



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JULY 12, 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 may be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate – thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising."

~ Maya Angelou

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Your grace is a lamp for our hearts, O God.

ALL: **Light our way through the shadows of this world.**

ONE: When we struggle with questions and doubts,

ALL: **tell us your stories of hope and grace.**

ONE: When we are about to wander off into the wilderness,

ALL: **show us the paths to your peace and joy.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We walk through the world, Life Giver, so focused on ourselves that we do not notice the traps laid for us by sin. We choose favorites, hurting those looking for love. In our rush to grasp what we want, we let go of the promises you have given us. Forgive us, O God, and have mercy. Like Isaac and Rebekkah, we are heirs of your trust. Like Esau, we share in your promises. Like Jacob, we receive your grace even when we have done nothing to deserve it. Sow the seeds of your faithfulness and forgiveness into our hearts. 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:

Genesis 25:19-34

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

HYMN***Christ Beside Me***

425

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INVITATION TO OFFERING**DOXOLOGY:**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. Amen.

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*****Hymn of Promise***

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE, JULY 5, 2026

St. John's – 12 St. Jacob – 21

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: stjacobucc.org

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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Ty Gansmann

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Ken Frutiger, Norma Logsdon,
Jackie Miller, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Kathy Ritter,
Ethan Rock, Olin Zweck, and the family Robin Pollman

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. John's UCC, Du Quoin - Rev. Robert Morwell

- St. Paul UCC, Edwardsville - Rev. Dana (David) Schindler

Retired Pastors

- Retired Pastor- Rev. Pamela Gale (Rev. Earl Menchhofer) Smith

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Patti Woods, July 12
Melody Hollis, July 13
Charles Zweck, July 15
Dian Gansmann, July 16
Robbie Meyer, July 16
Todd Rehg, July 17

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God and in honor of our precious grandson Robbie as he celebrates his 15th birthday July 16, from Grandma Carol.

HOYLETON BACK TO SCHOOL DONATIONS REQUESTED

Hoyleton back to school drive is underway. Request donations of school supplies be dropped off at the church by Sunday, Aug. 2. See flyer insert for additional details.

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 30

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering a chance to win one of three prizes: \$250, \$150 & \$50 toward the cost of Korte's barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$3 each or four for \$10. Ticket packets have been mailed out; additional ticket packets are available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The drawing will be held following worship Aug. 30, where the winners' names will be drawn. Drop your donation/tickets into the Barbeque safe located on the table in the Narthex or mail them to: 207 West Main Street, St. Jacob, IL 62281.

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The Summer Grab-N-Go Lunch Program is available for school-aged children in Lebanon or Summerfield each Monday–Friday. Lunches are first-come, first-served. Children must be present to receive lunch. Pickup locations are the Summerfield Fire Department, Rooted Community Church, and the Lebanon High School Parking Lot.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches are provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches are 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 assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805.

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):

July Shopping list: Syrup, mac & cheese, pancake mix, peas & carrots, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, Hearty soup, laundry detergent, & gallon/quart bags

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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean and the sister of Laban the Aramean, from Paddan-aram. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, since she was unable to have children. The Lord was moved by his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. But the boys pushed against each other inside of her, and she said, "If this is what it's like, why did it happen to me?"

So she went to ask the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb; two different peoples will emerge from your body.

One people will be stronger than the other; the older will serve the younger."

When she reached the end of her pregnancy, she discovered that she had twins. The first came out red all over, clothed with hair, and she named him Esau. Immediately afterward, his brother came out gripping Esau's heel, and she named him Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

When the young men grew up, Esau became an outdoorsman who knew how to hunt, and Jacob became a quiet man who stayed at home. Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was boiling stew, Esau came in from the field hungry and said to Jacob, "I'm starving! Let me devour some of this red stuff." That's why his name is Edom.

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright today."

Esau said, "Since I'm going to die anyway, what good is my birthright to me?"

Jacob said, "Give me your word today." And he did. He sold his birthright to Jacob. So Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate, drank, got up, and left, showing just how little he thought of his birthright.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:1-11

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So, the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

But you aren't self-centered. Instead, you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

"Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce – in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."