



July, August and September 2018

St. Jacob and St. John Summerfield News and Notes

Dear Friends,
Thank You!

As the time draws near for my retirement as pastor of our congregations, I simply do not have the words to adequately express the depth of my gratitude for the unbelievable privilege to have served with you these last thirty-seven years. We have experienced much together. We have shared our great joys and successes, and our times of terrible adversity, sadness, and loss. You have given meaning and purpose to my life's work, and for that I will be forever grateful.

What comes next?

The first thing I must do is to abide by the ethical code of conduct for ministers who retire from a congregation. While our mutual love and affection remain, the professional relationship of pastor and parishioner must end. I will no longer be your pastor. As tempting as it might be to make exceptions—I want you to understand that I cannot and will not officiate at any services, weddings, funerals, or baptisms. All these things will be the responsibility and privilege of your new pastor. Please be ready to accept and welcome your new pastor as you once accepted and welcomed me and my family. Going forward, nothing will give me greater joy than to know that you are continuing your wonderful ministries in your respective communities.

Having retired from full time ministry does not necessarily mean my service to the wider church or my desire to serve has ended. From the rocky coast of Maine to the sandy beaches of Hawaii, many U.C.C. churches are in need of interim, bridge and supply pastors. It is a need I may seek to fill at some time in the future. Imagine; whole congregations who have never heard the stories, jokes, and occasional minor deviations from the truth with which you have become all too familiar. It boggles the imagination and begs for remedy.

Fortunately, because of the generosity and support of our congregations, there is no “one thing we always wanted to do, and never had the chance.” Joyce and I hope to continue to enjoy our families, and travel, and our normal activities; just with less pressure from church schedules and responsibilities.

Beyond that, who among us knows what the future holds? For now, let us say a very fond good-bye and a heartfelt farewell!

With love,
Pastor Gary

St. Jacob Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on the baptism of Joselyn Lee and Griffin Daniel Goodman, children of Kara and Daniel Goodman, on Friday, April 27th.

Congratulations on the baptism of Grace Kathryn Sullivan, daughter of Amy and Jerimiah Sullivan, on Sunday, April 29th.

Congratulations to Mariah Tarin and Jeffrey Kelley Jr who were united in marriage at Saints Joachim & Ann Catholic Church, St. Peters, MO on Saturday, June 9th.

Congratulations to Shelly Rufer and Jack Lee Bittle who were united in marriage on Sunday, June 17th at St. Jacob United Church of Christ.

GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL: Bailey Frank

UNIVERSITY — BACHELOR'S DEGREES:

Alex Schreiber - Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, SIU-E

Jennifer Schreiber – Bachelor of Science in Psychology, University of Illinois

UNIVERSITY — MASTER'S DEGREE:

Lyndsay Taylor – Specialist in School Psychology, UMSL

UNIVERSITY — DOCTORATE DEGREE:

Katie Hanser – Doctor of Dentistry,
SIU School of Dental Medicine

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family of Lucille Yann who passed away on Wednesday, April 25th at Faith Countryside Nursing Home. The funeral service was on Monday, April 30th at the St. Jacob United Church of Christ.

Our condolences to the family of Mary Beth McEwen whose funeral was April 25th at Richeson Funeral Home, Troy, IL.

Our condolences to the family of Ralph Edwards who passed away on Sunday, May 6th. His funeral service was Friday, May 11th, at Aebischer-Richeson Funeral Home, St. Jacob.

Our condolences to the family of Earl "Pete" Ritter who passed away on June 4th at Faith Countryside Nursing Home. The funeral was on Friday, June 8th at St. Jacob United Church of Christ.

ST. JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Condolences to the family of Bum Wehrle whose funeral was officiated by Rev. Gary Kniepkamp on April 20th at Moss Funeral Home, Trenton, IL.

Our condolences to the family of Pauline Paine whose funeral was on April 18th at Moran, Queen, Boggs Funeral Home in Centralia, IL.

St. Jacob Youth Group served over 100 diners at the Spirit of Sharing Soup Kitchen hosted by St. John's UCC in Collinsville on Thursday, May 3rd.



Youth Group Mission Trip: Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS

July 29 through August 4, 2018

The St. Jacob Youth Group has committed to volunteering at the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS this coming summer. They will have the opportunity to serve in three of the Mission's ministries: housing rehabilitation, the food pantry, and the Micah Day Center. This is a wonderful, challenging example of living the Word of God.

There are administrative costs for the group and each individual, as well as transportation costs for the entire group. The youth group has done several fundraisers and will continue to accept donations toward this meaningful goal.



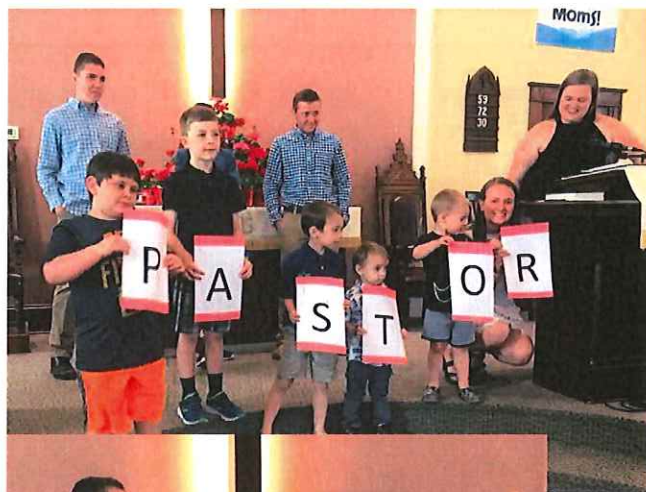
St. John's Retirement Celebration for Rev. Gary

Sunday, April 8th at Bella Milano's Restaurant



Mother's Day—Sunday School Presentation to Reverend Gary

On Sunday, May 13th we celebrated Mother's Day as well as the end of the 2017-2018 Sunday School Year. The Sunday School presented a small token of appreciation to Reverend Gary in honor of his upcoming retirement.

