

I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;



all the families of the earth will
be blessed because of you."

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 11, 2023

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.
It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to
Pastor Phil this morning and let us know if there is any way
we might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "The future is as bright as the promises of God."
~ William Carey (1761-1834)

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God calls us out of places known and secure.

God invites us into a living, trusting relationship.

ALL: Happy are those whom God chooses as a heritage.

God's counsel to every generation comes to us.

ONE: God continues to bring new worlds into being.

God is constantly offering new opportunities to us.

ALL: We are called away from empty pursuits.

God wants to employ our talents for the common good.

ONE: Let us worship God with our whole being.

Let us use all our talents to praise our Creator.

ALL: Praise God with instruments we have made.

Sing praises with voices God has given.

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Calling of Abraham - Abbey of Saint Savin, Vienne, France (1040-1090), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=33460>. Original source: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God of justice and righteousness, we come to you as tax collectors and sinners flocked to Jesus long ago. We have wavered in distrust of your promises, yet cling to their truth. We believe that your ways are far more fulfilling than any we can devise, yet we shrink from following where Christ leads. Forgive our pursuit of lesser gods we create, and wean us away from our fascination with the false values that tempt us. Draw us closer to you, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**GLORIA PATRI****A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US****Prayer for the children** (*unison*):

We send blessings upon our children for all God's love,
all Christ's friendship and all the caring of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 12:1-9

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

HYMN***O Word of God Incarnate*****670**

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SERMON**HYMN*****In Christ There Is No East or West*****603**

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INVITATION TO OFFERING**GIVE THANKS:**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," Let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers and restoring our strength. Thank you for drawing us apart from our selfish ways and self-serving pursuits. Let our offering today fulfill your purposes, not ours. Let these gifts summon others to follow Christ. Let them know the joy of breaking bread with the Great Physician who offers healing to all who dare to trust your mercy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**PRAYER RESPONSE****Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

*** HYMN*****Standing on the Promises*****INSERT**

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Dian Gansmann
Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Cindy Roll, and Jeffrey Thornton

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Lora Hollis, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Schmitt, and Carol Zweck

IL South Conference: Each week the churches of the Illinois South Conference are asked to pray for congregations and their pastors and other ministries of the UCC. This week we are asked to pray for:

Church & Pastors

-Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor John (Lisa) Tinge

-Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Joan (John) Mier

Retired Pastor

Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn, Waterloo, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Samantha Rehg, June 13

Tim Hirsch, June 15

Vic Duncan, June 16

Shelly & Jack Bittle, 5 years, June 17

Susan & Richard Schmidt, 62 years, June 17

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, June 4, 2023

St. John's – 15

St. Jacob – 28

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(Mondays by appointment)

Secretary's office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Website: stjacobucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC and Troy Friedens UCC are working together to organize an Intergenerational Vacation Bible School this summer – it will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., July 20 at St. Jacob Township Park, July 27 at Tri-Township Library, and Aug. 3 at Tri-Township Park. This

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School is for those everyone ages of 1-100-plus, and we will explore the theme of the Greatest Commandment: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,"* and *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

For more information, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.



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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - JUNE 16: Pastor Phil will be at DuBois Center

WEDNESDAY: ELF's meeting, 10 a.m.

JUNE 20: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

JUNE 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

This year both St. Jacob UCC and St. John's UCC are helping with their local Summer Lunch Programs.

-St. John's UCC is accepting monetary donations that will be used to purchase needed lunch supplies. Lunches are provided each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and can be picked up at the Summerfield Fire Department.

-St. Jacob UCC: So far this year we are providing lunches to almost twice as many kids as in years past and could use monetary donations and additional volunteers. Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. Lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthx. Monetary donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. For more information, or to volunteer call Judy Bolton at 618-830-0526, or Audrey Yann at 618-567-8013.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-9

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you."

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord's name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

(continued from inside cover)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:13-25

The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. As it is written: I have appointed you to be the father of many nations. So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: That's how many descendants you will have. Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness.

But the scripture that says it was credited to him wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.

But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

While Jesus was speaking to them, a ruler came and knelt in front of him, saying, "My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her, and she'll live." So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the hem of his clothes. She thought, If I only touch his robe I'll be healed.

When Jesus turned and saw her, he said, "Be encouraged, daughter. Your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that time on.

When Jesus went into the ruler's house, he saw the flute players and the distressed crowd. He said, "Go away, because the little girl isn't dead but is asleep"; but they laughed at him. After he had sent the crowd away, Jesus went in and touched her hand, and the little girl rose up. News about this spread throughout that whole region.