

May - July 2023



St. Jacob and St. John's Summerfield News and Notes

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. John's and St. Jacob,

A few weeks ago, we were talking over dinner about all the different activities our family has on the calendar. Elise, who is a freshman in high school, remarked, "Well, at least when summer gets here, things will slow down, and we can relax."

It's something that is true for all of us. We need rest and to be able to relax. We need time to put down our work and our chores and sit down and breathe. Yet we spend our days moving from one obligation to the next, and when we see an unfilled space on our calendar, we can find half a dozen different activities to fill it with. Rest is seldom accounted for amongst those different possibilities.

We are currently in the middle of spring, having just completed our Lenten observances and Easter celebrations. For many families, May brings end of school year activities: concerts, athletic banquets, school dances, and graduations. With the nice weather, windows are open, and many of us are in the process of our spring cleaning and starting up our gardens and yard work. At church we have Mother's Day, Confirmation, the Strawberry Festival, and Pentecost to keep us busy and active.

"Well, at least when summer gets here, things will slow down, and we can relax." However, summer is filled with its own activities. Yes, younger children and grandchildren are out of school, but that time is often filled with camps and sports. The nice weather turns hot, but there are still our gardens to take care of and yard work to do. While we don't have as many of the special services and activities at church, there is still much to do with VBS and planning for fall. In the spring we hope summer can be a time to rest and relax, but those empty spots on our calendars fill up fast.

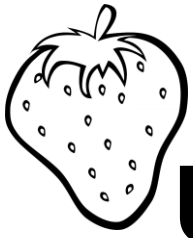
This past weekend I was challenged to consider what is truly important – important for my family, my health, and my faith as a disciple of Christ – versus what I do because I've filled up my days running from one task to another.

The Buddhist monk and poet, Thích Nhất Hạnh, wrote, "If we can't rest, it's because we haven't stopped running. We began running a long time ago. We continue to run, even in our sleep." We run. We fill up our days and our calendars with activities and then lament, we have no time to rest, no time to focus on our family, our health, or our faith.

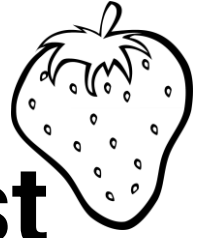
As we move into summer, I invite you to stop. Rather than fill your calendar with more and more activities, fill it with rest. Fill it with time for family. Fill it with time to focus on health. And fill it with time to focus on your faith as a beloved child of God.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil



St. Jacob



United Church of Christ

Strawberry Festival

Yummy Strawberry Desserts!

Brats! Hot Dogs! Pork Burgers!

Entertainment:

Paul Jarvis, Sheltered Reality,

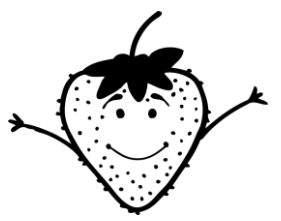
Scruffy Looking Nerf Herder

Crafts & Children's Activities

May 21, 2023 11:00am - 3:00pm



St. Jacob Township Park



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Jacob United Church of Christ and Friedens United Church of Christ in Troy are working together to organize an intergenerational Vacation Bible School this summer!

Specifics are still being planned, but if you're between the ages of 1-100+, we hope you will join us as we explore the theme of the Greatest Commandment:

“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Save the date for the evenings of Thursdays, July 20, July 27, and August 3; as soon as the details are confirmed, we will publicize them in weekly bulletin, Facebook, and the church website!



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

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

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.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Manwich, scalloped potatoes boxed, cereal bars, canned spinach, canned sauerkraut, pasta sides, black-eyed peas (dried/canned), canned ham, Rotel tomatoes, Vienna sausages, pepperoni, pizza crust mix, dish detergent, coffee, & snack foods (chips, peanuts, etc)

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELF's organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthx to place the labels.

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

CALENDAR

MAY

May 7: First Sunday of the month communion.

May 7: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

May 10: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

May 14: **MOTHER'S DAY** / Confirmation during worship

May 16: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

May 17: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

May 18: ASCENSION DAY

May 21: **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
(No service at St. Jacob)



JUNE

June 4: First Sunday of the month communion.

June 4: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

June 14: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

June 20: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

June 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 8 p.m.



