

Why do you look for the living among the dead?



He isn't here, but has been raised.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 20, 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: "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins
with our resurrection." ~ **Watchman Nee**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made!

ALL: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

ONE: This is the day God has made; and what a day!

ALL: When God wipes away our tears so we can see the empty tomb.

ONE: What a day! Easter Day!

ALL: When God opens our hearts' tombs as Jesus calls us by name.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

On this glorious day, O God, we must admit that we have not lived faithfully. It is not that we have done great evil, but we have failed to do good. It is not that we have caused hurt; but we have not brought healing. It is not that we have trouble believing in the event of Easter; just that we have difficulty trusting that it is truly meant for us. Call us by name so that we might hear your words of mercy and forgiveness. Open our hearts so rather than despair, we may know hope; rather than emptiness, we may know the bread of Heaven; and rather than death, we may know new life through our redeemer, Jesus Christ. 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:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED – *Insert*

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 resurrection. We rejoice in Christ as the first fruits of all that you make available to us. As you offered Christ to the world, so we would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to good news of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – *Insert*

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

PRAYER RESPONSE Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist	Kay Guse
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Gracie Emmerich, Lori Erwin, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerschler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Darik Zobrist, and the family of Carol Schmitt

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

- Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC - Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius
- Maeystown St. John UCC - Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Diane Grohmann

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl Byrnes, April 21
Marsha Shirley, April 22
Marilyn & Gary Warren, 54 years, April 24
Brice Ahrens, April 25

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, April 13, 2025

St. John's – 17 St. Jacob – 44

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. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS ORDERS DUE TODAY

Orders for Strawberry Festival T-Shirts must be turned in TODAY! Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex and may be dropped in the offering plate, or give them to Pastor Phil after worship.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS

There are envelopes labeled for each family with Strawberry Festival raffle tickets in the Narthex for you to pick up. If you have family members who are not here, but you could drop off the envelope to them, it would be greatly appreciated, as it will help save on postage. Thank you for your support!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are preparing for our 41st anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 17th and for the event on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office, 618-644-2142.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program this summer. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches will be provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, or to volunteer contact Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805

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

FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:34-43

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my saving help! The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's strong hand is victorious! The Lord's strong hand is ready to strike! The Lord's strong hand is victorious!"

I won't die – no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done.

Yes, the Lord definitely disciplined me, but he didn't hand me over to death.

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the Lord's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight!

This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words. When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

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: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed!

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: It is a right and joyful thing to praise you, Holy God, who through your spirit anointed Jesus of Nazareth to tell your good news of grace and love through his birth, life, death, and resurrection.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Break open the tombs of our lives by your earthquake and lightning that we may know your power and take courage from Christ's resurrection to live new lives.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Grant us the fear and hope of Mary who found the empty tomb and heard the angel's word. Grant us the surprise and joy of the disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Grant us the awe and deep happiness of the Apostles who met with Jesus at the breakfast campfire on the shore of Galilee.

ALL: Christ was not in the tomb! Christ is risen! Christ goes before us into the world!

ONE: Pour out your Spirit of resurrection on us and on this bread and cup, that we may experience newness in our own lives and bear your good news to the world!

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Thanks be to you, God of creative newness!
Thanks be to you, Christ reborn among us!
Thanks be to you, comforting and challenging Spirit!

ALL: Thanks be to you, Holy God, Three-in-One, now and forever! Alleluia! Amen!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Host are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

ALL: God of grace and resurrection, we give you thanks that you have brought us to your table and shared with us the presence of Christ. May this meal 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.

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.

