

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

July 16, 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: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds
that you plant." ~ Robert Louis Stevenson

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Open yourselves this day to receive the Word.

ALL: We have committed ourselves to follow the light.
We come now to be instructed by God's law.

ONE: Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God.
Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

ALL: We reach out for more than we can see and hear.
We long to know Love's embrace deep within.

ONE: The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.
That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

ALL: We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope.
God cares for the earth and for each one of us.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Sower at Sunset, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57797>. Original source: <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/the-sower/DgGm5xSd6lk5rg>

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you. 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:

Psalms 119: 105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

HYMN

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

INSERT

SERMON

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

502

Mary E. Byrne | Eleanor H. Hull | Jack Schrader Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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*)

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. 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

Hymn of Promise


515

Natalie Sleeth Words and Music: 1986 Hope Publishing Company

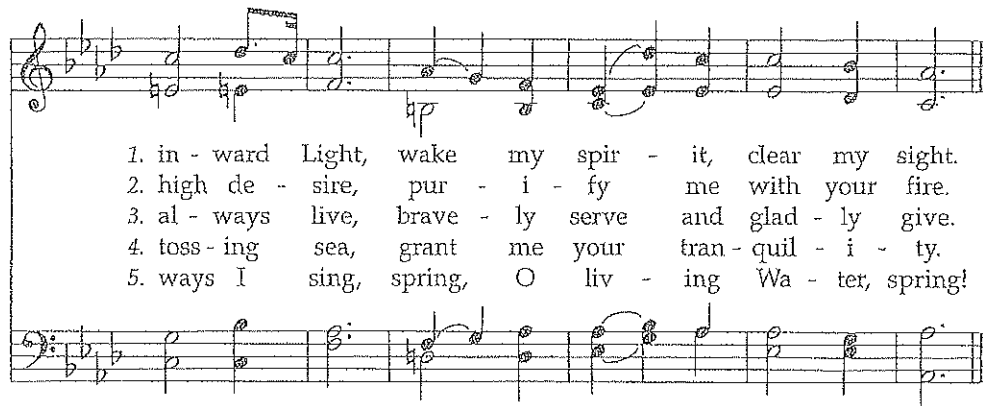
Holy Spirit, Truth Divine



1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Truth di - vine, dawn up -
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Love di - vine, glow with -
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Pow'r di - vine, fill and
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, Peace di - vine, still this
 5. Ho - ly Spir - it, Joy di - vine, glad - den



1. on this soul of mine. Voice of God, and
 2. in this heart of mine. Kin - dle ev - 'ry
 3. nerve this will of mine. Bold - ly may I
 4. rest - less heart of mine. Speak to calm this
 5. now this heart of mine. In the de - sert



1. in - ward Light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 2. high de - sire, pur - i - fy me with your fire.
 3. al - ways live, brave - ly serve and glad - ly give.
 4. toss - ing sea, grant me your tran - quil - i - ty.
 5. ways I sing, spring, O liv - ing Wa - ter, spring!



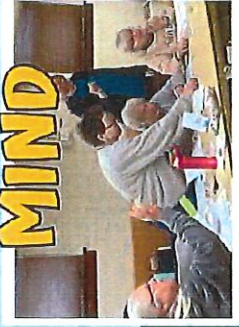
St. Jacob UCC

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SOUL

MIND

HEART



July 20

St. Jacob Park

Heart Healthy Activities- kids yoga, cornhole, adult kickball

Heart Healthy Mission- packing lunches for the summer lunch program

Tri-Township Park

August 3

Soul Feeding Activities- Cultural music and dance performance

Soul Feeding Mission- Decorating pillowcases to be donated to *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*

Thursday Nights

@6p-8p

Tri-Township

July 27

Library

Mind Enriching Activities- kid's puppet show and library tour, adult book club conversation

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" -Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

Activities listed are tentative. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Dian Gansmann
Liturgist	George Anderson
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, 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

-Carlyle Immanuel UCC, Pastor Ken (Barbara) Schafer

-Central City Zion UCC, Rev. Nancy Peebles

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Robert Schmidt, Sherman, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dian Gansmann, July 16

Robbie Meyer, July 16

Marlene & Larry Robison, 54 years, July 18

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, July 9, 2023

St. John's – 13

St. Jacob – 35

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

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. Anyone can donate -- items are anonymously given and received. Please consider blessing our neighbors in need, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

With the inflation these past few months, use of local food pantries has been high, and donations have been low. To help our communities we have a donation tub/box for food pantry donations in the sanctuary at St. John's and St. Jacob.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Canned potatoes, chili, spam, canned ham, black eyed peas, breakfast bars, Pop-tarts, pineapple, pears, peaches, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, tomato paste, Vienna sausages, sauerkraut, spinach, pasta sides, egg noodles, chicken & dumplings, beef stew, dish soap, & laundry detergent

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WEDNESDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God and in honor of our precious grandson Robbie as he celebrates his 12th birthday today (July 16), from Grandpa Charlie and Grandma Carol Kynion.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A men's fellowship organizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m., July 23 at Heritage Hall. Anyone interested in starting a men's fellowship group is encouraged to attend.

INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC and Troy Friedens UCC are working together on 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 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."* You can register on-line at: <https://forms.gle/1kkGSY9uLLuPDiET9> or if you prefer, there are registration forms available on the table in the Narthx and in the church office.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

-St. John's UCC is accepting monetary donations 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. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthx. For more information, or to volunteer call Judy Bolton at 618-830-0526, or Audrey Yann at 618-567-8013.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules. I have been suffering so much—Lord, make me live again according to your promise. Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules! Though my life is constantly in danger, I won't forget your instruction. Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won't stray from your precepts. Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy. I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:1-11

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

"Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."