

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 23, 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: "Repentance is a characteristic of the whole life, not the action of a single moment." ~ **Sinclair B. Ferguson**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When our pockets are empty, God allows us to purchase what we need, charging it to grace's account.

ALL: **God thinks differently than we do.**

ONE: When our souls are parched, God hands us a glass of living water.

ALL: **God's ways are different from ours.**

ONE: When we grow weary of searching, God takes our hand and leads us home.

ALL: **God's love is different from ours.**

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. In the Orchard, or, Gardener near a Gnarled Apple Tree, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We continue to be tempted, Faithful God. We are blessed with gifts to use for others, but we want to keep them for ourselves. We easily notice the mistakes of those around us, but do not want to look in the mirror at our lives. We turn our desires into idols so we do not have to recognize how they can damage us. Forgive us, O God. Fill the poverty of our spirits with the richness of your grace. Feed our selfish hunger with the bread of compassion for the world. And pour the living waters of Jesus Christ, our Savior, into our hearts until they overflow with your love. 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:

Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

HYMN *Rock of Ages* 384

SERMON

HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* 458

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*)

We offer these gifts, O God, in the spirit of love. May the gifts that we give this day embody our loving response to your great love for us. We thank you for the privilege of sharing these gifts and hope that through these gifts, others will feel the love of Christ. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord* 490

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

*** HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* 501**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist: Angela Imming
Accompanist: Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: 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

- Highland Evangelical UCC- Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp
- Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC- Rev. Sharon Patton

Retired Pastors

- Rev. James Langdoc

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Mandy Bolton, March 27

Gina Willie, March 27

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 16, 2025

St. John's – 15 St. Jacob – 31

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

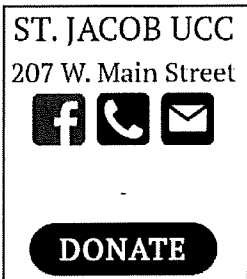
We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

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: Isaiah 55:1-9

All of you who are thirsty, come to the water! Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat! Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk! Why spend money for what isn't food, and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?

Listen carefully to me and eat what is good; enjoy the richest of feasts. Listen and come to me; listen, and you will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful loyalty to David.

Look, I made him a witness to the peoples, a prince and commander of peoples. Look, you will call a nation you don't know, a nation you don't know will run to you because of the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the Lord when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways and the sinful their schemes. Let them return to the Lord so that he may have mercy on them, to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness.

My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Brothers and sisters, I want you to be sure of the fact that our ancestors were all under the cloud and they all went through the sea. All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. However, God was unhappy with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. These things were examples for us, so we won't crave evil things like they did. Don't worship false gods like some of them did, as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and they got up to play. Let's not practice sexual immorality, like some of them did, and twenty-three thousand died in one day. Let's not test Christ, like some of them did, and were killed by the snakes. Let's not grumble, like some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example and were written as a warning for us to whom the end of time has come. So those who think they are standing need to watch out or else they may fall. No temptation has seized you that isn't common for people. But God is faithful. He won't allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead, with the temptation, God will also supply a way out so that you will be able to endure it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. He replied, "Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did."

Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"