



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

AUGUST 30, 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: The entire cosmos is one vast burning bush, permeated by the fire
of the divine power and glory." ~ **Kallistos Ware**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gathered as God's people, we come to worship together:

ALL: Singing praises to the One who loves us,
opening our hearts to the One who calls us.

ONE: Called to be God's people, we come to share our lives together:

ALL: To celebrate the joys of our hearts,
to mingle our tears with God's

ONE: Challenged to follow Jesus to the end,
we come to learn how to be disciples

ALL: Offering our food to our enemies,
giving a drink of water to those who have drained our souls.

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

God of Moses and of Mary, we could live at peace with others, but we choose to do wrong to them. We could welcome those we do not know, but we choose to close our hearts. We could make outsiders our friends, but choose the safety of our cliques. Forgive us, O God, for our foolish choices. Hold on to our shaky lives, until we learn to clasp your goodness to our hearts. Whisper your grace and hope to us, until we can stop cursing our enemies and bless them as friends. Help us to put aside our stumbling blocks to discipleship, so we can follow Jesus as he leads us in your way of life. 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:

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert**HYMN***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***255****INVITATION TO OFFERING****WE GIVE:**

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. 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***We Are Called to Be God's People***580**

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weltchronik_Fulda_Aa88_087r_detail.jpg

Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50



1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,
3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,
4 For all the writ-ings that sur-vived, for lead-ers, long a - go,



some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,



The dawn-ing hope of hu - man-kind by them was sensed and shown:
and by their tents, a-round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,
or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph-e - cy and praise,
give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom-ise, strength, and call,



a prom-ise call-ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un-known.
they praised, re-mem-bered, hand-ed on a past that prom-ised more.
re - cov-ered, kin-dled, and ex-pressed new hope for chang-ing days.
the mod - el of e - merg-ing faith, a - live with hope for all.



This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.

THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, AUGUST 23, 2026

St. John's – 10 St. Jacob – 32

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

Carol Kynion

Liturgist

Beth Frank

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Jackie Miller, Annie Noll, and Ethan Rock

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

- Immanuel UCC, Hamel - Rev. Paul (Rev. Cherie Hambleton) Burden

- Friedens UCC- Hecker

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Elmer (Linda) Bowman

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Myrna & George Anderson, 68 years, Aug. 30

Haylee Petchulat, Sept. 3

Diane & Sam Frey, 44 years, Sept. 4

Paul Baer, Sept. 5

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: BBQ Bonanza drawing & potluck lunch following worship, St. Jacob

SEPTEMBER 7: LABOR DAY

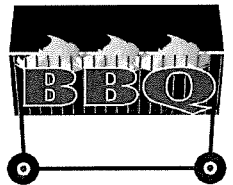
SEPTEMBER 16: Adult Bible Study, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall or 7 p.m., in the office meeting space

SEPTEMBER 26: Fellowship Breakfast, 8-9 a.m., Heritage Hall, all are welcome, freewill offering

SEPTEMBER 26: Fall workday, 9 a.m., St. Jacob UCC

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING TODAY

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 are available on the table in the Narthex. The drawing will be held **TODAY** following worship, where the winners' names will be drawn. Following the drawing, please stay for a potluck lunch at Heritage Hall. Make sure you drop your donation/tickets into the Barbeque safe located on the table in the Narthex prior to the drawing.



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 walking with our "Walk with God" group, or would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

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 to 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 (<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, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

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):

September Shopping list: Spam, pudding cups, canned chicken, pasta sides, canned tuna, corn, canned beef, green beans, household cleaner, & paper towels

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: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to

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take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic – be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you – bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."