



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 14, 2024

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: "Food is our common ground, a universal experience."

~ James Beard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has set apart who are faithful.

Our Creator will hear us when we call.

ALL: God puts gladness in our hearts and minds.

We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.

ONE: Beloved, we are God's children now.

What we will be has not yet been revealed.

ALL: We are here to remember Jesus Christ.

We want to be like the One who lived by love.

ONE: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.

God empowers our ministries of caring.

ALL: We trust God whose children we are.

We look forward to what God will reveal to us.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Duccio, di Buoninsegna. Christ Appears to the Disciples at the Table after the Resurrection, c. 1308-1311, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49184>. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_017.jpg.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view many people we see as your children: murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense. We feel like victims. Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know we do not abide in your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by you, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness you promise and the health you offer. 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.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

SERMON

HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

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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*)

We give with joy, gracious God, for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. 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 *Christ is Alive!*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Kay Guse
Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Dave Williams, and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, 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 Rev. Ken (Barbara) Schafer
- Central City Zion UCC Rev. Nancy Peebles

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Marlene Robison, April 14
Wally Foxworthy, April 15
Pat May, April 16
Gary Rufer, April 16
Bailey Frank, April 17
Carol Schmitt, April 19

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, April 7, 2024

St. John's – 12 St. Jacob – 32

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.

Items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, sloppy Joe, beef, sausage, chicken, salmon, and tuna. Boxed goods including pasta & noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, stuffing, and mac & cheese. Other pantry staples including flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, ramen, cake mix, Jello, and pudding. Nonfood items including trash bags, storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, & toiletries.

Items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Pop-tarts, oatmeal, cheese cracker sandwiches, beef jerky, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, ketchup, mustard, broth, cooked ham, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, & syrup

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are preparing for our 40th anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 18th and for the event on May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office at 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

T-Shirts are now available for order for our 40th anniversary Strawberry Festival! Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex and may be dropped in the offering plate, or you may call the church office at 618-644-2142 to order. Orders must be in to the church office by noon on Sunday, April 21st.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLYERS

We are preparing for our 40th annual Strawberry Festival and we could use your help in getting the word out. There are flyers located on the table in the Narthex, please take a few and get them posted on bulletin boards at area businesses. The event will be held May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn – Currently we have no volunteers from Monday through Aug. 25. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

ST. PAUL UCC CHICKEN DINNER TODAY

St. Paul UCC chicken dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **TODAY** at 123 E. Dee St., Lebanon, IL (drive-through only). Includes half fried chicken (pieces), green beans, coleslaw, real mashed potatoes & gravy, and dessert (Texas sheet cake or gooey butter cake), \$15, for more information call 618-537-4991.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 4

Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God! Set me free from my troubles!

Have mercy on me! Listen to my prayer!

How long, you people, will my reputation be insulted?

How long will you continue to love what is worthless and go after lies?

Know this: the Lord takes personal care of the faithful.

The Lord will hear me when I cry out to him.

So be afraid, and don't sin! Think hard about it in your bed and weep over it!

Bring righteous offerings, and trust the Lord!

Many people say, "We can't find goodness anywhere. The light of your face has left us, Lord!"

But you have filled my heart with more joy than when their wheat and wine are everywhere!

I will lie down and fall asleep in peace because you alone, Lord, let me live in safety.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-7

See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us.

Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure. Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.