

May Newsletter



St. Jacob's UCC

100 East George St, PO Box 111

Office@stjacobsucc.org — www.stjacobsucc.org—

Find us on Facebook!

Worship: Sunday's at 10:00am

LIVE on Facebook / Youtube

A word from Our Pastor...

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

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Greetings to all you Faithful People who:

- 1.) wear a face mask
- 2.) wear gloves
- 3.) wash hands down to the bone
- 4.) stand six feet apart
- 5.) finally—Stay Home

In an ugly bizarre way we all learned that we don't control things. A microscopic brainless virus has bettered us.

Or has it? What have we learned and are still learning? Do we really need a 3 year supply of toilet paper? How much did we really need those "shopping trips"? Did we finally meet and help our neighbors? How many folks went extra miles to help others? And for the most part— We worked together for the benefit of all.

In that perspective, every child-colored chalk on the street/ sidewalk is a gift.—Every smile (yes, we can smile through the mask) is a gift. Those thousands of folks who walk into the virus every day—They are a blessing for all society. We can all think of and tell about many other stories of selflessness.

For me, they are proof that God is still speaking. That we are not alone. That Hope prevails in spite of our human proclivity to assume we have things under control.

Now— as we stumble out into the Spring air, allow the Spirit to lead us with true wisdom. We need that Holy wisdom as we move ahead into the unknown "new normal."

How will my actions either stop or restart the virus attack? Who is the neighbor needing some moral and financial support? A phone call?

Only God knows what the "new normal" may bring. We must prepare for it. Be ready— for we will have new things to learn, - to adjust to.

Yet there is One—that remains constant in this virus battle and its aftermath: God. It is God who is getting us to the light at the end of the tunnel. Yes— some will claim science. But who guides the minds and hearts of those scientist? Who gave them the skill? God is still speaking.

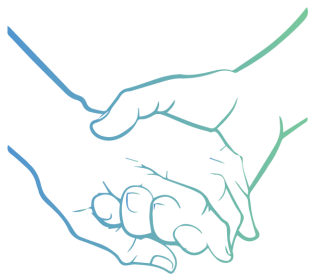
Now— As the Eastertide Season comes to an end [with Pentecost] let us think hard and pray about Jesus' final words.~

"Lo— I am with you always— even to the end of the age."

As we begin to venture out— we do not go alone. THANK YOU JESUS!

Blessings to all,

Pastor Rick



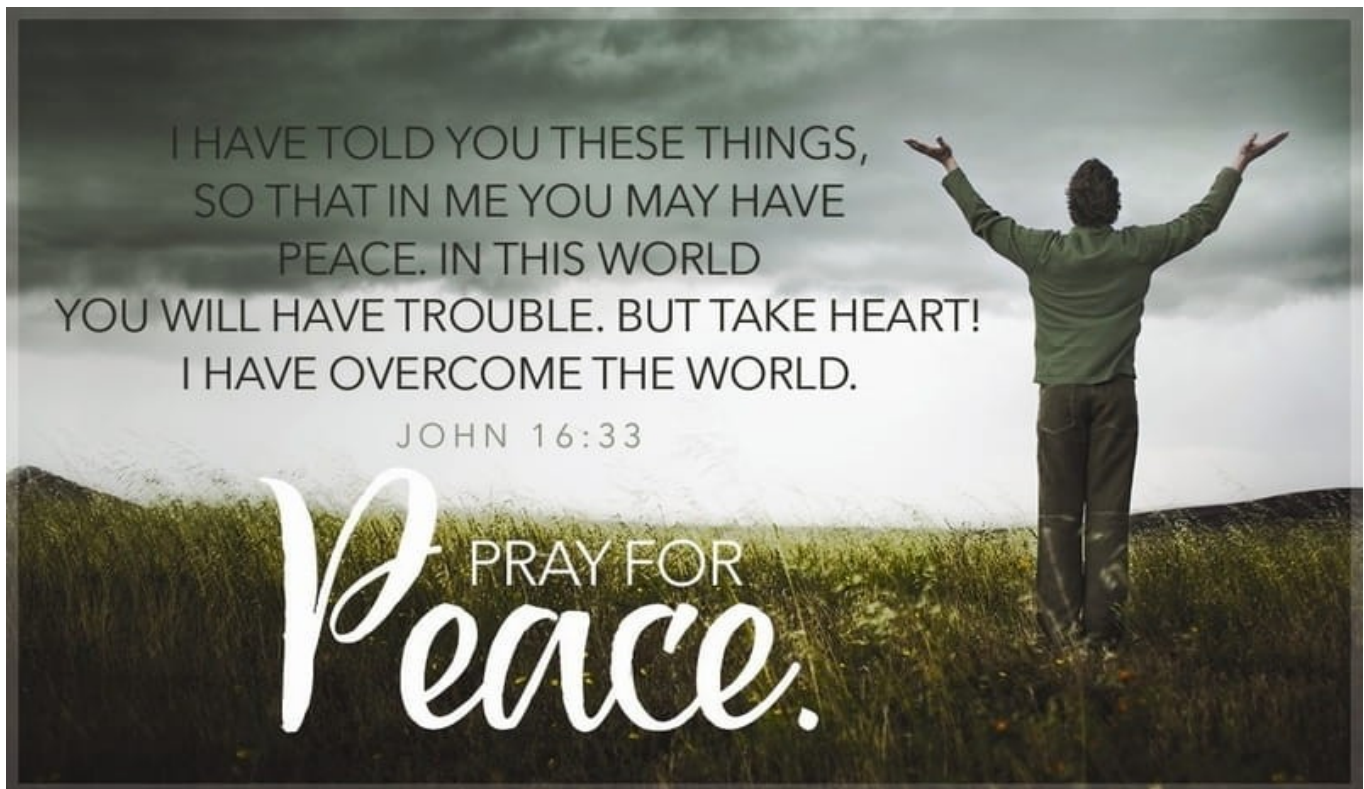
From Our Consistory President...

