

November 2023 – January 2024



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

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

We are fast approaching the holidays. Thanksgiving is in just a few weeks, and comes with turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, pumpkin and sweet potato pies, and all sorts of other fantastic food. Then we enter the season of Christmas parties. Gatherings with family and friends, often filled with cookies, sweets, and more wonderful food. All of that is on the way and I still have a bowl of candy on my dining room table left over from Halloween.

For those of us who watch what we eat (or should be watching what we eat), these next few months can seem a little daunting. There are so many temptations, so many things to enjoy in moderation, but we often enjoy in excess. Then we try to remember, while we all do eat for enjoyment, we primarily eat to provide fuel and sustenance for our bodies. We can eat all those pies and cookies and sweets, but we don't always feel too good afterward.

As with food, there are many activities we engage in throughout the year. There are so many activities we do, so many things we can watch and listen to and read. While these things can be fun and enjoyable to partake in, try to remember, just as we don't only eat for pleasure and enjoyment, we also don't only engage in activities for pleasure and enjoyment. Along with that enjoyment we seek to engage in those things that fuel and sustain our spirits.

Maybe that enjoyment is reading your Bible, or getting out into nature and experiencing God's creation, maybe it's engaging in activities that help provide service to others in our community, or maybe it's quiet time alone in prayer that will help fuel and sustain your spirits. These might not immediately sound like the fun and exciting activities we might otherwise engage in on the weekend, or even throughout the week, but these are the things that help provide the sustenance our spirits need to grow in love for others and obedience to God's call on our lives.

As we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons, I encourage you to look for those activities in your life that already help sustain your spirit and continue and grow those activities. If you feel you need more fuel for your spirit, I encourage you to look toward scripture and prayer and service as ways to grow. As much as we all like the fun things ... the pies, the cookies, and the sweets... the "growth" they provide is seldom the growth we want and need in our lives.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. On the table in the Narthx you will find a basket with slips. Each slip lists one gift and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. The gifts are due back to church by Sunday, Nov. 26, and we will get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

St. John's: Again this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their Amazon wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who supported our pizza fundraiser. A total of 85 pizzas were purchased, in addition to many other items, with sales totaling \$1,392. The church received 25 percent back, which netted the church \$350 profit.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ELFS BBQ MEAT DRAWING

Kevin and Melody Hollis won the grand prize from the BBQ Meat Extravaganza, while Kathy Ritter won the second prize and Shelly Marte won the third prize. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward purchasing a display case in the Upper Meeting Room, as well as supporting the ELFs community outreach and mission support activities.

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.

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): Jiffy corn muffin mix, yams, pie filling, Jiffy pie crust mix, peanut butter, pasta, chili beans, instant potato packets, rice 1-pound bags, & instant rice

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELFs 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** (Nov-Dec) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob UCC.

ST. JACOB VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP PARTNERS FOR PETS GROUNDS

Volunteers from St. Jacob UCC men's fellowship participated in a service project cleaning up the grounds of Partners for Pets animal shelter on Lower Marine Road Aug. 19.

The volunteers cleaned up the debris left behind from an old barn which had been taken down in the spring. The volunteers picked up debris and reduced six-foot tall weeds to a few burn piles in the process.

The St. Jacob men's fellowship has been exploring ways to be active in mission in the community and this was the first of many small service projects they plan to tackle. The volunteers included: Duane Woods, Kevin Hollis, Bruce Frank, Ty Gansmann, Andy Schreiber, Don Yann, Ken Frutiger, and Pastor Phil Barbier.



COLLINSVILLE SOS SOUP KITCHEN: Volunteers from St. Jacob UCC prepared and served about 175 meals to the local community Sept. 7 at St. Johns UCC, Collinsville.



RALLY DAY: For the first time since the start of the pandemic, St. Jacob UCC held a church potluck for Rally Day! Rally Day was held following worship Sept. 10, and members enjoyed pork burgers, hot dogs, a variety of salads, snow cones and other sweets, as well as playing bingo, and lawn games after lunch.



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

November 1: All Saints Day

November 5: **TOTENFEST** & First Sunday of the month communion.

November 5: Holy Sunday, following Service, St. John's & St. Jacob

November 8: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

November 11: Veterans Day

November 21: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

November 22: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

November 23: **THANKSGIVING**

November 26: **REIGN OF CHRIST** (Hanging of the **GREENS**)



DECEMBER

December 3: First Sunday of ADVENT (communion Sunday)

December 3: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's & St. Jacob

December 13: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

December 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

December 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 8 p.m.

December 24: No morning worship at St. Johns or St. Jacob

December 24: **Christmas Eve** services -- 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

December 24: **Christmas Eve** service -- 7 p.m., St. John's

December 25: **CHRISTMAS** no worship service

Dec. 26-Jan. 1: Pastor Phil will be out of office

December 31: No worship service at St. John's; an informal service will begin 10:15 at St. Jacob with DEGREENING following the service.



