



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 22, 2025

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: Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

~ Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When we long for the bombastic special effects we think life should offer:

ALL: **It is enough, for us, that God comes in a soft summer shower.**

ONE: When our hearts are cracked by the drought of doubt:

ALL: **It is enough, for us, that God opens up the fountains of faith for us.**

ONE: When our senses are deadened by the sales pitches of our culture:

ALL: **It is enough, for us, that God wraps us in the quietness of grace.**

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Anonymous. Jesus, the Gerasene, and the Unclean Spirits, from the Ottheinrichen Bible (ca. 1425-1430) from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56175>. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ottheinrich_Folio051r_Mc5A.jpg.

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

God of Justice, we fear that if we tell you all that we have done you might not love us any more. We know that can kill the dreams of those around us with only a word. We can make the lives of our friends miserable by our actions or neglect. We are filled with a legion of temptations which only leave us empty and wanting more. Forgive us, Gracious God. Remind us that we are your beloved children. Baptized, we are clothed in the graciousness and faithfulness of Christ who came that we might be set free from all that imprisons us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**GLORIA PATRI****734****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 42

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

HYMN *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*

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SERMON

HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West*

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of all times and places, may our offerings reflect confidence, not cowardice; altruism, not egotism; inclusiveness, not exclusiveness. We devote them to bringing all humanity into harmony with your purposes. May the work we undertake build up the body of Christ among us and far beyond us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE **Hear Our Prayer, O Lord**

490

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

*** HYMN** *Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Audrey Yann

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Kenzie Barker, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Erwin, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter, Darik Zobrist, Olin Zweck and the family of Shirley Anderson

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

- St. John's UCC, Plum Hill - Rev. Don Jones

- St. Peter UCC, Red Bud - Pastor Cory (Geraldine Perez) Hartz

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Linda (Bob) Coulson

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Margie & Wally Foxworthy, 18 years, June 23

DiAnn & Gary Rufer, 51 years, June 23

Collin Woods, June 23

Micah Lowe, June 28

Onis Zweck, June 28

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, June 15, 2025

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 32

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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: green beans, corns, carrots, mixed vegetables, stew, chili, soup, fruit, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, potatoes (boxed/bags), Rice a Roni, macaroni and cheese, pasta, Ramen noodles, Jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, powdered sugar, brown sugar, oil, Crisco, dish soap, laundry detergent (quart bottles/sheets/pods), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, baggies (sandwich/qt./gal.) plastic wrap, toilet bowl cleaner, and cleaning solution

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.

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 24

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three prize packs worth \$50, \$150, & \$250 toward the cost of Korte's barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. Ticket packets will be mailed out, and additional ticket packets will be available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used for mission giving, including providing summer lunches, paying off the delinquent lunch debts from this past semester at the grade school, supplying emergency supplies for DuBois Center campers (things they forgot to pack such as wash clothes, toothbrushes, and paste, etc.), and sponsoring a girl in Kentucky, etc. The drawing will be held immediately following worship on Aug. 24, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. You can drop your donation/tickets into the BBQ safe on the table in the Narthex or mail them to: 207 West Main Street. St. Jacob, IL 62281.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program this summer. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches will be provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, or to volunteer contact Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805

WALK WITH GOD

St. Jacob UCC is planning a walking group called "Walk with God." Anyone who likes to take walks, be in nature and share in unity is encouraged to join us. We hope to get members of the church together a couple times a week to walk and be visible in the community. We will meet at the church and decide from there where to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in participating and would like more information, call 618-644-2142/e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 42

Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God.
My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God's face?
My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, "Where's your God now?"

But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one's abode, to God's own house,
with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs – a huge crowd celebrating the festival!
Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside?
Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God.

My whole being is depressed. That's why I remember you from the land of Jordan and Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
Deep called to deep at the noise of your waterfalls; all your massive waves surged over me.
By day the Lord commands his faithful love; by night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life.

I will say to God, my solid rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I have to walk around, sad, oppressed by enemies?"
With my bones crushed, my foes make fun of me, constantly questioning me: "Where's your God now?"

Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God!
Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God.

SECOND LESSON: Galatians 3:23-29

Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed, so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him. They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you." So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.



1312 Broadway,
Highland, IL 62249
618-654-2125

June 12, 2025

Dear Churches of the Illinois South Conference, We have seen firsthand the powerful impact our Conference has had, offering churches the critical support required for effective ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. It is an awesome task to undertake, and we cannot do it alone. We need your continued investment in this essential work. Your donations, no matter the size, bring these ministries to reality.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) dollars are the primary revenue stream in the Illinois South Conference, as 80% of your donations to OCWM stay within our Conference, enabling us to fulfill our shared mission. As of May 31, 2025, giving to OCWM from local churches and individual donors is down 20% from last year. If this trend continues, we expect to realize an additional \$56,000 deficit, which will have to be covered with funds from investment reserves.

The Finance Ministry Team is monitoring the expenditures of ISC and DuBois Center, and expenses are going as expected, as per the budget approved at the 2024 ISC Annual Meeting last October. We continue to support each of our churches and pastors - with staffing search and call processes when churches are in search of a pastor; we aid in coordinating mission and relief efforts; we offer programs and services that train and equip faith leaders; and we strive to increase faith formation and outdoor experiences for all ages through ISC events and programming at DuBois Center. These expenditures are necessary to maintain the administration and enhance the discipleship programming of ISC.

After prayerful reflection, please give whatever feels right for your church family. Every contribution will be a statement of the resilient spirit of the Illinois South Conference and the collective mission of Jesus Christ. You make a difference when you donate.

Thank you for believing in the work of our Conference and for standing together in hard times. To donate by check, please mail it to the Illinois South Conference office at 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249. To donate online, go to <https://iscucc.org>.

Respectfully, The Finance Ministry Team of the Illinois South Conference

Scott Billhartz, Joy Honegger, Mike Koebel, Tom Kuergeleis, Greg Goheen-LambertGoheen, Rev. Todd Mushaney (chairperson), and ex-officio members: Darryl Collins (Conference treasurer), Jason and Leah Petry (Co-Interim Directors of DuBois Center), and Rev. Shana Johnson (Conference Minister)

thank you for
sponsoring our
baseball team this
season!
thank you so much
Blue Lions



