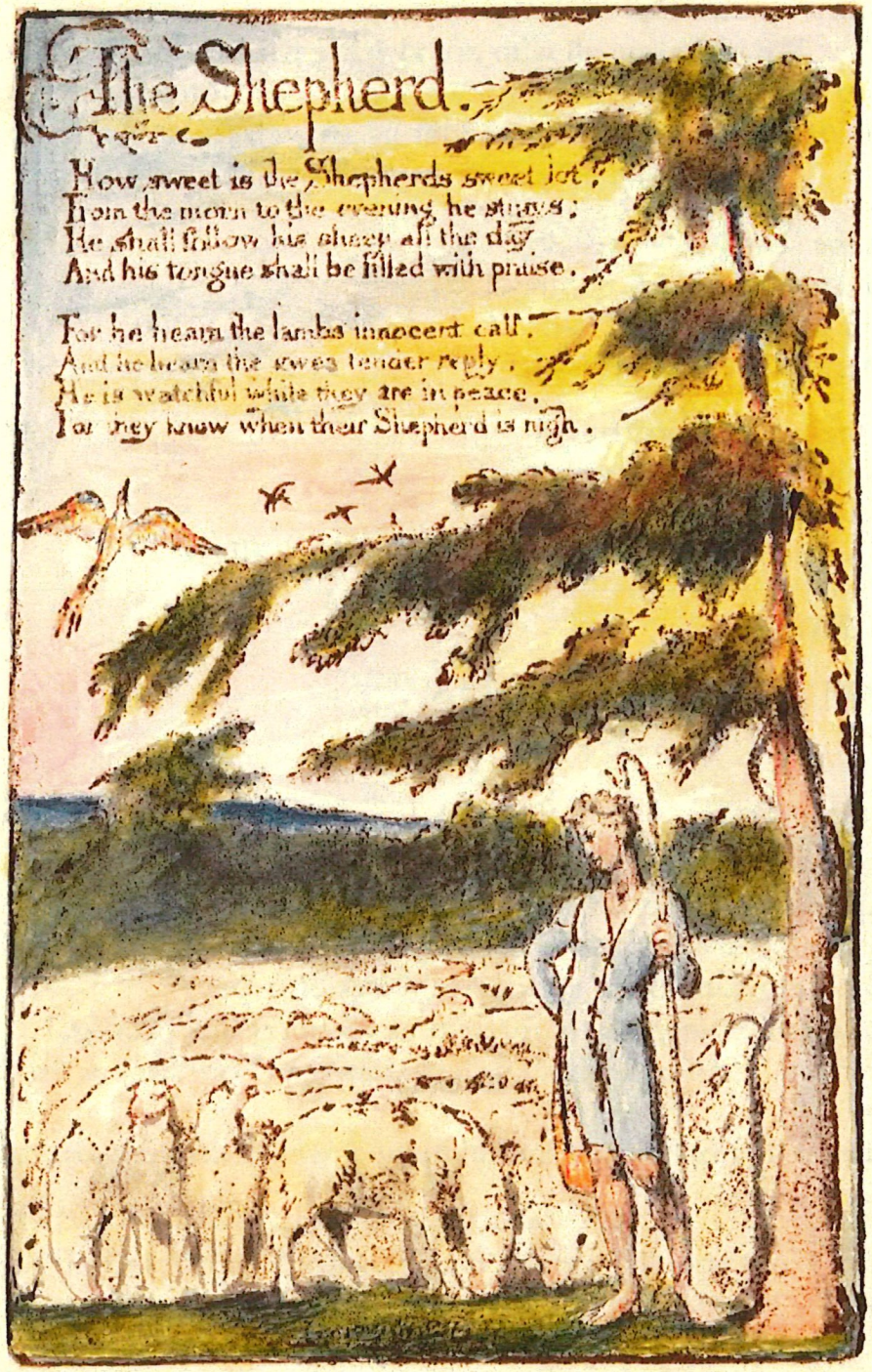
The Shepherd.

