



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

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

As I write this, it's been about four weeks since Epiphany and the end of the Christmas season. It is also just two weeks until Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Add to that the short Advent season we just experienced, and it begins to feel like time is moving awfully fast these last few weeks.

We are all busy people. We work and volunteer, we have chores around the house, some of us take care of children or parents, we have obligations to family and friends, and then, after all of that we still have the fun things we want to do with what free time we have left. That might be watching TV, reading a book, going on a walk, or just sitting and relaxing with family. It is so easy to fill every hour of every day with things we need to do and things we want to do, and that's before even thinking about sleep.

But do we include time for prayer in that list of things we need to do? That question reminds me of a story you may have heard before, but I'll share it again here:

There once was a philosophy professor who was giving a lecture. In front of him, he had a big glass jar, a pile of rocks, a bag of small pebbles, a tub of sand, and his mug of coffee. He started off by filling up the jar with the big rocks and when they reached the rim of the jar he held it up to the students.

"Is it full?" he asked. They all agreed, there was no more room to put the rocks in, it was full.

He then picked up the bag of small pebbles and poured these in jar. He shook the jar so that the pebbles filled the space around the big rocks.

"Is the jar full now?" he asked. The students all looked at each other and agreed that the jar was now completely full.

The professor then picked up the tub of sand. He poured the sand in between the pebbles and the rocks and once again he held up the jar to his class.

"Are you sure it's full?" he asked. The students talked quietly for a few moments before agreeing that, yes, it was totally full.

He finally picked up the mug and tipped the coffee into the jar until it soaked up in all the remaining space in the sand. The students laughed.

The professor went on to explain that the jar of rocks, pebbles, sand, and coffee represents everything that is in one's life.

We can easily fill our jars of lives with the things that are fun, things we want to do, represented by sand and coffee, but then there would be no room for the things we need to do, the pebbles, and the things that give our life meaning, the rocks. And when time feels like it's moving fast, when our jars of life feel like they've shrunken a bit, it becomes easy to just start tossing things into our jars willy nilly, forgetting we need to make sure we are filling our lives with those big rocks that give our lives meaning, things like faith and family, before life gets filled up with all of the other needs and wants.

It's not always easy to take a step back and evaluate how we have filled our jars of life. It may even seem counter-intuitive taking time from our lives just to assess how we are using our time, but the benefits of making sure that our most important priorities of family and faith are actually our day-to-day priorities can do our lives a world of good. So I hope this spring you can choose prayer as one of those big rock priorities, taking time to talk to God and taking the time to listen for God.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil



“Hanging of the Greens”: Members of St. Jacob UCC decorated the church in preparation for Christmas. This was the first time decorating our new tree which adorned the Sanctuary. The new tree was purchased and donated by George and Myrna Anderson – Thank you! Thank you to all who volunteered to decorate our church.



The St. Jacob Sunday School put on a Christmas program Dec. 17. The program told of the Nativity story.



The St. John's children sing Christmas songs Dec. 17.

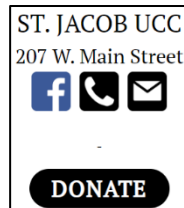
Lenten & Easter Schedule 2024

- Ash Wednesday Service – Feb. 14, 7 pm, St. Jacob UCC
- Lenten Study Series – How We Understand the Bible
 - Wednesdays – Feb. 21 & 28 and March 3 & 10, 7 p.m., St. Jacob UCC, Heritage Hall
- Maundy Thursday Service – March 28, St. Jacob UCC
 - Soup Dinner – 6 p.m., Heritage Hall
 - Worship – 7 p.m., Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday Services
 - Early Worship – 7 a.m., St. Jacob UCC
 - Worship – 8:45 a.m., St. John's UCC
 - Worship – 10:15 a.m., St. Jacob UCC
 - 10:15 AM service streamed on St. Jacob UCC Facebook & YouTube

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option has been added to St. Jacob's web site. There are two ways to access the on-line giving option on our web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>), 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." In you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.



ST. JACOB 2024 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS/2023 GIVING STATEMENTS

The St. Jacob 2024 Envelope Booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx. The 2023 Giving Statements that have not been picked up are being mailed out.

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.



SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather is here. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob. Thank you!

HIGHLAND MEALS ON WHEELS

Highland Meals on Wheels provides hot, nutritious noon meals prepared by St. Joseph's Hospital dietary department to qualified residents of Highland, St. Jacob, Marine, Grantfork, Pierron, St. Rose, Pocahontas and New Douglas, Monday through Friday, including all major holidays. If you, or someone you know is in need of their services, or if you would like to volunteer to deliver meals, contact Meals on Wheels at 618-954-0356. Also, if you would like to provide financial support, mail your donation to Meals on Wheels, 12603 State Rte. 143, Ste. G-303, Highland, IL 62249.

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): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, sloppy Joe, beef, sausage, chicken, salmon, and tuna. Boxed goods including pasta & noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, stuffing, and mac & cheese. Other pantry staples include flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, ramen, cake mix, Jello, and pudding. Nonfood items including trash bags, storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, & toiletries.

