



*I will  
praise  
you*

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 1, 2023

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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:

"A new year... a fresh, clean start! It's like having a big white sheet of paper to draw on! A day full of possibilities! It's a magical world... let's go exploring!"

~ Calvin (Bill Watterson)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Welcome this new year as the time of God's presence.

Our Creator offers us a new heaven and earth.

**ALL: This is the season for rebirth of our best.**

**God has gifted us with new opportunities.**

ONE: God is making all things new.

Mourning, crying, and pain cannot prevail.

**ALL: We are invited to find enjoyment in living.**

**We are meant to discover pleasure in our toil.**

ONE: God is mindful of our needs and our strengths.

We receive resources for the tasks God gives us.

**ALL: We have come to thank and praise God.**

**How majestic is God's name in all the earth!**

*Rise in body or spirit as you are able for our first hymn...*

**\* HYMN**                      *For the Beauty of the Earth*

40

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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God of all creation, how can you accept our empty praying? The world of our prayers is so small, and the needs of your people are so great. Yet, we must be personal in our confession, for we are a people of misplaced values, and our wrongful priorities have brought us much distress. We have missed your realm among us when we ignored those around us who were thirsty and hungry, when we turned away from prisoners and people suffering from AIDS. Restore us to membership in your family. We want to be forgiven, we want to change. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GLORIA PATRI**

**A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US**

**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.

## SCRIPTURES:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalm 8

Matthew 25:31-46

## HYMN

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

355

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## SERMON

THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH *(insert)*

## 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)*

May our hands extend a blessing to friends and strangers who hunger, or thirst, or shiver in the cold. May our presence comfort and inspire persons who are sick or in prison. May our witness to your gift of newness help to make it real to those who can only look backward. Help us all to face the future, trusting you, as we join you in wiping away tears and caring for the least and the lost. Amen.

## HYMN

*Come, Share the Lord*

696

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SACREMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(insert)*

## SACREMENT 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, close to us as breathing and 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.

At his final meal with his disciples, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Jesus did the same with the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

ONE: 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.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**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.

# 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

### *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

575

Albert Frederick Bayly | B.F. White Words © 1961 Oxford University Press Music Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Duane Woods

Accompanist

Melissa Taylor

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Cindy Roll, Jeffrey Thornton

**St. Jacob:** Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Erica Kynion, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, JoAnn Swip, and Carol 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

-Hecker Friedens UCC, Rev. Ivan (Vivian) Horn

-Highland Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp

\* Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

### Retired Past

Rev. Jim and Lelynna Langdoc, Sun City Center, FL



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

St. John's – 20 (12/18/2022); 23 (12/24/2022)  
St. Jacob – 82 (12/18/2022); 60 (4 pm, 12/24/2022) & 26 (10 pm)

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(Mondays by appointment)

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)

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Baer, Jan. 2  
Jane Noeltner, Jan. 2

## 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.

**Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry):** Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

**Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited):** Toilet paper, paper towels, peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, crackers, peas, canned potatoes, canned yams, pasta sides, rice sides, mac-n-cheese, Ramen noodles, Hamburger Helper, & cake mixes

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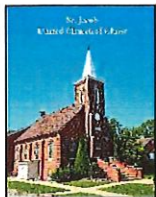


## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** New Year's Day

**Friday:** Epiphany

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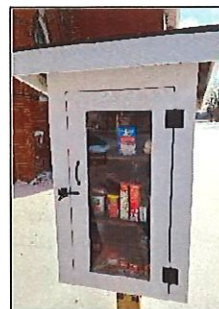


### **ST. JACOB CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE**

The current St. Jacob church directory is available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx. Please limit one booklet per family at this time, until we see what the level of interest is - Thank you.

### **BLESSING BOX INSTALLED AT ST. JACOB**

Thank you to those who have helped stock the "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC). Anyone can donate items to the "Blessing Box," recommended items include non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items that could bless someone in need. Items are anonymously given and received. Please consider donating and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.



### **ST. JACOB 2023 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

The St. Jacob 2023 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION**

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

### **SNOW SHOVELING**

Winter weather is here -- Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx. **Currently no one has signed-up for January or February.** Thank you!

### **DEGREEN CHURCH JANUARY 8**

Please join us for "degreening" the church sanctuary and Narthx, immediately following worship Jan. 8 at St. Jacob.

**FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted, a time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time for throwing away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing, a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace. What do workers gain from all their hard work? I have observed the task that God has given human beings. God has made everything fitting in its time, but has also placed eternity in their hearts, without enabling them to discover what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there's nothing better for them but to enjoy themselves and do what's good while they live. Moreover, this is the gift of God: that all people should eat, drink, and enjoy the results of their hard work.

**SECOND LESSON: Psalm 8**

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth! You made your glory higher than heaven! From the mouths of nursing babies you have laid a strong foundation because of your foes, in order to stop vengeful enemies. When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—what are human beings that you think about them; what are human beings that you pay attention to them? You've made them only slightly less than divine, crowning them with glory and grandeur. You've let them rule over your handiwork, putting everything under their feet—all sheep and all cattle, the wild animals too, the birds in the sky, the fish of the ocean, everything that travels the pathways of the sea. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

"Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left. "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.' "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

## 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.

# Strawberry Festival Planning

Over the last few years, the number of people working on the Strawberry Festival Committee has been declining and we no longer have enough people to plan and organize such a large festival.

Below is a list of all of the planning and leadership roles that we need to fill to continue having the Strawberry Festival, as well as examples of what the role entails.

The Festival Committee asks that you take a look at these planning roles and find where you can help with planning for the Strawberry Festival.

If you have questions please contact a member of the Strawberry Festival Committee: Carol Kynion, Donna Lowe, Di Rufer, Patti Woods, or contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

**Advertising** – Facebook postings, Lawn signs, Fliers, Lory Theater advertisement

**Sponsorships** – Soliciting for sponsors, Getting shirts ordered, Thanking sponsors

**Activities** – Bounce houses, Snow Cone, Kettle Corn, Ax throwing & new ideas

**Entertainment** – Scheduling musicians/entertainment, Getting sound equipment

**Crafters** – Soliciting for crafters, Marking spots, Organizing crafters

**Park Coordination** – Securing date, Insurance, Police/security, Ordering Port-a-potty, Leading setup & teardown

**Parking Coordination** – Securing shuttle(s) & driver(s), Recruiting parking helpers

**Raffle** – Raffle Permit from Village, Soliciting for prizes - Printing tickets, Prize draw, Contacting winners, Sending thank you notes to donors

**Food Ordering** – Strawberries

**Food Ordering** – Meat & Refrigeration trucks

**Food Ordering** – All other food & drink items and large beverage coolers.

**Ordering Non-Food Supplies** – Plates, cutlery, carry out containers, etc.

**Financial Coordination** – Recording money coming in, Paying bills, Cash drawers on site, Working with bank (ordering money, ATM, etc.)

**Assisted Living Food Delivery** – Coordinating with Nursing Homes, Packaging and delivering on day

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Coordinating volunteers the week of the festival including cake donations, berry cleaning & preparation, Sunday shift schedules, etc.