How sweet is the Shepherds sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs innocent call,
And he hears the ewes tender reply.
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 22, 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.

How sweet is the shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be fillèd with praise.

For he hears the lambs' innocent call,
And he hears the ewes' tender reply;
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their shepherd is nigh. ~ **William Blake**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:
ALL: Where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.
ONE: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:
ALL: Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.
ONE: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:
ALL: Where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

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HYMN *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* **661**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

We stock the food pantries, but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give away our hand-me-downs, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped away. We glad-hand those just like us, but turn a deaf ear to our neighbors who look or speak different. Forgive us God of Hope. You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home. You invite us to the riverside so we may be washed in the waters of your forgiveness. You give us your son, Jesus Christ, who watches over by our shepherd. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI **734**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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:
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46

HYMN *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* **440**

SERMON

HYMN ***Christ, You Call Us All to Service*** **571**

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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)*

God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our thanks for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We hereby enlist ourselves and our resources toward the realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity. May this congregation become more and more a source of hope for each of us and for all we meet. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE **Into My Heart** **485**

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

*** HYMN** ***Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*** **82**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Attribution: Blake, William, 1757-1827. Songs of Innocence and of Experience, Plate 14, "The Shepherd" (Bentley 5), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55853. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Blake_-_Songs_of_Innocence_and_of_Experience,_Plate_14,_%22The_Shepherd%22_(Bentley_5)_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 33

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	Rich Erwin
Liturgist	Bennett Seger
Accompanist:	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, Jackie Miller, Bridgette & JP

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, Okawville**
- **St. Peter's UCC, Okawville** - Rev. Jeffrey Schwab

Retired Pastors

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Mary Lowe, Nov. 22
Andrea Herkenhoff, Nov. 24
Jackie Miller, Nov. 24
Henry Peer, Nov. 24

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Johns
TODAY: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Jacob, potluck lunch
THURSDAY: THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 28: Fellowship Breakfast, 8-9 a.m., Heritage Hall, all are welcome, freewill offering

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HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. At last count there were still four slips in the basket on the table in the Narthex. Each slip lists possible gifts and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. The gifts are due to the church by Sunday, Nov. 29, and we'll get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

St. John's: Again, this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their on-line wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board by **TODAY**.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RIDE DEC. 6

A Christmas Light Ride will be held Dec. 6, leaving (by bus) St. Jacob UCC at 4 p.m., Dec. 6, enroute to Zapata's in Collinsville, for dinner, and then to the Wonderlights display at World Wide Technology Raceway. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELFs organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthex to place the labels.

ST. JACOB NEEDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

St. Jacob needs members to serve on the church council. We only have 10 of the 12 positions filled for 2027. Please consider volunteering, it's really a small commitment of your time, as the council meets just once a month for about an hour, and then serves as the council person for one month to assist at worship. The success of our church depends on volunteers like you. For more information call, 618-644-2142.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING CAMPAIGN

This Christmas season, the St. Jacob UCC is teaming up with the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry in support of the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign. The Highland Area Food Pantry will receive 80% of the donations collected to feed our neighbors. Details about the Highland Area Food Pantry:

- **Service Area:** Highland, Grantfork, Alhambra, New Douglas, Pierron, Marine, and St. Jacob
- **Monthly Reach:** 463 unduplicated individuals (January–September 2025 average)
- **Monthly Visits:** 684 total pantry visits per month (households can visit up to twice monthly)
- **Additional Services:** SNAP assistance, LIHEAP, emergency rent and utility help, and seasonal programs like Adopt-A-Family.

For information about volunteering or to donate to the campaign, contact Angela Imming at bellsforfood@gmail.com or call 618-977-5819.

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):

November Shopping list: Syrup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pancake mix, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, pudding cups, toilet bowl cleaner, & Mr. Clean

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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!
Know that the Lord is God – he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.
Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name!
Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

"Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

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