

St. J Newsletter

August - September 2017

From the Pastor's Desk:

LOOK OUT FOR THAT BICYCLE! Many summers ago, while playing Indian ball with friends, if a batter hit a fly ball that the outfielder was sure to catch, the batter might yell, "Watch out for that bicycle!" The obvious intent was to trick the fielder into taking their eye off the ball, hoping they would fail to make the catch, which then counted as a 'double' in the Centerville Avenue cow pasture modified scoring system. We yelled about the imaginary bicycle so often, the ruse lost much of its effectiveness, except to occasionally start the fielder laughing hard enough to disrupt their catch. In Indian ball as in many of life's pursuits, the old axiom applies: *Always keep your eye on the ball.*

A few weeks ago, I made the official announcement of my upcoming retirement. This is my last year serving as the pastor of the Summerfield and St. Jacob churches. It seemed a good time to make my intentions known to the congregations. I have made commitments to the churches for my participation in certain ministries and events over the next eleven months, and I wanted it known that I intend to honor those commitments. I also desire to be honest about my unavailability to participate as pastor in church activities beyond next July. Furthermore, it was my intention to give the churches a bit of a head start in the search and call process for new pastoral leadership. That process, given the complexity of the task and the deliberate manner in which churches sometimes operate, can take years to successfully complete. Fortunately, we are currently blessed with outstanding leadership at the level of the Illinois South Conference of our United Church of Christ, most especially the Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister, who will assist our congregations in this process. The first meeting of Rev. Johnson with our church councils is scheduled for August 23rd, 7 p.m.

Going forward, the search and call process will require all members of our congregations to "keep their eye on the ball". Everyone will have an important part to play in this process. When meetings are called, we should attend. If questionnaires are mailed out, we should respond. If asked to serve on a committee, we must give that request our most serious and prayerful consideration. Your churches will need your fullest support going forward into this new and exciting future. Let's keep our eye on the ball!

Pastor Gary

**School Supplies Wish List
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services
For Fall 2017
NEW**

**Single subject spiral notebooks,
wide ruled
1 ½ " 3 ring binder
Composition notebook – 200
pages, wide ruled
Pocket folders – with and w/out
brads**

**Yellow highlighters
Red pens
Markers
Colored pencils
Index cards
Construction paper
Scientific Calculator
Pocket Dictionary
Pink erasers
USB drives**

Supplies will be dedicated on September 17th

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

St. John's:
Worship and Sunday School
(Beginning September 17th)
8:45 a.m.

St. Jacob:
Beginning September 10th:
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:15 a.m.

Holey Week Fellowship 1st Sunday of August
and September at St. Jacob and beginning
October at both churches.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to the families of:

Kay Hoenig Beardsley
Germaine Suter
NicCole Egbert
Delmar Luettinger
Norma Fay Miller
Tom Prange
JoAnn Holman
Wayne and Gloria Carson

on the death of their loved ones.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Jacob Office Hours:
Tuesday and Friday: 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
St. Jacob Phone: 644-2142
St. Jacob e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com
Rev. Gary, Home: 644-5703
Rev. Gary, e-mail: knipkamp@hometel.com
Rev. Gary cell: 618-567-9764



WEDDINGS

Christina Leder and Chris Barnhart
June 17, 2017

*Sara Gummersheimer and Justin
Huelsmann*
July 8, 2017

Baptisms

Augustus Jack Schmidtt – April 30th

Lydia Frankie Warren – May 14th

NURSERY

Located in Heritage Hall, our nursery is a fresh clean space with age appropriate toys and furnishings for newborns through children in the second grade. It's a wonderful way for your children to begin friendships with kids they'll know for many years.

We are always interested in having more volunteers. The more we have, the fewer times during the year you would be on the schedule. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Nursery, contact Rae Lynne Meyer here at church or e-mail:

raelynnemeyer@gmail.com.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

AUGUST

- 6 – Joyce Kniepkamp
- 13 – Donna & Micah Lowe
- 20 – Beth & Bailey Frank
- 27 – Dian Gansmann

SEPTEMBER

- 3 – Ann Schmidt
- 10 – Andrea Herkenhoff
- 17 – Patti Woods
- 24 – Melissa Nehrt

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

A Class for everyone interested in Church Membership at St. John or St. Jacob will be held on Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. A date for receiving the new members into the churches will be set at that time.

