

A photograph of a utility pole with a poster attached. The poster has a blue-to-red gradient background and the text 'LOVE ONE ANOTHER' in large, bold, black letters. The pole is dark brown and has some debris at the top. The background is a blurred street scene under a blue sky.

LOVE

ONE

ANOTHER

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 10, 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: "We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road for one another... We are all very busy in our own circles. We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of. But if we could cross the road once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might indeed become neighbors." ~ **Henri J.M. Nouwen, Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Tell the whole congregation of God's people:
This is a day for new beginnings.

ALL: This is a time of God's appearing.
This is the moment for faithful response.

ONE: Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.
Make melody to God and sing a new song.

ALL: Praise God for life enriched by love.
Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.

ONE: This is the hour to wake from our sleep.
The energy of God's love fills this place.

ALL: Here we claim our identity as Christians.
Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

"Love One Another", from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,

TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55171>. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/niznoz/5658062870/>.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. 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:

Exodus 12:1-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

HYMN

Just As I Am

354

SERMON

HYMN

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

382

Words: 1969 Oxford University Press; Music: Public Domain

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*)

May these offerings help to free your people, O God, from bondage to sin. Unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

248

© 1970, 1975 Celebration

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Duane Woods
Liturgist	Andy Scheiber
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Lola Kelley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jamie Runion, Jane Schmidt, Jerry 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

-Fieldon UCC

-Floraville St. Paul UCC, Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz

Retired Pastor

-Revs. Earl Menchhofer and Pamela Smith, Conyers, GA

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Larry Robison, Sept. 10

Karen Schultze, Sept. 11

Ella Boggy, Sept. 14

Carol Kynion, Sept. 14

Don Hanser, Sept. 15

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 3, 2023

St. John's – 15

St. Jacob – 31

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): Canned chili, tomatoes, and beans (kidney, pinto, great northern, black), cereal, juice, canned fruit, boxed Jello or pudding, Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, white rice, canned chicken, canned stew, peanut butter, & jelly

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): pasta sides, rice sides, chili, chili beans, pasta sauce, tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper, & egg noodles

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

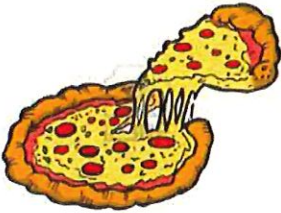
SEPTEMBER 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

ST. JACOB UCC RALLY DAY TODAY

We will have a church potluck lunch for Rally Day following worship today. Pork burgers and hot dogs will be provided, and we will have lawn games and bingo after lunch. Please stay and join us for food, fun and fellowship.

PIZZA FUNDRAISER ORDER DEADLINE SEPT. 24

St. Jacob UCC is sponsoring a pizza fundraiser along with Papa Murphy's. We receive a percentage of the total order -- if we sell 100 or more pizzas, our profit is 30 percent; if we sell less than 100 pizza's we get 25 percent. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthx and must be returned by Sept. 24. Your order form and payment can be dropped off at the office or placed on the collection plate. Pizzas will be available for pick-up following service at St. Jacob Oct. 1.



ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL 2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday through the school year. All children ages 3 and up are invited to join the fun. For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact the church office at 618-644-2142; or email: stjucc@hometel.com

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthx.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (Sept-Oct) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the Lord. I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

"This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the law. The commandments, don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."