



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

May 11, 2025

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 might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."
~ Rudyard Kipling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather in the presence of God,

ALL: Where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their
tears wiped away.

ONE: We gather with the people of God,

ALL: Who worship the One who provides what we need, not just what
we want.

ONE: We gather in green pastures and at the table of God,

ALL: Where God feed us with grace and wonder, where God pours the
living water upon us.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Anonymous. Jesus as shepherd with the lost sheep, (Ethiopia, 1300-1500 C.E.) from Art in the
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we have been taught by our culture to desire everything, so we confess an emptiness which sends us scurrying for more and more. We look and see people whose lives seem richer and fuller than ours, and so are filled with lust and envy. We are convinced that peaceful waters offer us nothing, and so thirst for whitewater adventures in our lives. We listen to the silly promises of the world, turning away from the shelter you offer to us. Forgive us, we pray. Allow your goodness to follow us, your mercy to shadow our every step, and help us to find rest in your heart, healing at your hands, and life together in Jesus Christ, our gentle Shepherd. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

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:

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

HYMN***Lamb of God*****281**

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

Make these moments a feast of dedication to your purposes among us, loving God. May we serve you night and day, wherever we are, in all we do. Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**PRAYER RESPONSE****Hear Our Prayer, O Lord****490**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

*** HYMN*****Near to the Heart of God*****INSERT****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Beth Frank
Liturgist	Holden and Bennett Seger
Accompanist:	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Gracie Emmerich, Lori Erwin, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, and Darik Zobrist

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

- Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC - Rev. Dr. Lauren (Greg) Lambert-Goheen
- Moro St. John's UCC Midway - Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Jane Hillman

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Grace Leder, 95, May 11
Ann & Ryan Becker, 13 years, May 12
Ty Gansmann, May 16
Karen & Joe Schultze, 55 years, May 16
Shelly Bittle, May 17

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, May 4, 2025

St. John's – 15 St. Jacob – 30

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

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. Anyone can donate -- items are anonymously given and received. Please consider blessing our neighbors in need, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

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): Canned goods including: green beans, corns, carrots, mixed vegetables, stew, chili, soup, fruit, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, potatoes (boxed/bags), Rice a Roni, macaroni and cheese, pasta, Ramen noodles, Jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, powdered sugar, brown sugar, oil, Crisco, dish soap, laundry detergent (quart bottles/sheets/pods), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, baggies (sandwich/qt./gal.) plastic wrap, toilet bowl cleaner, and cleaning solution

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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

MAY 18: STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, no worship at St. Jacob

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are preparing for our 41st anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 17th and for the event on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office, 618-644-2142.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

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

WALK WITH GOD

St. Jacob UCC is planning a 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 participating and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.



FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

“Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and always. Amen.”

Then one of the elders said to me, “Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?”

I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

Then he said to me, “These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood. This is the reason they are before God’s throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won’t hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

The time came for the Festival of Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple, walking in the covered porch named for Solomon. The Jewish opposition circled around him and asked, “How long will you test our patience? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

Jesus answered, “I have told you, but you don’t believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you don’t believe because you don’t belong to my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. They will never die, and no one will snatch them from my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them from my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

Near to the Heart of God

1. There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God;
 2. There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God;
 3. There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God;

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain
 O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

hold us who wait be - fore you near to the heart of God.

