



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 16, 2025

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: "Christians have a dual citizenship - on earth and in heaven -
and our citizenship in heaven ought to make us better people here on earth."
~Rev. Warren W. Wiersbe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: How are we to know we are loved by God, as deeply as were Sarah and
Abraham?

ALL: **At the center of the covenant is God's promise, as well as God's
honor.**

ONE: How are we to know that when we cry out to God we will be heard?

ALL: **At the center of our relationship with God is love and trust.**

ONE: How are we to trust that what people like Paul and Jesus tell us is true?

ALL: **At the center of Scripture we find God, full of grace and wonder.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Gracious God, we must admit that all too often you are not at the center of our lives. We find shelter in the false securities the world offers, rather than grounding ourselves in your promises. Our emotions drive our fears and lead us to make foolish choices, rather than being guided by your word and heart. We ask, O God, that you not hide your face from us, but turn to us with forgiveness and hope. Fill our emptiness with your love, so we might become more loving. Open our hearts, as well as our eyes, to see the One who comes to gather us up and lead us to your kingdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

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:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist: Angela Imming
Accompanist: Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sherry Christ, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally
 Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Edie Haller Bridges, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley,
 Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, and Darik Zobrist

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

- Hamel Immanuel UCC- Rev. Paul (Rev. Cherie Hambleton) Burden
- Hecker Friedens UCC

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Lilly Zobrist, March 19

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 9, 2025

St. John's – 9 St. Jacob – 36

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: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Monday: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

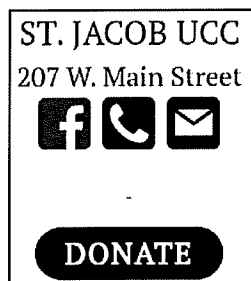
This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

Sunday School will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays through May and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. For more details and registration information visit the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page (facebook.com/stjacobucc).

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on St. Jacob UCC's web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>). There are two ways to access the on-line giving option: the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." If you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.



LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.



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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 15:1-12

After these events, the Lord's word came to Abram in a vision, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector. Your reward will be very great."

But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus." He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir."

The Lord's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." Then he brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them." He continued, "This is how many children you will have." Abram trusted the Lord, and the Lord recognized Abram's high moral character.

He said to Abram, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

But Abram said, "Lord God, how do I know that I will actually possess it?"

He said, "Bring me a three-year-old female calf, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a dove, and a young pigeon." He took all of these animals, split them in half, and laid the halves facing each other, but he didn't split the birds. When vultures swooped down on the carcasses, Abram waved them off. After the sun set, Abram slept deeply. A terrifying and deep darkness settled over him.

After the sun had set and darkness had deepened, a smoking vessel with a fiery flame passed between the split-open animals. That day the Lord cut a covenant with Abram: "To your descendants I give this land, from Egypt's river to the great Euphrates."

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, become imitators of me and watch those who live this way – you can use us as models. As I have told you many times and now say with deep sadness, many people live as enemies of the cross. Their lives end with destruction. Their god is their stomach, and they take pride in their disgrace because their thoughts focus on earthly things. Our citizenship is in heaven. We look forward to a savior that comes from there – the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform our humble bodies so that they are like his glorious body, by the power that also makes him able to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, "Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Look, I'm throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. However, it's necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it's impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn't want that. Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won't see me until the time comes when you say, Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord's name."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