JULY

July 2: Pastor Phil at General Synod (Communion moved to July 9)

July 2: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

July 4: **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

July 9: Communion Sunday (moved from July 2)

July 12: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

July 18: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

July 19: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Dates

Jason Shirley, May 21
Mason Shirley, May 27

June Dates

Mindy Schiefer, June 2
Margie & Wally Foxworthy, 16 years, June 23

July Dates

Nancy & Thomas McCaw, 67 years, July 7
Marlene & Larry Robison, 54 years, July 18
Ruth Mikeals, July 31

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Dates

Darren Schmitt, May 1
Tiffany & Vic Duncan, 21 years, May 4
Ann Becker, May 8
Pat & Steve May, 47 years, May 8
Carla & Darik Zobrist, 14 years, May 9
Harvey Steinkoenig, May 10
Grace Leder, May 11
Ann & Ryan Becker, 11 years, May 12
Ty Gansmann, May 16
Karen & Joe Schultze, 53 years, May 16
Shelly Bittle, May 17
Mary & Zach Lowe, 4 years, May 18
Duane Woods, May 19
Tonia Ahlmeyer, Andrew Becker, Beth Frank, May 30

June Dates

Ellise Duncan, June 1
Dalton Mersinger, June 6
Debbie & Duane Zobrist, 47 years, June 7
Gina & Tim Hirsch, 32 years, June 8
Dawn & Steve Mersinger, 23 years, June 10
Samantha Rehg, June 13
Tim Hirsch, June 15
Vic Duncan, June 16
Shelly & Jack Bittle, 5 years, June 17

Susan & Richard Schmidt, 62 years, June 17
Kelli Zurliene, June 20
Audrey Bolk, June 21
Carol & Jerry Schmitt, 60 years, June 22
DiAnn & Gary Rufer, 49 years, June 23
Collin Woods, June 23
Lola Kelley, June 25
Micah Lowe, Onis Zweck, June 28

July Dates

Thomas Belcher, July 1
Jane Schmidt, July 4
Robert Willie, July 4
Carol Prange, July 5
Nancy & Sandy Autry, 51 years, July 6
Beth & Don Hanser, 36 years, July 10
Eric Schmidt, July 10
Patti Woods, July 12
Melody Hollis, July 13
Charles Zweck, July 15
Dian Gansmann, July 16
Robbie Meyer, July 16
Beth & Bruce Frank, 30 years, July 24
Sanderson (Sandy) Autry, July 25
Kylie Bloemker, July 25
Nancy Autry, July 28

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, and Jeffrey Thornton

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

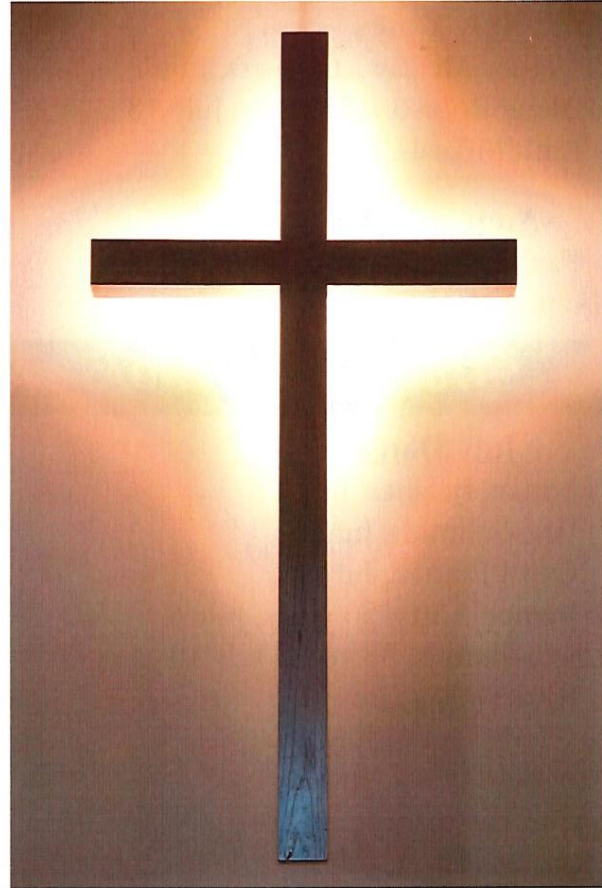
Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz,
Jane Schmidt, Carol Schmitt, and Carol Zweck

St. Jacob United Church of Christ
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St. Jacob, IL 62281-1531

St. John United Church of Christ
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Summerfield, IL 62289

Like us on
Facebook

Visit our Website:
<https://stjacobucc.org>



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ADDRESS SERVICE CORRECTION

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 6

Mailing address line 1