



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MAY 3, 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: "The smallest seed of faith is better than the largest fruit of happiness." ~ Henry David Thoreau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The One who shaped the universe crafts us into a community of faith;

ALL: **A people to shelter the homeless, a family to feed the hungry.**

ONE: The One who made kittens and elephants shapes us in the divine image;

ALL: **So we can grow with grace as we welcome the hopeless and helpless.**

ONE: The One who blesses us with flowers and waterfalls gifts us the way, the truth, the life.

ALL: **So we can go to tell the story, to bring healing to a broken world.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

In humility, we must confess how we have not matured as your children, Gentle Parent. The hurting of our world cry out and we cover our ears with hands that could be serving them. The forsaken of our neighborhoods are looking for a community of acceptance and we cover our eyes with hands that could welcome them. The lonely and grieving are listening for hope and we cover our mouths with hands that could embrace them. Forgive us, O God. Our hearts are in your hands, please transform them that we may serve your children. Our lives have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so call us to give our lives to you. 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:

Acts 7: 55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

John 14:1-14

HYMN

Be Still, My Soul

451

SERMON

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 commit ourselves to you, gracious God, as we dedicate the gifts that represent our labor. When we ponder the amazing wonder of life, we are filled with awe. When we remember Jesus as the cornerstone of the spiritual house you are seeking to build in our midst, we are eager to help. Let your face shine on us and on this offering that your mighty acts may be proclaimed to all the world. Amen.

HYMN*Let Us Break Bread Together***699****SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** -- Insert**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***His Eye is on the Sparrow***INSERT****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

ONE: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

ALL: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: Holy God, our loving Creator, you are as close to us as our breathing, and you are as distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith around the world and of every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our prayers with the entire family of your faithful people, everywhere and in every time:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest!

ONE: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. We remember that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and with the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and after giving thanks to you he divided the bread and gave it to the multitude. And all ate and were filled. When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread

and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God." Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For a time it seemed that all was lost. Jesus was executed by the authorities, and his disciples scattered in fear and despair. But at an evening meal in Emmaus, and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you he divided it and gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes, binding up their wounded hearts, continuing the meal, and revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death, and your labor with us continues, for the sake of your realm.

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

ONE: Holy one, pour out your blessings on this food we have gathered for your people. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless them and bring them closer to you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Hosts are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, APRIL 26, 2026

St. John's – 8 St. Jacob – 35

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: Beth Frank

Accompanist: Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller,
Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Robin Pollman, Kathy Ritter,
Ethan Rock, Olin Zweck and the family of Vernon Mendrip

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Tiffany & Vic Duncan, 24 years, May 4

Ann Becker, May 8

Pat & Steve May, 50 years, May 8

Carla & Darik Zobrist, 17 years, May 9

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 17: STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, 11 am to 3 pm, St. Jacob Township Park

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRT ORDER DEADLINE TODAY

T-Shirts are now available to order for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Fest -- Orders must be submitted to the church office by noon **TODAY**. Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex and may be dropped in the offering plate.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED

We are preparing for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Festival and need volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 16th and for the event Sunday, 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 on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS

There are envelopes labeled for each family with Strawberry Festival raffle tickets on the table in the Narthex for you to pick up. If you have family members who are not here, but you could drop off the envelope to them, it would be greatly appreciated, as it will help save on postage. Thank you for your support!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLYERS

We are preparing for our 42nd annual Strawberry Festival and we could use your help in getting the word out. There are pink 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 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park.

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER TODAY

“Little Rae of Sunshine” group fried chicken dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., **TODAY** at the Moose Lodge (7371 Marine Rd., Edwardsville, IL), cost is \$14. The “Little Rae of Sunshine” group was formed after Rae Lynne's passing to keep her legacy alive and to continue to address community building which she was an advocate of. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Their chicken is the best in town!

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 and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

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.

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):

May Shopping list: Peanut butter, juice, jelly, crackers, canned stew, pork & beans, corn beef hash, hamburger/tuna/cheesy helper, deodorant, & body wash

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: Acts 7:55-60

But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!" At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

I take refuge in you, Lord. Please never let me be put to shame. Rescue me by your righteousness! Listen closely to me! Deliver me quickly; be a rock that protects me; be a strong fortress that saves me! You are definitely my rock and my fortress. Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name! Get me out of this net that's been set for me because you are my protective fortress. I entrust my spirit into your hands; you, Lord, God of faithfulness – you have saved me.

My future is in your hands. Don't hand me over to my enemies, to all who are out to get me! Shine your face on your servant; save me by your faithful love!

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

"Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I'm going."

Thomas asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us."

Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don't speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.