HOLEY SUNDAY

On the first Sunday each month, both St. Jacob and St. John (beginning October 1st) are continuing their coffee hour fellowship times.

From 9:45 a.m. until worship time at 10:15 a.m. in St. Jacob, and immediately following worship at St. John, in the respective fellowship halls, join your friends for coffee and conversation.

ST. JOHN'S 150TH CELEBRATION

3 p.m. September 10th

(No Morning Worship this day only)

Special music – worship celebration –
catered meal – watch for updates!

Vacation Bible School



Celebrating the Glory and Mystery of God's Creation.

Monday, August 7th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Bring a friend! Programming for children
ages 2 to 12 years.

Register by calling the church office or
sending an email with child's name and age.
Breakfast, snack, lunch and afternoon snack
will be provided.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome back to St. Jacob Sunday School on Sunday, September 10th, 9 a.m. We are excited to see everyone again and look forward to another great year.

St. John's first day of Sunday School will be September 17th at 8:45 a.m.

All Churches Rally Day on Sunday, September 17th at 12 Noon at St. Jacob Park.

Consider being a classroom volunteer! We would love to have you as part of our team.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

The Illinois South Conference Annual Conference Meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 21, 2017**, from 8:30 am - 4 pm at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois. Our congregations will be represented by Pastor Kniepkamp.

AUGUST CALENDAR

August 1, Tuesday:

ELF Meeting at St. Jacob 7:30 p.m.

August 7, Monday:

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 8, Tuesday:

Sunday School Teacher's Meeting 7:30 p.m.

August 9, Wednesday:

St. Jacob Church Council Meeting 7:15 p.m.

August 15, Tuesday:

St. John's Council meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Emerald Mound Grange BBQ, 4 to 7 p.m.

August 16, Wednesday:

St. John's Sunday School meeting, 7:00 p.m.

St. John's Council meeting 7:30 p.m.

August 23, Wednesday:

Joint Search and Call Council Meeting

St. Jacob Heritage Hall, 7 p.m.

August 27, Sunday:

Rev. Shana Johnson Preaching, both churches

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 5, Tuesday:

ELF Meeting, St. Jacob 7:30 p.m.

September 6, Wednesday:

First Confirmation class, 6:30 p.m.

September 10, Sunday:

First day of St. Jacob Sunday School, 9 a.m.

St. John's 150th Celebration 3 p.m.

September 12, Tuesday:

St. Jacob Sunday School teacher's meeting 7:30 p.m.

September 13, Wednesday:

St. Jacob Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

September 17, Sunday:

First day of St. John's Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Dedication of Hoyleton School supplies.

All Church Rally Day, St. Jacob Park Noon.

September 20, Wednesday:

Confirmation class, 6:30 p.m.

September 27, Wednesday:

New member meeting, St. Jacob, 7 p.m.

SUPER RALLY DAY

This year, both St. John's and St. Jacob will be hosting a combined, **ALL CHURCH** Rally Day at the St. Jacob Park on Sunday, September 17th. Rally Day Picnics are a tradition at the beginning of the Sunday School year, and we hope to have a great celebration again this year. **Everyone from both churches** is invited to come out and enjoy a nice afternoon of fellowship. Events will include:

- Lots of great food: Hot Dogs and Brats with all the fixin's, all paper goods, and plenty of drinks, all provided free of cost by the Sunday School Departments;
- Games, relays, races, lots of activities and prizes;
- Free bingo for everyone;
- A covered pavilion with access to the two great playgrounds at the park;
- We will eat at 12:00 noon, but be sure and come out early and enjoy the park and the fellowship;
- If the weather is not co-operating, we will move indoors to Heritage Hall in St. Jacob;
- Please bring a covered dish, or a dessert to share.

Mark your calendars – Sunday, September 17th at 12:00 noon – Super Rally Day, St. Jacob Park

CONFIRMATION CLASS

First Day of Class is Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. For our first day of class we will enjoy a Pizza Dinner, courtesy of Rev. Gary.

If anyone has not contacted the church regarding participation of 6th through 8th grade students in confirmation, please contact the church office soon. This year promises to be one of the largest, most diverse, and most exciting classes ever. Don't miss out!

**St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, Illinois 62281-1531**

**St. John's United Church of Christ
109 West Kavanaugh – P O Box 159
Summerfield, Illinois 62289**

**St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, Illinois 62281-1531**

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