



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
MARCH 29, 2026

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: “So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him.” ~ **St. Andrew, Archbishop of Crete**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here in this place, with these people,
we begin that week we call Holy.

ALL: **We crane our necks to see the parade, we will bow our heads as the
funeral procession winds through the streets.**

ONE: We have been with Jesus on this journey;
we long for courage to go to the end.

ALL: **In one hand, we clutch the palm branches;
In the other, we cradle our broken hearts.**

ONE: As children dance excitedly around him,
Jesus humbly enters our lives.

ALL: **Hosanna! We welcome the kingdom bearer into our midst. Hosanna!**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

With eager hearts and open hands, Holy One, we want to welcome Jesus, until he refuses the power we offer him, choosing in-*stead* to become our servant. Our pride keeps us from being able to follow him all the way to Calvary. Hosanna, O God, save us! Help us to let our fears, our doubts, and our faithlessness slip from our lives and fall at your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who comes in your name, in your glory, and in your grace to save us. 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:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21:1-11

HYMN

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

INSERT

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert**HYMN***Christ, Let Us Come with You*

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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*)

Use what we have to share, God of all people, so more of your children may know the good news of Christ. If we had a donkey, we would loan it. If we had branches, we would wave them. When we have extra garments, we would honor Christ by clothing our shivering sisters and brothers. We do have much to give, and we cherish the joy of giving. Bless these tokens of the fuller commitment they are meant to represent. Hallelujah! 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***This is a Time to Remember*

579

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

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190 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Unison (Optional S.A.)

1. Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus I love to hear;
 2. First let me hear how the chil - dren stood round his knee,
 3. In - to the cit - y I'd fol - low the chil-dren's band,

things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
 and I shall fan - cy his bless - ing rest - ing on me;
 wav - ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;

scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,
 words full of kind - ness, deeds full of grace,
 one of his her - als, yes, I would sing

sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.
 all in the love - light of Je - sus' face.
 loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"

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.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MARCH 22, 2026

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 33

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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Ty Gansmann

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Roger Baer, Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, Lisa Pier, 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, 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. Peter's UCC, Stone Church

- St. John's UCC, Summerfield - Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Kevin (Shellie) Strope

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Ashley & Jerid Ahrens, 8 years, March 31
Kelli & Jeremy Zurliene, 14 years, March 31
Duane Zobrist, April 3

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY, soup dinner 6 p.m., Worship, 7 p.m.

APRIL 3: GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 4: HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 5: EASTER, worship 8:45, St. John's; 10:15 a.m., St. Jacob

APRIL 8: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

APRIL 16: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

APRIL 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 6 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED

We are preparing for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 16th and for the event on May 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Also, we need cake/pie crust/cash donations. Volunteer sign-up/donation forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office, 618-644-2142

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 call the church office at 618-644-2142.



LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST. JACOB

Please volunteer to mow the lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on St. Jacob UCC's web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>). There are two ways to access the on-line giving option: the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." If you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.



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 Narthex.

*** **THE UPPER ROOM** (March-April) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

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):

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

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.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.
Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!
This is the Lord's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.
The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!
This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight!
This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

Lord, please save us! Lord, please let us succeed!

The one who enters in the Lord's name is blessed; we bless all of you from the Lord's house.
The Lord is God! He has shined a light on us!
So lead the festival offering with ropes all the way to the horns of the altar.
You are my God – I will give thanks to you! You are my God – I will lift you up high!
Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.
But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings.
When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore, God highly honored him and gave him a name above all names,
so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task.
He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey's offspring."* The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."