Hello St. Jacobs Family,

The last two months are nothing we could ever have imagined happening and I am pretty sure we would all be happy if we never have to do this again. As we look back over the last two months I would like to think that God would be pleased with his people and that we are taking his teachings and using them. Our society has shown love and compassion to those around them and even though we are all very stressed and worried about our world and where it is taking us we are relying more on our faith. St. Jacobs has reached outside their box once more to reach out to our members and any others that are in need of reassurance and guidance. We have started live streaming our Sunday morning service on Facebook and also uploading this service to YouTube. We have always talked about how to reach others, how can we teach others about our faith, and with everyone thinking outside the box we have taken steps forward to be able to do so. So as we move forward your Consistory, Worship Committee and ELC are all working together to open our church once more but we will continue to live stream our service on Sunday mornings.

Please stay healthy and safe

Sincerely,
Heather



FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE....

Jesus said to the apostles, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6:31 (NIV)

Some people do not enjoy being alone; but a little solitude can provide an opportunity to reconnect with our spiritual life. Jesus asked the disciples to come away with him to rest and to escape the crowds. He knew that solitude would renew them. Jesus used solitude to talk to God and renew his strength. Solitude is not something to be dreaded or feared. It is an important time to rest, pray, and renew our spirits.

It is some times hard to see the good in tough situations such as this virus; but there is one very positive through it all. “God IS There!” He didn’t promise sunshine and rainbows – but He did promise to be with us through our celebrations in life and our trials and tribulations. God is a constant in our daily lives. He never leaves us. He is never far away. Now, during this time of isolation and turmoil, we need to be reaching out to God. Prayers, meditation, scripture all will bring us peace. God wants to hear from us – our fears, our needs, our challenges. Times such as these will strengthen our faith in Him and teach us to trust and believe in Him.

Now, during this uncertain time, today and tomorrow, we need to stop to thank GOD for our blessings. Invite Him into your heart so that He may give you peace and strength as well as trust this unknown path we are on. May God’s blessing be upon you and your family during this world changing crisis.

Practice social distancing

Wear a mask and gloves

Limit travel

Stay at home

Hopefully you have been able to view our LIVE Sunday worship services Sunday mornings at 10 am. These services allow us to connect with God, even though we are not able to worship in our sanctuary with our church family.

God knows what is best for us!

Seek His guidance and wisdom

Trust Him and do what He says

We cannot see the end of the race

we’re running, but God can!

“...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” Hebrews 12:1

Search Committee Update

As we are all facing the challenging times the COVID-19 virus is presenting, the search committee is slowly moving forward with the candidate we saw in March. Our conference suggested nothing before June 1 should be scheduled. Taking that suggestion to thought, a tentative trial sermon date for this candidate is scheduled for **June 21st**. During this weekend, an event or two will be planned so that our congregation can meet and greet this candidate prior to the trial sermon.

More details will follow in a formal invitation for this weekend and a letter of introduction of this candidate that will be mailed about a month before the trial sermon. Please prayerfully consider your important role in this step our church is taking by penciling this date into your calendar so that you can be in attendance to hear this candidate and to vote. We hope and pray, that by this time in June, the social distance issues that this virus is causing is relaxed so that we can gather together and we can confirm and move forward with this date.

Prayer for a Pandemic

From: www.ccvichapel.org/post/prayer-for-a-pandemic-cameron-bellm.



May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

Unexpected Grace: Invisible Grace

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. — John 1: 12-13 (KJV)

It was a difficult season in my life and ministry. I wondered why God felt so far away. Had He forgotten me?

