

MARY MAGDALENE AS FIRST WITNESS



AND THUS FIRST AMONG THE APOSTLES

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
APRIL 5, 2026

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.
It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to
Pastor Phil this morning and let us know if there is any way
we might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." ~ C.S. Lewis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* 288

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the day;

ALL: When healing touches the suffering;
When loneliness discovers a family;
When peace caresses the stressed.

ONE: This is the day the Lord;

ALL: Breaks free of death's clutches;
Rolls away the stone;
Folds the grave clothes into a neat pile.

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made;

ALL: The day of sin's defeat;
The day of resurrection;
The first day of the new creation.

ONE: This is the day!

ALL: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

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CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

This morning, Wonderful God, we gather in the company of your church, sinners and saints, to celebrate your life, your ministry, your death, your resurrection, and your great love for us. Yet we know how often we leave the celebration here in the sanctuary instead of taking it to the world and sharing your love with all of your children. Forgive us, O God. Where we are tired and stressed, transform our hardened hearts into fountains of love. Where we have hurt and harmed others, move our hearts to repentance. Where we have strayed from your care, gather us in love and forgiveness, and fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**GLORIA PATRI**

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US (*Skip if no children are in attendance*)

Prayer for the children (*unison*):

We send blessings upon our children for all God's love,
all Christ's friendship and all the caring of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power,
send us grace.*

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Matthew 28:1-10

HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

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SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

GIVE THANKS:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Thank you, God, for accepting us in ways that we had not even accepted ourselves. We want to do what is right and good. Receive our time and effort as well as our money, that your message of peace might be spread throughout our community and nation, and into the whole world. Inspire all of us to seek, above all else, to do your will and accomplish your purposes. Amen.

HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – Insert

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

* HYMN

Because He Lives

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

ONE: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

ALL: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed!

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: It is a right and joyful thing to praise you, Holy God, who through your spirit anointed Jesus of Nazareth to tell your good news of grace and love through his birth, life, death, and resurrection.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Break open the tombs of our lives by your earthquake and lightning that we may know your power and take courage from Christ's resurrection to live new lives.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Grant us the fear and hope of Mary who found the empty tomb and heard the angel's word. Grant us the surprise and joy of the disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Grant us the awe and deep happiness of the Apostles who met with Jesus at the breakfast campfire on the shore of Galilee.

ALL: Christ was not in the tomb! Christ is risen! Christ goes before us into the world!

ONE: Pour out your Spirit of resurrection on us and on this bread and cup, that we may experience newness in our own lives and bear your good news to the world!

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Thanks be to you, God of creative newness!
Thanks be to you, Christ reborn among us!
Thanks be to you, comforting and challenging Spirit!

ALL: Thanks be to you, Holy God, Three-in-One, now and forever! Alleluia!
Amen!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Host are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

ALL: God of grace and resurrection, we give you thanks that you have brought us to your table and shared with us the presence of Christ. May this meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MARCH 29, 2026

St. John's – 16 St. Jacob – 31

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary's office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Website: stjacobbucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kay Guse

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Roger Baer, Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, Lisa Pier, and Sean & Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Melody Hollis, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Kathy Ritter, Ethan Rock, and Olin Zweck

IL South Conference: Each week the churches of the Illinois South Conference are asked to pray for congregations and their pastors and other ministries of the UCC. This week we are asked to pray for:

Church & Pastors

- St. Paul UCC, Staunton - Rev. Joshua (Rev. Tiffany Pittman) Pittman

- St. Paul UCC, Tower Hill - Pastor Neil Kaiser

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Diane Grohmann

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Patti & Duane Woods, 40 years, April 5

Mark Kelly, April 9

Katie Schultz, April 10

Jill Bloemker, April 11

Ken Frutiger, April 11

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

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

APRIL 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 6 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED

We are preparing for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 16th and for the event on May 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Also, we need cake/pie crust/cash donations. Volunteer sign-up/donation forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call 618-644-2142



WALK WITH GOD

Come join our St. Jacob UCC 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 call the church office at 618-644-2142.



LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST. JACOB

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

FREE BOOKS AT ST. JOHN'S

There are boxes of old books in both English and German in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's, free to anyone who would like them.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on St. Jacob UCC's web site (<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.

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.

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):

April Shopping list: Canned tuna/chicken/beef, Rice-a-Roni, peas, green beans, mashed potatoes, hamburger/tuna/cheesy helper, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet paper

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

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. Anyone can donate -- items are anonymously given and received. Please consider blessing our neighbors in need, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my saving help!

The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous:

"The Lord's strong hand is victorious! The Lord's strong hand is ready to strike!

The Lord's strong hand is victorious!"

I won't die – no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done.

Yes, the Lord definitely disciplined me, but he didn't hand me over to death.

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the Lord's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight!

This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

SECOND LESSON: Acts 10:34-43

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."