

April-June 2022



St. Jacob and St. John's Summerfield News and Notes

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. John's and St. Jacob,

Welcome to Spring!

As I write this, it is a beautiful mid-60 degree day, I have my office window open, and I can hear the birds and dogs outside enjoying the beautiful weather. I even went on my first spring hike the other day and started to see the flowers beginning to poke through the dried leaves on the side of the trail. I'm looking forward to warmer days and all of the time outside that spring will bring.

But this spring certainly feels different than the last few. It was just before spring two years ago that the coronavirus pandemic hit. I remember walking through my neighborhood in the evenings, seeing neighbors, but having to chat with them from a car length away. I remember looking up at the normally busy main road at the top of my street and not seeing any cars pass by for minutes on end. That spring certainly arrived according to the calendar, but with the lack of many of the spring outdoor activities I enjoy, it almost felt like winter never quite ended.

Then last year, spring began with the promise of vaccinations and the hope that things would get back to normal by summer, but then the word "variant" became a part of our regular vocabulary. In many places more people were sick than ever before and that feeling of being stuck in a long winter continued.

But over this past month or so, there is again hope things are getting better. There is hope this spring will end the feeling of a long winter, and this Easter will mark the beginning of a return to normal for our churches and our communities. We will be gathering again for a meal before our Maundy Thursday service. St. Jacob will again be having the Strawberry Festival out at the park. And I'm hoping that soon our churches' traditions that were placed on hold during the pandemic, like how we distribute and share communion together, will be able to return to normal.

So let us thank God for being with us and getting us through this long winter. Let us pray for the hope and renewal that Easter brings. Let us pray the progress we have seen allows us to gather once again, and continues into a beautiful summer.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil



Volunteers getting ready to build beds.



Don Yann stacks bed boards.



Ellie & Dalton stain bed rails.



Tavey marks a board for drilling.



Pastor Phil works the drill press.



Dalton & Ellie build bed headboards



Steve Mersinger builds a bed headboard.

St. Jacob UCC builds beds for community

Members of St. Jacob United Church of Christ helped build beds as part of an “Open Build Day” March 19 at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Alton, IL. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an organization that builds bunk beds and donates them to needy children in our communities.



Volunteers take a break from preparing the fellowship breakfast held March 26.



Steve Mersinger stirs the gravy mixture



Kenny cooks scrambled eggs.

Youth Group and Brotherhood sponsor fellowship breakfast

The St. Jacob United Church of Christ Youth Group and the Brotherhood sponsor fellowship breakfasts throughout the year at Heritage Hall. The next two fellowship breakfasts will be held April 30 and May 8, and serving begins at 8 a.m. Donations are accepted. Hope to see you there.



Dylan, Ethan, Dalton and Brittany treat themselves to some delicious breakfast.



Jane Noeltner & Melissa Taylor make a blanket for the Shriner's Hospital.



Judy Bolton, Sara Scheiber and Audrey Yann deliver blankets made by the ELF's to the Shriner's Hospital Feb. 9.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRAWBERRY FEST NEEDS WORKERS & DONATIONS

We are preparing for our 38th Annual Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for the event, as well as raffle donations. . The event will be held May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park & St. Jacob UCC parking lot. This event draws more than 3,000 people from the surrounding areas. It's a family-friendly event including musical entertainment, jump houses, pony rides, face painting, and local craft vendors. Sign-up forms to work the event are located on the table in the Narthx. For more information or to provide a raffle donation contact a festival committee member or call the church office at 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FEST SHUTTLE NEEDED

Do you have a business that has a tractor, flat bed, or some other type of wagon you would be willing to provide for us to use at the Strawberry Festival? We will consider listing you as a sponsor if you are able to provide this service. For more information contact Dawn Mersinger at 618-792-4316.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELF's organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthx to place the labels.

HALO PROGRAM NEEDS GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Hoyelton's HALO program is in need of gift card donations. HALO provides resources, counseling and mentoring to high-risk youth and young adults ages 11 to 25. Youth are at-risk or confirmed survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Gift cards should be in denominations of \$10 and can be from Wal-Mart or Dollar General. You may leave the gift cards in the offering plate, drop them in the basket on the table in the St. Jacob Narthx, or drop them off at the church office.

ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April Dates

Kristen Hill, April 12
Marlene Robison, April 14
Wally Foxworthy, April 15
Marsha Shirley, April 22
Brice Ahrens, April 25

May Dates

Jason Shirley, May 21
Mason Shirley, May 27

June Dates

Mindy Schiefer, May 2
Margie & Wally Foxworthy, 15 years, May 23

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April Dates

Duane Zobrist, April 3
Patti & Duane Woods, 36 years, April 5
Steve Mersinger, April 7
Katie Yann, April 10
Ken Frutiger, April 11
Kristie Daniel, April 12
Pat May, April 16
Gary Rufer, April 16
Bailey Frank, April 17
Carol Schmitt, April 19
Cheryl Byrnes, April 21
Gary & Marilyn Warren, 51 years, April 24

May Dates

Darren Schmitt, May 1
Tiffany & Vic Duncan, 20 years, May 4
Steve & Pat May, 46 years, May 8
Ann Becker, May 8
Darik & Carla Zobrist, 13 years, May 9
Harvey Steinkoenig, May 10
Grace Leder, May 11
Ty Gansmann, May 16

Karen & Joe Schultze, 52 years, May 16

Shelly Bittle, May 17
Duane Woods, May 19
Beth Frank, May 30
Tonia Ahlmeyer, May 30
Andrew Becker, May 30

June Dates

Ellise Duncan, June 1
Duane & Debbie Zobrist, 46 years, May 7
Tim & Gina Hirsch, 31 years, May 8
Dawn & Steve Mersinger, 22 years, May 10
Tim Hirsch, May 15
Vic Duncan, May 16
Richard & Susan Schmidt, 61 years, May 17
Jack & Shelly Bittle, 4 years, May 17
Audrey Bolk, May 21
Jerry & Carol Schmitt, 59 years, May 22
Gary & DiAnn Rufer, 48 years, May 23
Lola Kelley, May 25
Dalton Mersinger, May 26
Micah Lowe, May 28
Onis Zweck, May 28

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Each day I sit down with the prayer list and pray for the people of our churches. You could take this same list and put it by your bedside or reading table next to your Bible. Let us pray for those in need as well as our neighbors across the world on a daily basis.

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Ella Boggy, Chad Cruthis, Nancy McCaw, Cindy Roll

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Ross Busher, Cheryl Byrnes,
Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz,
Carol Schmitt, Liam Tedford and Carol Zweck

CALENDAR

April 3: First Sunday of the month communion.

April 3: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

April 10: Palm Sunday (Sunday School sings, St. Jacob service)

April 13: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

April 14: Maundy Thursday dinner, 6:15, Service follows

April 15: Good Friday (No service)

April 16: Holy Saturday (No service)

April 17: **EASTER** (7 a.m. & 10:15 service, St. Jacob & 8:45 a.m. service, St. John's)

April 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

April 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

April 30: Fellowship Breakfast, 8 a.m. Heritage Hall

May 1: First Sunday of the month communion.

May 1: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

May 8: **MOTHER'S DAY**

May 8: Fellowship Breakfast, 8 a.m. Heritage Hall

May 11: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

May 15: **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

May 17: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

May 18: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

June 5: First Sunday of the month communion.

June 5: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

June 8: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

June 14: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

June 15: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

June 25: 65th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ



CARD SHOWER

Pastor Phil would like to "shower" our members who are celebrating milestone birthdays, (90 years and up), or a milestone wedding anniversary, (50 years and up, in 5-year increments). The church currently does not have birth years for these special people, only the anniversary years. So, if you are in your late 80's and up, please let us know your birth year. We will let you know in advance when these milestone birthdays are taking place. The church will provide a basket on the Resource Table in Heritage Hall where you can place your cards and Pastor Phil will be happy to deliver them. You may also just mail your card if you prefer.

ST. JACCOB UCC STRAWBERRY FEST



COME HAVE LUNCH AT
THE PARK!
*ENTERTAINMENT AND CRAFTERS
*FUN FOR ALL AGES

BRATS & HOT DOGS
PORK BURGERS
GERMAN POTATO SALAD
STRAWBERRY DESSERTS

SUNDAY MAY 15
11AM-4PM

St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, IL 62281-1531

St. John United Church of Christ
109 West Kavanaugh
Summerfield, IL 62289

Like us on
Facebook

Visit our Website:
<https://stjacobucc.org>



St. Jacob United Church of Christ

207 West Main Street

St. Jacob, IL 62281-1531

Phone: 618-644-2142

E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Pastor e-mail: pastor@hometel.com

ADDRESS SERVICE CORRECTION

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 6

Mailing address line 1