

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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 greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods."

~Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island

# ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We have entered into the season of Lent. Sundays, however, are not a part of Lent.

ALL: We have entered a wilderness time.

Yet this day of worship is an oasis in the desert.

ONE: We are here to worship the God of all creation.

We gather to remember God's revelation in Jesus.

ALL: Today we revisit the garden of Eden.
We remember God's overflowing generosity.

ONE: We worship God, who gives us choices and limits.

Are we open to God's counsel and instruction?

ALL: Today we remember the temptations Jesus faced. We want to learn to make good choices.

#### \* HYMN

## Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

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#### CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess our transgressions before you. We resent limits on our freedom to follow the impulses of the moment. We want life to revolve around us. We want other people to fit into the patterns that serves us best. Like a horse or a mule, we resent the bit and bridle that make us useful participants in the community you seek to create. We have tried to live apart from you. We sense that something is missing from our lives. Will you walk with us in this season and help us become all we are created to be? 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:**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

#### **HYMN**

## Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Words and Music: African-American spiritual; vss. 2-4 Jack Schrader Words vss. 2-4 € 1996 Hope Publishing Company.

#### **SERMON**

### HYMN O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

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#### 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)

By your surprising grace, O God, our eyes are opened, our ears unstopped, our hearts attuned to the needs of others. We give so more people may know your acceptance and forgiveness. We support the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing among us and through the outreach of the church. Expand our horizons, we pray, and tear down the limits of our caring. 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

Amazing Grace

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BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** 

## **SERVING YOU TODAY**

Council Person

Andy Schrieber

Liturgist:

Audrey Yann

Accompanist

Melissa Anderson Taylor

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean,

and Jeffrey Thornton

St. Jacob:

Sandy Autry, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Dave Krausz,

Erica Kynion, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt,

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

- -Moro St. John UCC at Midway, Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer
- -DuBois Center, Noah McCarn, Executive Director of DuBois Center
- \* Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

## Retired Pastor

-Rev. Dr. Richard and Johann Ellerbrake, Lebanon, IL

### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

Justin Huelsmann, Feb. 26 Margie Foxworthy, March 1 Sarah King, March 2 Elsie Brandmeyer, March 3

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

St. John's -18

St. Jacob - 32

## **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

Website: stjacobucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

# BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) contains non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for anyone in need. Please help us keep the "Blessing Box" stocked. 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.

### 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): Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, pudding cups, large box instant mashed potatoes, laundry detergent-small bottles, cake mix, paper towels, toilet paper, canned potatoes, Ramen noodle bowls, and Nutri-Grain bars

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## **CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

March 5: Meet & Greet/Open House with Noah McCarn, Executive Director of DuBois Center, 3-5 p.m., St. Jacob Heritage Hall

#### LENTEN STUDY SERIES

A Lenten Study Series will begin at 7 p.m., March 1, and will be held each Wednesday in March at St. Jacob Heritage Hall. All are welcome.

# ELF BOOK SALE, LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

This year as part of the St. Jacob community yard sale (May 4-6), the ELFs will hold a book sale in the Heritage Hall. As you prepare for spring cleaning, if you have any books you would like to donate, they can be placed on the cart in the Narthx. Funds raised will go toward supporting children in need through partner organizations in our community and within the wider church.

# ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 11

St. James Catholic Church Trivia Night will be held March 11 at the St. Jacob Community Building, doors open at 6 p.m., and trivia starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$100 per team (\$12.50 per person), limit of 18 tables. To reserve your table, contact Sharon Dickman, 618-691-8275 (e-mail: <a href="mailto:sdickman@hometel.com">sdickman@hometel.com</a>), or Judy Brendel, 618-210-8017 (e-mail: <a href="mailto:brendel@hometel.com">brendel@hometel.com</a>)

# ST. JACOB 2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2022 Giving Statements are available on the table in the St. Jacob UCC Narthx.

# 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.

## **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 Narthx.

### FIRST LESSON. Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

#### SECOND LESSON. Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

#### GOSPEL. Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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