During that season, our family visited Chicago with some friends. We bought pricey tour bus tickets to see the sights. The ticket agent explained how it worked. “Ten red double-decker buses keep circulating along the same route,” she said. “They stop at a dozen tourist spots.” She slid a map over the counter to show the attractions at each spot. We could get on or off any bus at any stop, visit the attractions for as long as we liked, and then catch the next red bus to the following destination. As the buses rolled, knowledgeable tour guides pointed out fascinating features of the city’s architecture and history. It was a fantastic way to see a lot of sights in one day.

We weren't sure who loved it more— the kids or the adults.

The ticket agent emphasized one point, however. “Be sure you’re on the last bus by five p.m.,” she said. “You have unlimited on-off privileges till then. But if you miss that last bus, you'll be stuck walking back to where you started.”

“So the buses just keep rolling along,” I said, “with or without us.”

“Sounds like God’s plan,” my friend Pastor Todd said. “When we think He’s absent, His plan still rolls along. Whether we see Him or not, He’s still working His plan.”

Just what I needed to hear. Even when I can’t see His hand, I can still trust His heart.

**Father teach me to trust Your loving heart even when I can’t see
Your face.**

— Bill Giovannetti



Special Dates

May Birthdays

May	6th	Kim Starner
	11th	Sireyna Kenley MacNelly
	16th	Rachel Forry
	17th	Benjamin Goodling
	21st	Kim Criswell
	23rd	Tim Hinkle

May Anniversaries

May	2nd	Leon & Jennifer Senft
	4th	Mike & Connie Miller
	10th	James & Margaret Murray Bill & Stella Holt
	22nd	Mark & Cheryl Lerew
	23rd	Corey & Merissa Hamilton
	24th	Jeff & Stacy Wagaman
	25th	Jay & Linda Claycomb



P.U.S.H.

(Pray Until Something Happens)

- Stu M.
- Judy G.
- Joellyn S.
- Shelly & Joe S.
- John H.
- Lois B.
- Linda C.
- Kelly A.
- Bud & Wendy B.
- Holly G.
- Larry H.
- Richard P.
- Danny
- Claude R.
- Gregg S.
- Ray R.
- Yvonne H.
- Rob W.



*Prayer
Requests*

2020 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



June - Mary Brungard and Janet Hengst

July - Michele Harper and Dorine Hagarman

August - Taylor and Velinda Johnson

September - Deneen Harbold and Dorine Hagarman

October - Heather Kuhn

November - Nancy McIntyre and Kathryn Forry

December - Cheryl Paules and Heather Kuhn

DARLA SPRINGER/LENA GINGERICH - Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship in the above name is available to students who are members of St. Jacob's UCC. Students must be accepted into a post-secondary institution prior to the time of application. Detailed information is available upon request through the church office or any member of consistory.



Services are LIVE on

Facebook

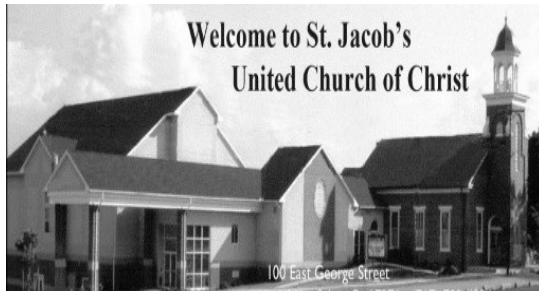
Follow// Like the

St. Jacob's UCC page

for updates and live feeds.

LIVE Sunday's at 10:00am

ST. JACOB'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Everyone is Welcome!

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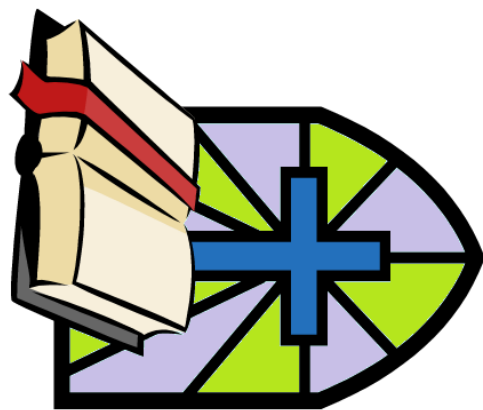
Church E-mail: Office@stjacobsucc.org

Pastor's E-mail: 13stuempfle@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook— LIVE!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STJACOBSUCC.ORG



St. Jacob's Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Jacob's United Church of Christ, called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and following the example of Jesus Christ, will strive to be ambassadors of God's will by:

- Caring for others and ourselves through love and compassion
- Teaching God's word
- Accepting and seeing all people as children of God
- Committing ourselves to these responsibilities in an ever changing society.