



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 27, 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: "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Becoming a child,
ALL: Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.
ONE: Telling us stories we had forgotten,
ALL: God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.
ONE: Becoming foolish in the world's eyes,
ALL: the Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but we withhold your bounty for fear of not having enough for ourselves. We seek to be people transformed by your grace, but our stubborn pride prevents us from truly opening ourselves to you. Forgive us, O God. Humble us that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our hardened hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to truly follow Jesus into that kingdom of grace and hope. 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 17:1-7

Acts 3:1-19

Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

HYMN	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i>	500
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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)*

We empty our selfish ambitions, O God, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. May all who confess Christ as Savior share in that mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE	Into My Heart	485
<i>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.</i>		

* HYMN	<i>We Praise You, O God</i>	726
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Attribution: Bachiacca, 1494-1557. Moses Striking the Rock and Bringing Forth the Water, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=51130>.
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Moses Striking the Rock.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bacchiacca_-_Moses_Striking_the_Rock.jpg).

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

St. John's -7 St. Jacob - 30

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

Liturgist:

Kay Guse

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

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

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's UCC, Johannsburg - Rev. William Groennert

- St. Paul UCC, Lebanon

Retired Pastors

- Earl (Johanna) Crecelius

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Diane Frey, Sept. 28

Julie Loehring, Sept. 28

Don Yann, sept. 29

Gina & Robert Willie, 28 years, Sept. 29

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 4: DuBois Center Fall Festival, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

OCTOBER 10: St. Jacob UCC celebrates 170 years, 4:30 p.m., Heritage Hall

OCTOBER 14: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

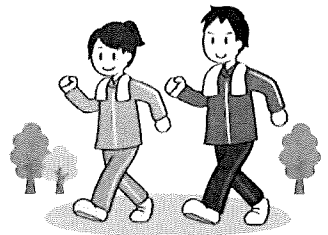
St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., every second and fourth Sunday. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register contact the church office: e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com, or call 618-644-2142.

FREE FLU IMMUNIZATION CLINIC OCT. 29

St. Jacob Township annual free flu immunization clinic will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 29 at Heritage Hall. The clinic is **only for residents of St. Jacob Village and Township**, and you must be 18 years or older (proof of residency is required).

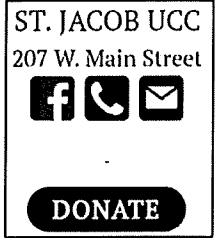
WALK WITH GOD

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 meet at the church and decide from there where we will walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. To sign-up, or 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.



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.

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):

October Shopping list: Flour, canned stew, sugar, corn beef hash, vinegar, crackers, coffee, hearty soup, shampoo, & body lotion

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 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?"

But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the Lord, What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel's elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd's rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I'll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink." Moses did so while Israel's elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, "Is the Lord really with us or not?"

SECOND LESSON: Acts 3:1-19

Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God. They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him.

While the healed man clung to Peter and John, all the people rushed toward them at Solomon's Porch, completely amazed. Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: "You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the God of our ancestors – has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence, even though he had already decided to release him. You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus' name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

"Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus replied, "I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I'll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things. Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?"

They argued among themselves, "If we say 'from heaven,' he'll say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But we can't say 'from humans' because we're afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet." Then they replied, "We don't know."

Jesus also said to them, "Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

"'No, I don't want to,' he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

"The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, 'Yes, sir.' But he didn't go.

"Which one of these two did his father's will?"

They said, "The first one."

Jesus said to them, "I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God's kingdom ahead of you. For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn't believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn't change your hearts and lives, and you didn't believe him.