



June – August 2025

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

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

I recently saw a post on one of the ministry pages I follow about what to do with 20 perfectly good traditional wooden pews with padded backs and seats that a church was no longer using in their sanctuary. They had tried giving them away to other churches and new ministries. They offered them to members to take home. They even offered them to local artists and woodworkers to use for interesting projects. In the end, they still had 16 of the 20 pews and no clue what to do with them. The question in the post asked if they should simply dispose of them or, as some in the congregation argued, place them into storage in case they needed them one day.

It's a dilemma that faces all of us. What do we do with things when they are no longer useful or needed? Do we let them go, or do we hold onto them "just in case"? More importantly, what do we do with things like traditions and beliefs when they are no longer useful or helpful in our lives? Do we let them go, or do we continue to hold onto them, too, "just in case", even if they are holding us back?

As we grow in life and faith our relationships with our family, our friends, our world, and even God, grow and change. When God is speaking to the Israelite people about making a way for them as everything is changing during the exile in Babylon, God says,

Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history.

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?

I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

Isaiah 43:18-19, Common English Bible

God doesn't want us dwelling on "what used to be" and ancient history. Rather God is calling us to setting aside old ways of living and listening for what "new thing" the Holy Spirit is leading us to do now. Renewed relationships with friends and family, new ways of thinking about the world, new ways of responding to God's call on our lives are all ways that we can experience God's "new thing".

So, as we enter into summer, and into the long church season of "After Pentecost", I hope you will listen for those new things that God is doing in your life – even if that might mean letting go of some of the "prior things" that hold us back.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

The 2025 St. Jacob UCC Strawberry Festival was a great success thanks to all the volunteers who worked the event (not only on the day of the event, but also the planning and prepping for the event), the 14 sponsors and all of those in the community who supported the festival by purchasing raffle tickets and purchasing food at the event. The raffle brought in \$1,772 with 2,132 ticket packets (plus two single tickets). In addition to the great food and entertainment, there were 70-registered vendors/crafters at this year's event. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's festival such a success! It takes many people doing many different jobs to make it all happen.

To view these, and additional images from our Strawberry Festival, visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/stjacobbucc

THANK YOU!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program this summer. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches will be provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, or to volunteer contact Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805

WALK WITH GOD

St. Jacob UCC is planning a 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 will meet at the church and decide from there where we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in participating and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 24

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three prize packs worth \$50, \$150, & \$250 toward the cost of Korte's barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. Ticket packets will be mailed out, and additional ticket packets will be available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used for mission giving, including providing summer lunches, paying off the delinquent lunch debts from this past semester at the grade school, supplying emergency supplies for DuBois Center campers (things they forgot to pack such as wash clothes, toothbrushes, and paste, etc.), and sponsoring a girl in Kentucky, etc. The drawing will be held immediately following worship on Aug. 24, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. You can drop your donation/tickets into the Barbeque safe which will be located on the table in the foyer at church or mail them to the church office at: 207 West Main Street. St. Jacob, IL 62281.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER E-MAIL OPTION

With the rising cost of postage, printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter, we encourage you to consider having it e-mailed, instead of using traditional mail to send the paper copy. If you would like to have our newsletter e-mailed, please provide us with your preferred e-mail address at: stjucc@hometel.com

Also, if you currently receive our newsletter, and are no longer interested in receiving it, please let us know, either by e-mailing us at: stjucc@hometel.com or by calling the office at: 618-644-2142, and we will remove you from our newsletter mailing list.

CALENDAR

JUNE

June 1: Communion Sunday (Robbie Meyer confirmation, St. Jacob UCC)

June 8: Holey Sunday fellowship, following worship at St. John's

June 9-13: Lebanon Community VBS at St. Paul UCC, 9 a.m. to noon

June 11: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

June 23: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

June 24: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

June 29-July 5: Pastor Phil out of the office/vacation



JULY

July 4: **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

July 6: Communion Sunday

July 6: Holey Sunday fellowship, following worship at St. John's

July 9: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

July 11-16: Pastor Phil at UCC General Synod 35

July 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

July 22: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.



AUGUST

August 3: Communion Sunday

August 3: Holey Sunday fellowship, following worship at St. John's

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

August 18: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

August 24: BBQ Meat Bonanza Drawing, following worship



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June Dates

Mindy Schiefer, June 2

Margie & Wally Foxworthy, 18 years, June 23

July Dates

Marlene & Larry Robison, 56 years, July 18

Ruth Mikeals, July 31

August Dates

Pauline Laux, Aug. 3

Nancy McCaw, Aug. 22

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June Dates

Ellise Duncan, June 1

Debbie & Duane Zobrist, 51 years, June 7

Gina & Tim Hirsch, 34 years, June 8

Jetson Lowe, June 9

Samantha Rehlg, June 13

Tim Hirsch, June 15

Vic Duncan, June 16

Shelly & Jack Bittle, 7 years, June 17

Kelli Zurliene, June 20

Audrey Bolk, June 21

DiAnn & Gary Rufer, 51 years, June 23

Collin Woods, June 23

Micah Lowe, June 28

Onis Zweck, June 28

July Dates

Thomas Belcher, July 1

Stephanie Rehlg, July 3

Jane Schmidt, July 4

Robert Willie, July 4

Carol Prange, July 5

Nancy & Sandy Autry, 53 years, July 6

Christina & Todd Roberts, 1 year, July 6

Beth & Don Hanser, 38 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

Todd Rehlg, July 17

Xibryna Weycker, July 20

Beth & Bruce Frank, 32 years, July 24

Sanderson (Sandy) Autry, July 25

Kylie Bloemker, July 25

August Dates

Melody & Kevin Hollis, 25 years, Aug. 5

Paul Guse, Aug. 9

Heather Weycker, Aug. 11

Carol & Steven Casperson, 50 years, Aug. 15

Steve May, Aug. 15

Ronda & Eric Schmidt, 27 years, Aug. 15

Marie & Gene Gansmann, 59 years, Aug. 21

Evagene Gusewelle, Aug. 23

Carla Zobrist, Aug. 27

Robert Bittle, Aug. 29

Sophia Lowe, Aug. 29

Myrna & George Anderson, 67 years, Aug. 30

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

Carol Casperson, Gracie Emmerich, Lori Erwin, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler,
Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, and Darik Zobrist