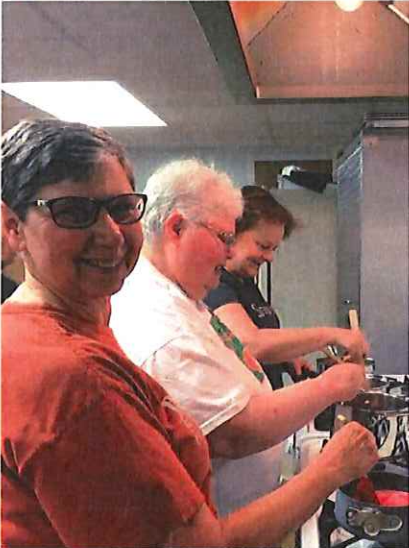


Youth Group hosted breakfast for all in attendance on Mother's Day



34th Annual St. Jacob UCC Strawberry Festival May 20th

Months of preparations culminated on the big weekend of May 19th and 20th. Lots of volunteers helped clean berries and prepare pies on the 19th for sale on Sunday the 20th.



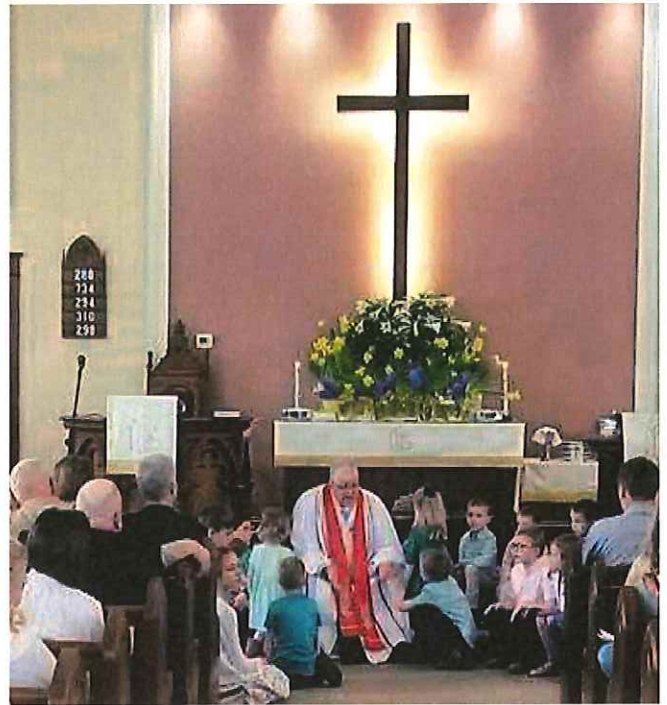
Farewell Fellowship Sunday Schedule

St. John Worship 8:45 a.m.

St. Jacob Worship 10:15 a.m.

Luncheon in Heritage Hall 12:00 p.m.

Open House 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.



A note from Joyce - It has been a great privilege for our family to be part of St Jacob and Summerfield churches. I'll always remember our kids growing up going to Sunday School, Strawberry Festivals, children sermons, picnics at the park, and St. Johns gatherings. I feel so blessed to have such wonderful loving churches in which to raise my children and grand-children. You have been kind to them beyond measure. We will always have fond memories (and pictures) of our church communities as we move forward to the next chapter of our lives.

Joyce Kniepkamp

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion	Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.	Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.			Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Farewell Fellowship Sunday at St. Jacob 12 Noon Luncheon 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open House	Rev. Gary's 65th Birth- day!	Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.			Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m. St. John Council Mtg 7:30	St. Jacob Council Mtg 7:15 p.m.		Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m. St. Jacob Homecoming	St. Jacob Homecoming
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.			Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.	Youth Group leaving for Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
29	30	31				
Quarterly Meeting, St. Jacob	Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.	Office Hours 9a.m.— 1p.m.				

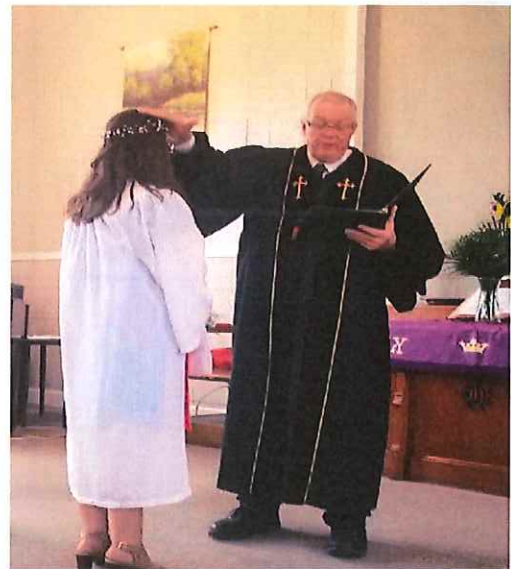
August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	4 Youth Group returning from Back Bay mission trip
5 Communion	6	7 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8	9	10 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	11
12	13	14 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	15 St. Jacob Council Mtg 7:15 p.m.	16	17 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	18
19	20	21 <i>Office Hours 9-1</i> St. John Council Mtg 7:30 p.m.	22	23	24 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	25
26	27	28 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	29	30	31 <i>Office Hours</i> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	

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