



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 29, 2025

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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.

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## WELCOME TO ANGIE HAUSMANN

We welcome Angie Hausmann who is serving as our pulpit supply leader today.

Please greet her following worship.

Pastor Phil will be back in the pulpit next Sunday.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: On days when we think God has nothing to do with work or family or the world:

ALL: the Book tells us of One who was a carpenter; who wandered the streets; who upset his family.

ONE: On days when we think the purpose of life is to make more money and fewer friends:

ALL: the Book speaks of a life of giving away of ourselves and finding a community as we do so.

ONE: On days aching with loneliness and empty of love and laughter:

ALL: the Book draws us into the embrace of God's open heart.

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### Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Poulakis, Theodoros, approximately 1622-1692. Ascension of the Prophet Elijah, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59086>. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poulakis\\_Theodoros-The ascension of prophen Elijah and scenes from his life.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poulakis_Theodoros-The ascension of prophen Elijah and scenes from his life.jpg).

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Redeeming God, how easily we say we follow you, but how often we live as if we don't have a clue as to what that means. We choose to gossip about our friends, rather than surrounding them with love. Our competitive nature wills us to win at all cost, when we could be engaged in costly service. We expect others to do for us and rarely ask what we might do for them. Forgive us Holy One. Set us free to serve in love and compassion; help us to feast on the fruit the Spirit offers to us; and put us on the path of faithful discipleship as we walk with you. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GLORIA PATRI**

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**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:**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

HYMN            *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

520

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert

HYMN            *Holy Spirit, Source of Love*

INSERT

INVITATION TO OFFERING

WE GIVE:

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, we did not know it would cost so much or feel so good to follow Jesus. We are grateful that we have so much to give and so much yet to learn. We dedicate our offerings so that we and our neighbors may be equipped for life in your realm. 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            *"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## **SERVING YOU TODAY**

Council Person

Audrey Yann

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

## **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, and Olin 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**

- 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**

Thomas Belcher, July 1

Stephanie Rehg, July 3

Jane Schmidt, July 4

Robert Willie, July 4

Carol Prange, July 5

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, June 22, 2025

St. John's – 11    St. Jacob – 25

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### 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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

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### **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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **GENERAL SYNOD RESOLUTION DISCUSSION**

Next Sunday, July 6, Pastor Phil will lead a discussion on the resolutions which will be voted on during the UCC's 35<sup>th</sup> General Synod July 11-15. If interested, the discussion begins at 11:30 a.m., in the Heritage Hall.

### **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.

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### **FIRST LESSON: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**

Now the Lord was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So both of them went on together. Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken away from you?"

Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit."

Elijah said, "You've made a difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen."

They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

Elisha was watching, and he cried out, "Oh, my father, my father! Israel's chariots and its riders!" When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

Then Elisha picked up the coat that had fallen from Elijah. He went back and stood beside the banks of the Jordan River. He took the coat that had fallen from Elijah and hit the water. He said, "Where is the Lord, Elijah's God?" And when he hit the water, it divided in two! Then Elisha crossed over.

**SECOND LESSON: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again.

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit.

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken up into heaven, he determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead of him. Along the way, they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival, but the Samaritan villagers refused to welcome him because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" But Jesus turned and spoke sternly to them, and they went on to another village.

As Jesus and his disciples traveled along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and the birds in the sky have nests, but the Human One has no place to lay his head."

Then Jesus said to someone else, "Follow me."

He replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and spread the news of God's kingdom."

Someone else said to Jesus, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those in my house."

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God's kingdom."



## THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

# Holy Spirit, Source of Love

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