JANUARY

January 1: **NEW YEARS DAY**

January 6: Epiphany

January 7: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's & St. Jacob

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

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

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



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November Dates

Denise Baer, Nov. 7
Sharon & Don Koenig, 55 years, Nov. 16

December Dates

Roger Baer, Dec. 8
Barbara & Roger Baer, 41 years, Dec. 11
Bradley Guetter, Dec. 13

January Dates

Ryan Baer, Jan. 2
Lauren Hill, Jan. 8
Jerid Ahrens, Jan. 12
Sharon Koenig, Jan. 16
June Boggy, Jan. 25

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November Dates

George Anderson, Nov. 2
Tyler Rehg, Nov. 3
Ronda Schmidt, Nov. 3
Kristen Kniepkamp Belcher, Nov. 8
Darik Zobrist, Nov. 10
Renee Bippin, Nov. 11
Rachel Schmidt Stopka, Nov. 15
Marie Gansmann, Nov. 20
Andrea Herkenhoff, Nov. 24
Jackie Miller, Nov. 24
Henry Peer, Nov. 24

December Dates

Loretta Tague, Dec. 3
Jenni Schreiber, Dec. 7
Dian & Ty Gansmann, 28 years, Dec. 8
Donna & John Lowe, 39 years, Dec. 8
Sam Frey, Dec. 9
Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Dec. 10
Brittany Frank, Dec. 17
Germanyn Rehg, Dec. 18
Tiffany Duncan, Dec. 19
Cameron Woods, Dec. 19

Carol Casperson, Dec. 20
Lauren Gansmann, Dec. 22
Zach Mueller, Dec. 25
Jack Bittle, Dec. 26
Melissa Anderson Taylor, Dec. 26
Andy Scheiber, Dec. 28
Sara & Andy Schreiber, 38 years, Dec. 28
Myrna Anderson, Dec. 29

January Dates

Jane Noeltner, Jan. 2
Alex Schreiber, Jan. 2
Rev. Nancy Brooks, Jan. 7
Sara Schreiber, Jan. 8
Brian Meyer, Jan. 9
Katie Prange, Jan. 12
Sandy Rujawitz, Jan. 12
Debbie Zobrist, Jan. 14
Gene Gansmann, Jan. 16
Kay Guse, Jan. 21
Lisa Kelley, Jan. 21
Carol & Charlie Kynion, 52 years, Jan. 23
Rodney Ahlmeyer, Jan. 25
Gina Hirsch, Jan. 27

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

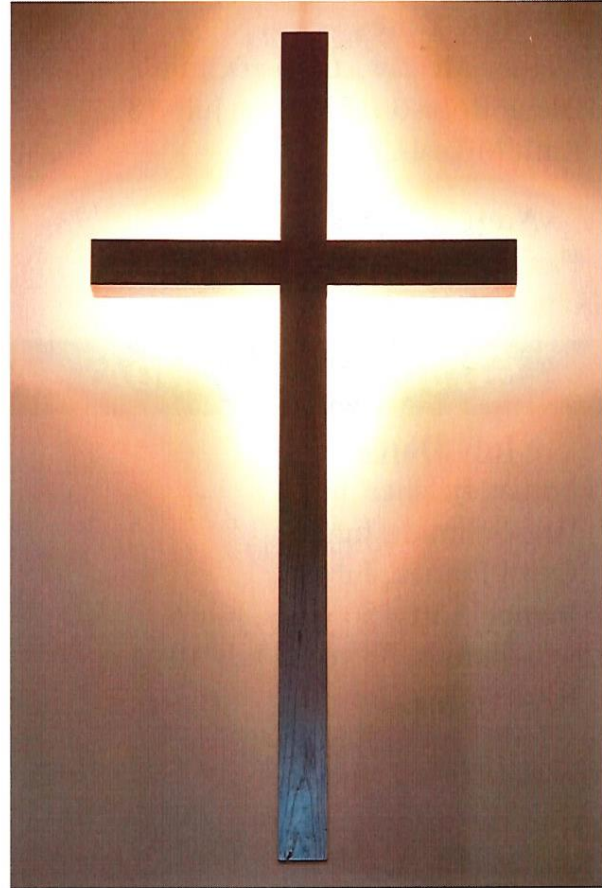
St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, and Carol Zweck

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

St. John United Church of Christ
109 West Kavanaugh
Summerfield, IL 62289

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



St. Jacob United Church of Christ

207 West Main Street

St. Jacob, IL 62281-1531

Phone: 618-644-2142

E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Pastor e-mail: pastor@hometel.com

ADDRESS SERVICE CORRECTION

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE PAID
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Mailing address line 1