

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 29, 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 should mark our days not only with the cycles of the moon and seasons, but also with occasions to tell our children the stories of our faith community's past so that this past will have a future, and so that our ancient way and its practices will be rediscovered and renewed every year." ~ **Brian D. McLaren, Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In every season of life,
ALL: God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.
ONE: In this season of waiting,
ALL: Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.
ONE: In this season of Advent anticipation and hope,
ALL: the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.

HYMN ***All Earth Is Hopeful*** **163**

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THE ADVENT WREATH – HOPE

ONE: The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!" Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.

ALL: When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

THE ADVENT SONG - Insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - Insert

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:

Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

HYMN ***Just As I Am*** 354

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert

HYMN *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!* 571

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)*

Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We strive to be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness, and all the days of our lives, to those purposes. 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 *like a child* 162

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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THE ADVENT WREATH - HOPE

Lighting the Candle

Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
   We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
   Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
   Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Holy God of Advent, you come near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world.

ALL: Tear open our hearts and make us more compassionate.

ONE: You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness.

ALL: Tear open our anger so we might become more forgiving.

ONE: You draw near, longing to embrace us, but we fold our arms, closing ourselves off from those all around us.

ALL: Tear open our souls, so we might become children of Advent.

ONE: God – Shaper of our lives:

ALL: have mercy.

ONE: Jesus – Word which does not pass away:

ALL: fill us with your grace.

ONE: Holy Spirit – Giver of the Light of peace:

ALL: shine through our lives.

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, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

St. John's – 10 St. Jacob – 43

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	Kay Guse
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

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's UCC, Ohlman** - Pastor Steve (Debbi) Nance
- **United in Faith UCC, Pana** - Rev. Leon (Kay) Goff

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Charles (Rev. Karla Frost) Preston

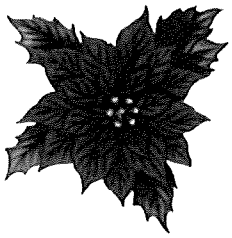
UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Eden Imming, Nov. 30
Loretta Tague, Dec. 3

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 9: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall
DECEMBER 17: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
DECEMBER 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



Poinsettia order forms for Christmas Eve worship are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob. Paul has additional order forms for St. Johns. Return the forms, along with payment, to the St. Jacob Church office or drop in the offering plate at your church by **noon Tuesday, Dec. 16**. Poinsettia's may be taken home following worship service on Christmas Eve.

HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: The gifts for children in Hoyleton's residential care and foster care are due to the church by **TODAY**, 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.

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.

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

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):
December Shopping list: Canned stew, pudding cups, corn beef hash, jelly, Spam, hot chocolate, canned chili, peanut butter, laundry detergent, & dish soap

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: Isaiah 64:1-9

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.
If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence.

When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;
when you came down, mountains quaked before you.
From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!
You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways.
But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong.
We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag.
All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away.
No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you,
for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

But now, Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.
Don't rage so fiercely, Lord; don't hold our sins against us forever,
but gaze now on your people, all of us.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the an-gels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

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