the roof remind you.
Let sun on the skin, and the neon- orange
of the Mexican sunflower at which a
hummingbird pauses to drink.
There are so many ways to hold and be
held, and you could spend your whole life
tallying them up without
ever reaching the end of the list.*

