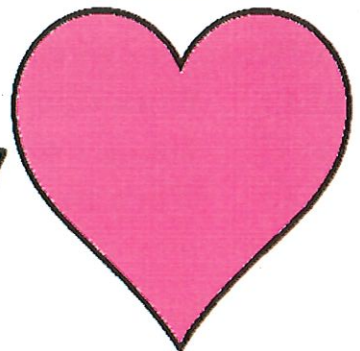
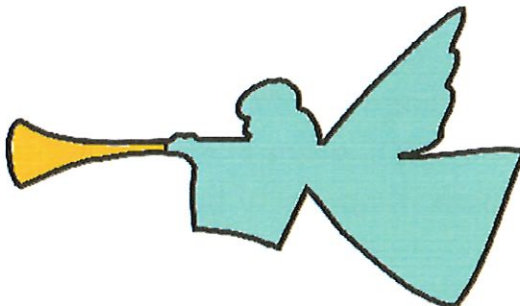
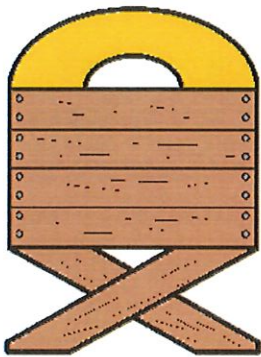
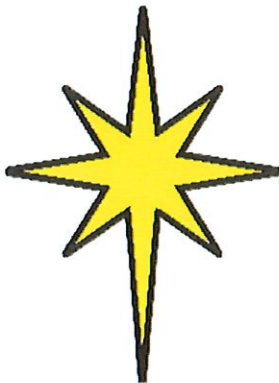


*Make your ways
known to me, Lord;
teach me your
paths. Lead me in
your truth - teach
it to me - because
you are the God
who saves me.*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 1, 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: "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The days are surely coming when God's promises shall be fulfilled.

ALL: When our love for one another and for all God's children will increase.

ONE: The days are surely coming when God's promises shall come true.

ALL: When God will strengthen our hearts in humility and holiness.

ONE: The days are surely coming when God's promises are realized in us.

ALL: When we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.

* HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

THE ADVENT WREATH – HOPE

Lighting the Candle

Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

It is never easy for us to confess to you, Waiting God. There are those things we have done that we would not like to remember; There are those people we have found so difficult to love; there are those we have found all too easy to ignore and hurt. Forgive us, O God. Teach us your ways when we have lost ours. Lead us in humility to the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your trust, so we might be the ones who keep your words, revealed to us in Jesus Christ. 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:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

Luke 21:25-36

HYMN *All Earth is Hopeful*

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SERMON

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)*

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.

HYMN *Come to the Table of Grace*

INSERT

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – INSERT

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kevin Hollis

Liturgist

Angela Imming

Accompanist

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Jackie Miller, Kathleen Ritter, and the family of 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:

Pastor Phil will announce the
Illinois South Conference prayer list
at the beginning of worship

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Loretta Tague, Dec. 3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, November 24, 2024

St. John's – 8 St. Jacob – 25

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: stjacobbucc.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

DECEMBER 11: Every Ladies Fellowship meets at 10 a.m.

RETURN OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

After a hiatus, Sunday School will return in January, and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. Classes will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays from January through May. Additional details will be posted on the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page as they become available.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JACOB

A short, four-week adult Bible Study on the 10 Commandments will be offered every other Wednesday (Jan. 8 & 22, and Feb. 5 & 19). Each session will offer two options to attend, beginning at either 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. If you are interested in joining us for the study, let Pastor Phil know by Jan. 18th so we can order enough books.

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!

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 25:1-10

I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you.

Please don't let me be put to shame! Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!

For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame; instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth – teach it to me – because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long.

Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love – they are forever!

But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

The Lord is good and does the right thing; he teaches sinners which way they should go.

God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way.

All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws.

GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-38

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

SACRAMENT 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: Source of Light and Life, we are the work of your hands, we are all your people.

ALL: Restore us, O God; make your face shine so that we can be saved.

ONE: You, O God, are faithful and have given us grace and light through Jesus Christ. But we turned away; we sinned before you.

ALL: Restore us, O God; make your face shine so that we can be saved.

ONE: Meet us, Holy One, in this meal that we may be restored to right relationship with you. Join us together as the body of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Keep us wide-eyed for the day of your coming, that we may know your salvation. Shine through us and on the food we have gathered for your people and upon these gifts of bread and cup you give to us. Transform us into a people of hope, love and justice for your world.

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, Jesus taught us that when we see the tender, new leaves of the fig tree we know summer is near. We again see the signs of Advent and know that our celebration of Christ's birth draws near. As sisters and brothers in faith, we seek to stay alert, remembering the words and acts of Jesus Christ. When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God." 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: Holy one, pour out your blessings on this food we have gathered for your people. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless them and bring them closer to you.

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.

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.

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 ♪ = ♪ ♪ ♪ F C Dm F7/C B^b

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B^b F/C C7 F B^b F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

