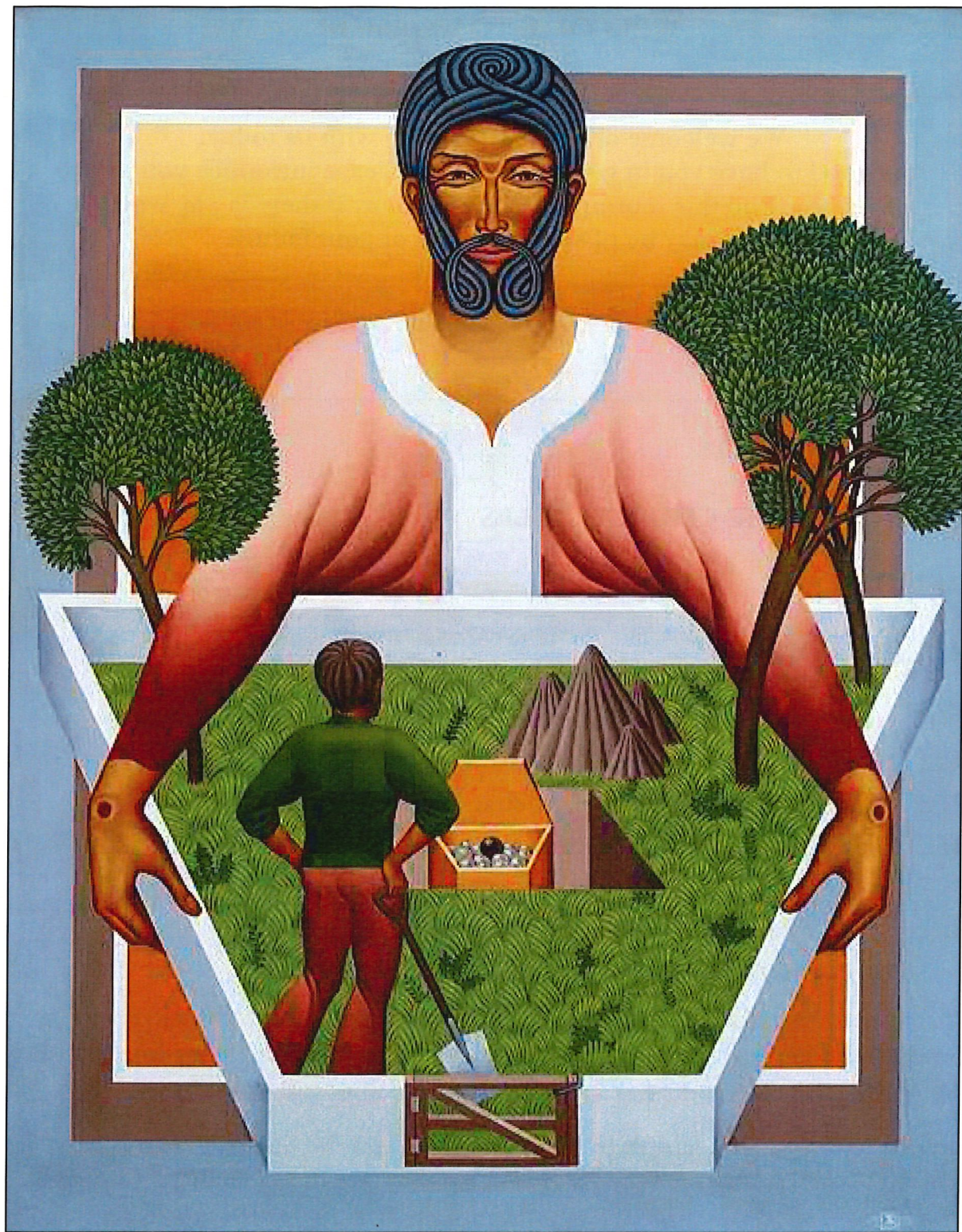




WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JULY 26, 2026

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 may be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "I have a mustard seed; and I am not afraid to use it."
~ Pope Benedict XVI

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: On this day of worship, we call on God's name,
ALL: and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.
ONE: Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,
ALL: and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.
ONE: In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,
ALL: and receive that grace, which is as old as creation,
yet as fresh as each morning.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

What are we to say about our lives, O God? We know how often we have misled others with our deceit. We remember how often we make a promise, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while so easily listening to the lies of those who would pull us away from you. Forgive us, Lord. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our poor choices, and your love will overcome everything which separates us from you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US (*Skip if no children are in attendance*)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 29:15-28

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

HYMN

Seek Ye First

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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*)

The gift of your realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

* HYMN

O Day of God, Draw Near

INSERT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Attribution: Koenig, Peter. Treasure in the Field, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58507>.

Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, JULY 19, 2026

St. John's – 12 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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Ty Gansmann

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Roger Baer, Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, and
Sean & Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Ethan Rock,
Bill Tebbe, and Olin 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

- St. John UCC, Evansville

- St. John UCC, Fairview Heights - Rev. Rosemary Captain

Retired Pastors

- Retired Pastor- Rev. Robert (Doris) Utke

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Autry, July 28

Ruth Mikeals, July 31

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: St. John's UCC semi-annual meeting following worship

HOYLETON BACK TO SCHOOL DONATIONS REQUESTED

Hoyleton back to school drive is underway. Request donations of school supplies be dropped off at the church by Sunday, Aug. 2. For additional information, see flyers located on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob, and on the table by offering plate at St. Johns.

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 30

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering a chance to win one of three prizes: \$250, \$150 & \$50 toward the cost of Korte's barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$3 each or four for \$10. Ticket packets have been mailed out; additional ticket packets are available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The drawing will be held following worship Aug. 30, where the winners' names will be drawn. Drop your donation/tickets into the Barbeque safe located on the table in the Narthex or mail them to: 207 West Main Street, St. Jacob, IL 62281.

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 to lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The Summer Grab-N-Go Lunch Program is available for school-aged children in Lebanon or Summerfield each Monday–Friday. Lunches are first-come, first-served. Children must be present to receive lunch. Pickup locations are the Summerfield Fire Department, Rooted Community Church, and the Lebanon High School Parking Lot.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches are provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches are 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 assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805.

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):

July Shopping list: Syrup, mac & cheese, pancake mix, peas & carrots, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, Hearty soup, laundry detergent, & gallon/quart bags

August Shopping list: Peanut butter, jelly, juice, ground coffee, canned pasta, rice, mashed potatoes, pork & beans, razors & shaving cream

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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "You shouldn't have to work for free just because you are my relative. Tell me what you would like to be paid."

Now Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah and the younger Rachel. Leah had delicate eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and was good-looking. Jacob loved Rachel and said, "I will work for you for seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter."

Laban said, "I'd rather give her to you than to another man. Stay with me."

Jacob worked for Rachel for seven years, but it seemed like a few days because he loved her. Jacob said to Laban, "The time has come. Give me my wife so that I may sleep with her." So Laban invited all the people of that place and prepared a banquet. However, in the evening, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he slept with her. Laban had given his servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her servant. In the morning, there she was – Leah! Jacob said to Laban, "What have you done to me? Didn't I work for you to have Rachel? Why did you betray me?"

Laban said, "Where we live, we don't give the younger woman before the oldest. Complete the celebratory week with this woman. Then I will give you this other woman too for your work, if you work for me seven more years." So that is what Jacob did. He completed the celebratory week with this woman, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. That's the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

They said to him, "Yes."

Then he said to them, "Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest."

O Day of God, Draw Near

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R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15

1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of Canada, he wrote this text in 1937 for the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836

