



March – May 2025

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, the last of this winter's snow is finally melting. At least I hope it's the last of the snow. This winter has felt like a long one and I, for one, am ready for spring. But as we move toward the start of spring, we also begin our observation of Lent, the time when we are called to examine ourselves, asking if we are living in the way Jesus has taught us.

One of the effects of this most recent snow and ice was the postponing of the final session of our winter bible study on the Ten Commandments. Over four weeks we've talked through all Ten, asking and answering questions, but one of the things we kept in mind is that these Commandments weren't simply given to the individual members of the Israelite people. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai he gave the Commandments to the whole community. At the time the Israelites had just gained their freedom from slavery in Egypt. They hadn't governed themselves for generations and while Egypt had a robust set of laws to follow, those laws seldom protected the Israelite slaves. So now God was giving them a new law that would help them live as good individuals, but more importantly, would help them live together and care for one another as a community.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus was asked which of these commandments was the most important. His answer was to love God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. He reminded his listeners, and all of us, that love was the key to a healthy and happy community. And the apostle Paul makes it even more plain when he writes that the commandments "are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself*. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law." (Romans 13:9b-10, CEB)

In addition to it feeling like a long winter, these last few weeks have also left many feeling uneasy. Looking around our world at unending war and conflict and looking at our nation where the poor and those on the margins of society feel ever more threatened, many of us are wondering where the Spirit of God is working during this time. And the answer is God is working in us.

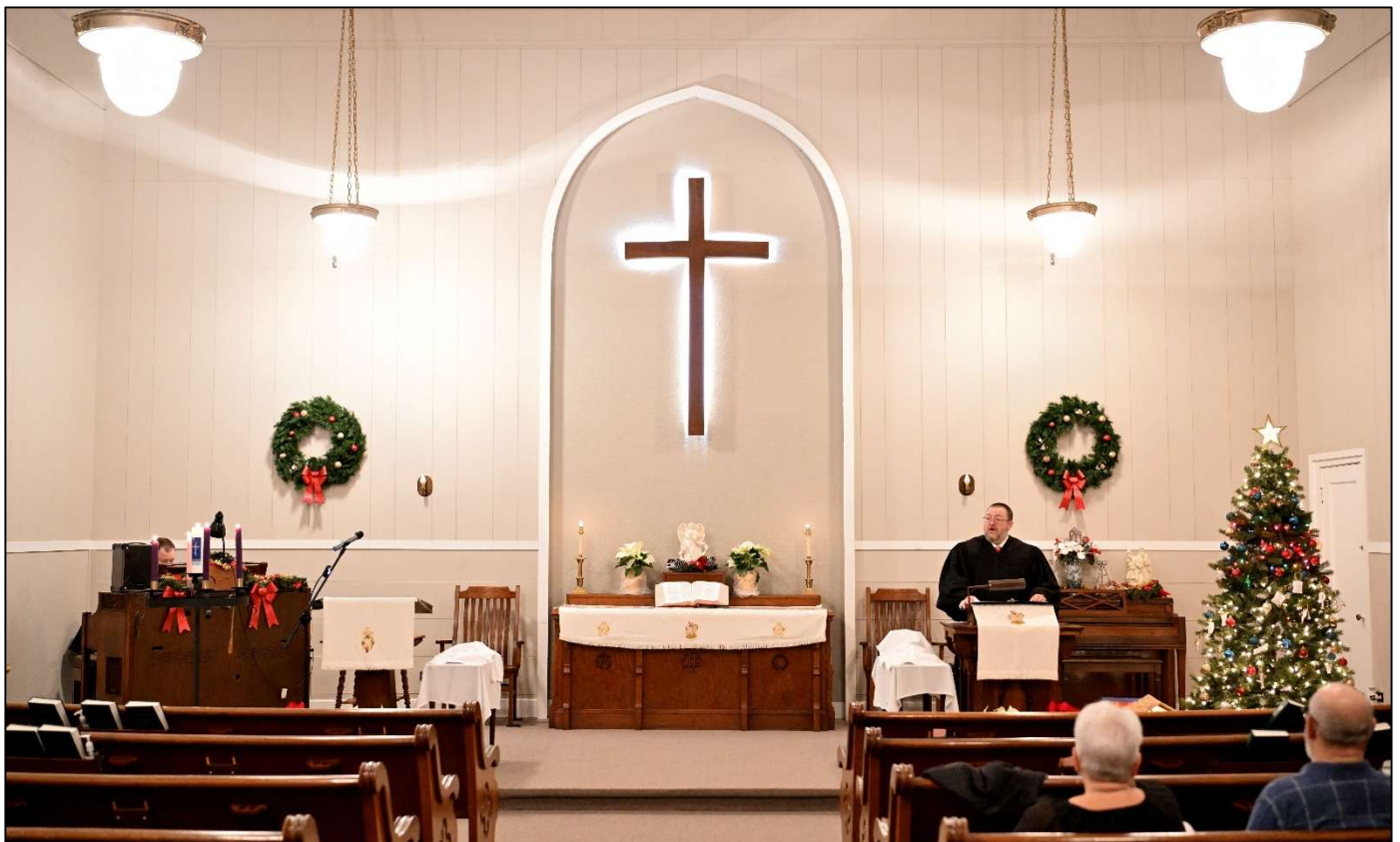
So, as you enter this time of Lent and ask if you have been living as Jesus taught, also remember to listen for where the voice of God is calling you to share God's love and help build the beloved community of God's people.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Phil



