



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 10, 2024

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: “Sometimes following God means throwing caution to the wind. Sometimes caution is a symptom of faithlessness.” ~ Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God’s word called into being the geese that fly south and the leaves that litter our lawns.

ALL: In awe we come to the presence of the God of vivid imagination.

ONE: God’s arms reach down and gather up God’s children, lovingly placing us in grace’s lap.

ALL: In joy we reach up to the God who loves us completely.

ONE: God’s spirit fills our lungs so we can cry out for justice for the broken, the young, the old, and the abandoned of our time.

ALL: In service, we join with our God to build hope in our world.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Swanson, John August. *Story of Ruth*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56561>. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, we have said it so lightly, “All that you tell us we will do.” Then we go and forget what you said. Or we remember and choose to do just the opposite. Then our life becomes bitter, and we don’t want to accept responsibility. But we have come to confess our sin. We have come to repent of our willful separation from your ways. Forgive us in the name of your amazing love, we pray. 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.

SCRIPTURE:

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Mark 12:38-44

HYMN *He Leadeth Me* 499

SERMON

HYMN *What Gift Can We Bring* 685

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, many people are blessed to contribute out of their abundance, but we have given sacrificially out of what we could use to live on ourselves. Thank you for the privilege of giving. Receive these, our gifts, and use them to further the mission and ministry of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE *Into My Heart* 485

*Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*** HYMN** *We All Are One in Mission* 552

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Kevin Hollis
Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Don Koenig, Christy Lanning, Fred Lanning, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Loti Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Kathleen Ritter, 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

- Troy Friedens UCC - Rev. Dr. Tim (Danielle) Harrison
- Valmeyer St. John UCC - Rev. Steven (Carla) Boorsma

Retired Pastor

- Retired Pastor - Rev. Robert (Doris) Utke

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES

Darik Zobrist, Nov. 10

Renee Bippen, Nov. 11

Sharon & Don Koenig, 56 years, Nov. 16

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, November 3, 2024

St. John's – 22 St. Jacob – 32

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

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.

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): Canned goods including: green beans, corns, carrots, mixed vegetables, stew, chili, soup, fruit, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, potatoes (boxed/bags), Rice a Roni, macaroni and cheese, pasta, Ramen noodles, Jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, powdered sugar, brown sugar, oil, Crisco, dish soap, laundry detergent (quart bottles/sheets/pods), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, baggies (sandwich/qt./gal.) plastic wrap, toilet bowl cleaner, and cleaning solution

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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: Veterans Day

WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

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

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

HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. On the table in the Narthex you will find a basket with slips. Each slip lists possible gifts and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. The gifts are due to church by Sunday, Dec. 1, and we'll get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

St. John's: Again this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their on-line wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board.

ST. JACOB NEEDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

St. Jacob needs members to serve on the church council. Currently we have only nine of the 12 positions filled. Two of those nine members will finish their term at the end of this year, which will leave us with five positions vacant for 2025. Please consider volunteering, it's really a small commitment of your time, as the council meets just once a month for about an hour, and then serves as the council person for one month to assist at worship. The success of our church depends on volunteers like you. For more information call the church office, 618-644-2142.

SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (November-December) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob

FIRST LESSON: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Naomi, her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shouldn't I seek security for you, so that things might go well for you? Now isn't Boaz, whose young women you were with, our relative? Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. You should bathe, put on some perfume, wear nice clothes, and then go down to the threshing floor. Don't make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying. Then go, uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what to do."

Ruth replied to her, "I'll do everything you are telling me."

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife.

He was intimate with her, the Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi, "May the Lord be blessed, who today hasn't left you without a redeemer. May his name be proclaimed in Israel. He will restore your life and sustain you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law who loves you has given birth to him. She's better for you than seven sons." Naomi took the child and held him to her breast, and she became his guardian. The neighborhood women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They called his name Obed. He became Jesse's father and David's grandfather.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 127

Unless it is the Lord who builds the house, the builders' work is pointless.
Unless it is the Lord who protects the city, the guard on duty is pointless.
It is pointless that you get up early and stay up late, eating the bread of hard labor
because God gives sleep to those he loves.

No doubt about it: children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a divine reward.
The children born when one is young are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.
The person who fills a quiver full with them is truly happy!
They won't be ashamed when arguing with their enemies in the gate.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

As he was teaching, he said, "Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly."

Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

St. Jacob Adult Bible Study

1. Would you be interested in attending a bible study every other week?

Yes

No

2. If so, would you prefer to attend in:

the morning

the evening

3. If morning, would you prefer the study start at:

10 AM

11 AM

4. If evening, would you prefer the study start at:

6 PM

7 PM

5. Would you be open to reading a chapter or two of a book in between sessions as a part of the study?

Yes

No

6. What questions do you have about your faith, the bible, or the church that you would be interested in learning more about?

