



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**  
**MARCH 22, 2026**

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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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**Silent Reflection:** "The Spirit is like breath, as close as the lungs, the chest, the lips, the fogged glass where little fingers draw hearts, the tide that rises and falls twenty-three thousand times a day." ~ **Rachel Held Evans**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- ONE:** God calls us from the valley of dry bones.  
Come, listen for a word from our God.
- ALL:** **We hear God calling us in a far distant voice.**  
**We had nearly forgotten God's care for us.**
- ONE:** The Spirit breathes life into our dry bones.  
God offers hope when we have lost our way.
- ALL:** **Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers.**  
**Our spirits are filled with great expectation.**
- ONE:** Christ came as a light to all the world.  
Christ comes among us today to light our way.
- ALL:** **We hear the teacher calling for us.**  
**Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.**
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## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Like the disciples, Holy One, we drag our feet when it comes to following you. You would have us face conflict, and we look the other way. You would lead us into those hopeless valleys where so many of your children live, and yet we seek to build our homes on mountaintops. You would bring all of us into your peace and reconciliation, but we stay entombed in our troubles and fears. Forgive us, O God. As Lazarus was brought forth from the grave, unbind every worry which keeps us from living as your children. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## GLORIA PATRI

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US (*Skip if no children are in attendance*)

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:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

## HYMN

*Spirit of the Living God*

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## SERMON

## HYMN

*Let Us Build a House*

INSERT

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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*)

Lift us up, O God, from the graves of our self-interest as we invest ourselves in sharing the good news with the world. Increase our gifts of time and treasure, that all who are drained of hope might have their minds set on the Spirit. May the Spirit raise them to new life as we celebrate the resurrection Jesus promised to Lazarus and to all who trust and follow where God leads. 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

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

504

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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# Let Us Build a House

(All Are Welcome)

Unison

♩ = 100

C7 F C/E F B<sup>b</sup> C

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and  
 ♦ 3 Let us build a house where love is found in  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be -  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their

Dm C/E F B<sup>b</sup> C F/A Dm<sup>7</sup>

all can safe - ly live, a place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, where all God's chil - dren  
 ♦ wa - ter, wine and wheat; a ban - quet hall on  
 yond the wood and stone to heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard and loved and treas - ured,

Gm<sup>7</sup> C Gm<sup>7</sup> F/A B<sup>b</sup> C<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/F F

chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give. Built of  
 dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new. Here the  
 ♦ ho - ly ground, where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the  
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the  
 taught and claimed as words with - in the Word. Built of

GATHERING, CENTRING, AND INVOCATION

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> C F F/A

hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of  
 cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's  
 ♦ love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and  
 out - cast and the stran - ger bear the im - age of God's  
 tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of

B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> A<sup>7</sup> Dm

grace; here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 grace; here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 ♦ space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
 face; let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 grace; let this house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

Gm Dm Am<sup>7</sup> Gm/B<sup>b</sup> F/C

All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come

Gm<sup>7</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/F F B<sup>b</sup>/F F B<sup>b</sup>/F F B<sup>b</sup>/F F F/C Fine

in this place.

# CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MARCH 15, 2026

St. John's – 8 St. Jacob – 24

## 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)

## SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist Audrey Yann

Accompanist: Melissa Anderson Taylor

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Roger Baer, Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, Lisa Pier, Pat Thornton, and Sean & Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

**St. Jacob:** Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Melody Hollis, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Kathy Ritter, Olin Zweck, the family of Dave Schmidt

**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 UCC, Smithton - Rev. Debby Harness

- St. Jacob UCC, St. Jacob - Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier

### Retired Pastors

- Rev. James Langdoc

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Mandy Bolton, March 27

Gina Willie, March 27

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM DEADLINE TUESDAY**

Easter flower order forms are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob, and on the offering table at St. Johns. Deadline to order is **TUESDAY**.

### **ST. PAUL UCC PORK STEAK DINNER TODAY**

Lebanon St. Paul UCC pork steak dinner, drive-thru only, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., **TODAY** and includes pork steak (with or without BBQ sauce), baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw and choice of Texas sheet cake or gooey butter cake.

### **WALK WITH GOD**

Come join our St. Jacob UCC 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 we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in participating or for more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

### **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):**

**March Shopping list:** Pancake mix, fruit juice, pancake syrup, canned fruit, cereal, mac & cheese, oatmeal, canned chili, laundry detergent, & dryer sheets

**April Shopping list:** Canned tuna/chicken/beef, Rice-a-Roni, peas, green beans, mashed potatoes, hamburger/tuna/cheesy helper, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet paper

**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

### **FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "Lord God, only you know."

He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope as perished. We are completely finished.' So now, prophecy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says."

### **SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:6-11**

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: John 11:1-45**

A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one whom you love is ill."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This illness isn't fatal. It's for the glory of God so that God's Son can be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's return to Judea again."

The disciples replied, "Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?"

*(Continued on back page)*

***(Continued from inside)***

Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn't stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn't in them."

He continued, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up."

The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well." They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus' death.

Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there so that you can believe. Let's go to him."

Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.