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

THE UPPER ROOM (Mar-Apr) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 First Sunday of the month communion

Feb. 4: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's & St. Jacob

Feb. 11: Transfiguration Sunday/Sweetheart Sunday

Feb. 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

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

Feb. 14: ASH WEDNESDAY, Worship, 7 p.m.

Feb. 19: PRESIDENTS' DAY

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

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

Feb. 21 & 28: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall



MARCH

March 3: First Sunday of the month communion.

March 3: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

March 6 & 13: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall

March 10: Daylight Saving Time begins (2 a.m.)

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

March 18: St. Jacob Council meeting, 8 p.m.

March 16-21: Pastor Phil Vacation

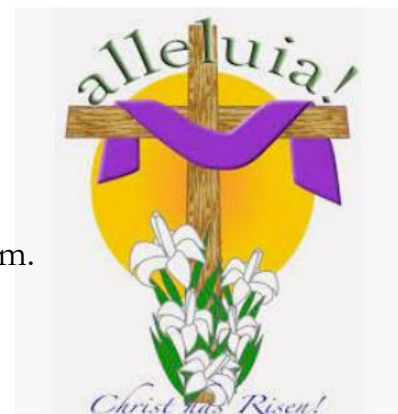
March 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

March 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY, soup dinner 6 p.m., Worship, 7 p.m.

March 29: GOOD FRIDAY

March 30: HOLY SATURDAY

March 31: EASTER, Worship 7 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.



APRIL

April 7: First Sunday of the month communion.

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

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

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

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



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February Dates

Lynn Shirley, Feb. 1
Barbara Baer, Feb. 2
Ashley Ahrens, Feb. 3
Steven Shirley, Feb. 4

March Dates

Margie Foxworth, March 1
Marsha & Jason Shirley, 19 years, March 5

Patrick Thornton, March 10
Ashley & Jerid Ahrens, 5 years, March 31

April Dates

Kristen Hill, April 12
Marlene Robison, April 14
Wally Foxworthy, April 15
Marsha Shirley, April 22
Brice Ahrens, April 25

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February Dates

Austin Becker, Feb. 8
DiAnn Rufer, Feb. 11
Terri Barnhart, Feb. 14
Karen Steinkoenig, Feb, 16
Carol Zweck, Feb. 17
Judy Bolton, Feb. 19
Rachel Yann Mueller, Feb. 20
Tavey Duncan, Feb. 22
Ryan Becker, Feb. 23
Bruce Frank, Feb. 24
Zach Lowe, Feb. 24
Justin Huelsmann, Feb. 26

March Dates

Sara King, March 2
Gary Warren, March 8
Sandy & Ron Rujawitz, 50 years, March 9
Lily Zobrist, March 19

Mandy Bolton, March 27
Gina Wille, March 27
Kelli & Jeremy Zurliene, 12 years, March 31

April Dates

Duane Zobrist, April 3
Patti & Duane Woods, 38 years, April 5
Katie Yann, April 10
Jill Bloemker, April 11
Ken Frutiger, April 11
Kristie Daniel, April 12
Ethan Schmidt, April 13
Pat May, April 16
Gary Rufer, April 16
Bailey Frank, April 17
Carol Schmitt, April 19
Cheryl Byrnes, April 21
Gary & Marilyn Warren, 53 years, April 24

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Each day I sit down with the prayer list and pray for the people of our churches. You could take this same list and put it by your bedside or reading table next to your Bible. Let us pray for those in need as well as our neighbors across the world on a daily basis.

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Dave Williams, and
Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

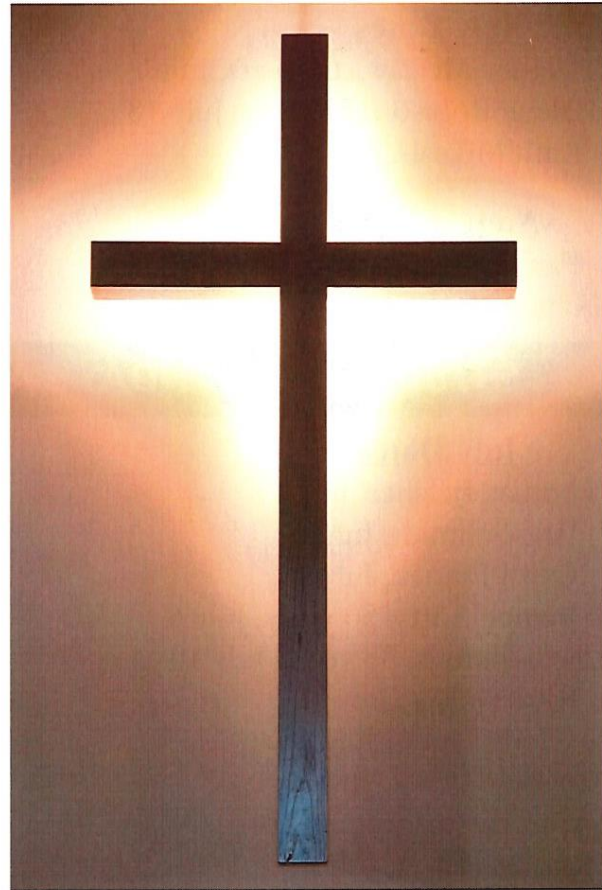
Sandy Autry, Laura Barber, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson,
Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, and Carol Zweck

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

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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