



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 13, 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: "Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me."
~ Archibald Hart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In sacred time of word, wonder, and awe,
In ordinary times of work and play:

ALL: In every moment, God is with us.

ONE: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud
or standing on faith's shoreline:

ALL: In every place, God is with us.

ONE: In those who teach us and those who trouble us,
In those who surprise us and those who forgive us:

ALL: In every person, God is with us.

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of United Church Press from *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1998.

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of Thom M. Shuman from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year A* by Thom M. Shuman. Copyright 2013.

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

It is never easy for us to confess, O Lord, but deep down inside we know that:

- graced, we have trouble giving grace to others;
- forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us;
- freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear.

Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve. You pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are your children, sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ who died and lived again that we might live beyond death with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**GLORIA PATRI**

734

PASSING OF THE PEACE**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:

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

HYMN

O, How I Love Jesus

109

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 honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are a part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. Amen.

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.*

* HYMN

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

61

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Attribution: Swanson, John August. Moses, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56554>. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

St. John's -15 St. Jacob -24

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

Dian Gansmann

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, Jackie Miller, and Ethan Rock

-- The flowers on the altar: one pink rose is in memory of Charlie Jo, my mom's great-granddaughter and my great-niece, who passed away at 23 weeks' gestation, and two white roses in honor her parents, Julia and Forest – from Angela Imming

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

- Zion Evangelical UCC, Hoyleton - Rev. Sharon Patton

- Friedens UCC, Irvington - Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate, Pastor Nick (Jennifer) Luer

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Carol Kynion, Sept. 14
Don Hanser, Sept. 15
Cathy Frutiger, Sept. 18
Audrey Yann, Sept. 18
Amy Zbinden Sullivan, Sept. 19

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: St. Jacob UCC 170th planning meeting, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY: Sunday School meeting, 5:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall or 7 p.m., in the office meeting space

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

SEPTEMBER 19: Bruce Blumer visitation, 10 a.m., memorial service, 11 a.m., luncheon, following memorial service, Heritage Hall

SEPTEMBER 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 26: Fellowship Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m., Heritage Hall, all are welcome, freewill offering

SEPTEMBER 26: Fall workday, 9:30 a.m., St. Jacob UCC

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 27

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 27. Class will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday thereafter. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register contact the church office: e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com, or call 618-644-2142.

WALK WITH GOD

Come join our St. Jacob UCC walking group, called "Walk with God." Anyone who likes to take walks, be in nature and share in unity is encouraged to join us. We hope to get members of the church together a couple times a week to walk and be visible in the community. We will meet at the church and decide from there where we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in walking with our "Walk with God" group, or would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

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, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

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):

September Shopping list: Spam, pudding cups, canned chicken, pasta sides, canned tuna, corn, canned beef, green beans, household cleaner, & paper towels

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: Exodus 14:19-31

God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the amazing power of the Lord against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

SECOND LESSON: Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

I will sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!
The Lord is my strength and my power; he has become my salvation.
This is my God, whom I will praise, the God of my ancestors, whom I will acclaim.
The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his army he hurled into the sea; his elite captains were sunk in the Reed Sea.
The deep sea covered them; they sank into the deep waters like a stone.
Your strong hand, Lord, is dominant in power; your strong hand, Lord, shatters the enemy!
With your great surge you overthrow your opponents;
you send out your hot anger; it burns them up like straw.
With the breath of your nostrils the waters swelled up,
the floods surged up in a great wave; the deep waters foamed in the depths of the sea.
The enemy said, "I'll pursue, I'll overtake, I'll divide the spoils of war."
I'll be overfilled with them. I'll draw my sword; my hand will destroy them."
You blew with your wind; the sea covered over them. They sank like lead in the towering waters.
Who is like you among the gods, Lord? Who is like you, foremost in holiness,
worthy of highest praise, doing awesome deeds?

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang the refrain back to them:

Sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."