Christmas Eve Worship at St. Jacob United Church of Christ.



Christmas Eve Worship at St. John's United Church of Christ.

The poster features a light cream background decorated with several large, stylized pink strawberries with green leaves. Interspersed among the strawberries are wavy, concentric lines in shades of pink, blue, and green, resembling topographical maps or ripples. Small colored dots (pink, blue, green, yellow) are scattered throughout the design.

ST. JACOB UCC
PRESENTS

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 2025

SUNDAY, MAY 18

11AM - 3PM

LIVE MUSIC
KIDS ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS

PORK BURGERS

HOT DOGS

BRATS

STRAWBERRY
DESSERTS

TOWNSHIP PARK
239 W MAIN STREET
ST. JACOB, IL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

Sunday School will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays through May and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. For more details and registration information visit the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page (facebook.com/stjacobucc).

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 Narthex.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION



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

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.



***** THE UPPER ROOM** (March-April) magazines are available 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

MARCH

March 2: First Sunday of the month communion.

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

March 5: **ASH WEDNESDAY**, worship, 7 p.m.

March 5, 12, 19, & 26: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall

March 9: **Daylight Saving Time begins (2 a.m.)**

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

March 17: **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

March 17: St. Jacob Council meeting, 8 p.m.

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



APRIL

April 2 & 9: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall

April 6: First Sunday of the month communion.

April 6: Holy Sunday fellowship, following Service, St. John's

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

April 17: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, soup dinner 6 p.m., Worship, 7 p.m.

April 18: **GOOD FRIDAY**

April 19: **HOLY SATURDAY**

April 20: **EASTER**, worship 8:30, St. John's; 10:15 a.m., St. Jacob

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

Date to be determined: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.



MAY

May 4: First Sunday of the month communion.

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

May 11: **MOTHER'S DAY**

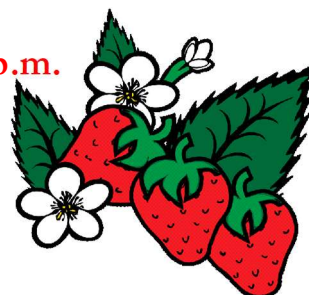
May 14: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

May 18: **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
(No service at St. Jacob)

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

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

May 29: **ASCENSION DAY**



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH DATES

Margie Foxworth, March 1
Marsha & Jason Shirley, 20 years, March 5
Patrick Thornton, March 10
Ashley & Jerid Ahrens, 7 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

MAY DATES

Jason Shirley, May 21
Mason Shirley, May 27

ST. JACOB BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH DATES

Sara King, March 2
Gary Warren, March 8
Sandy & Ron Rujawitz, 51 years, March 9
Lily Zobrist, March 19
Mandy Bolton, March 27
Gina Willie, March 27
Kelli & Jeremy Zurliene, 13 years, March 31

APRIL DATES

Duane Zobrist, April 3
Patti & Duane Woods, 39 years, April 5
Katie Schultz, 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, 54 years, April 24

MAY DATES

Darren Schmitt, May 1
Tiffany & Victor Duncan, 23 years, May 4
Ann Becker, May 8
Pat & Steve May, 49 years, May 8
Carla & Darik Zobrist, 16 years, May 9
Harvey Steinkoenig, May 10
Grace Leder, May 11
Ann & Ryan Becker, 13 years, May 12
Ty Gansmann, May 16
Karen & Joe Schultze, 55 years, May 16
Shelly Bittle, May 17
Mary & Zach Lowe, 6 years, May 18
Duane Woods, May 19
Tonia Ahlmeyer, May 30
Andrew Becker, May 30
Beth Frank, May 30

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Sherry Christ, and Sean and Dustin,
sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

ST. JACOB PRAYER LIST

Kirsten Bohnenstiehl, Edie Haller Bridges, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter,
Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, and Darik Zobrist