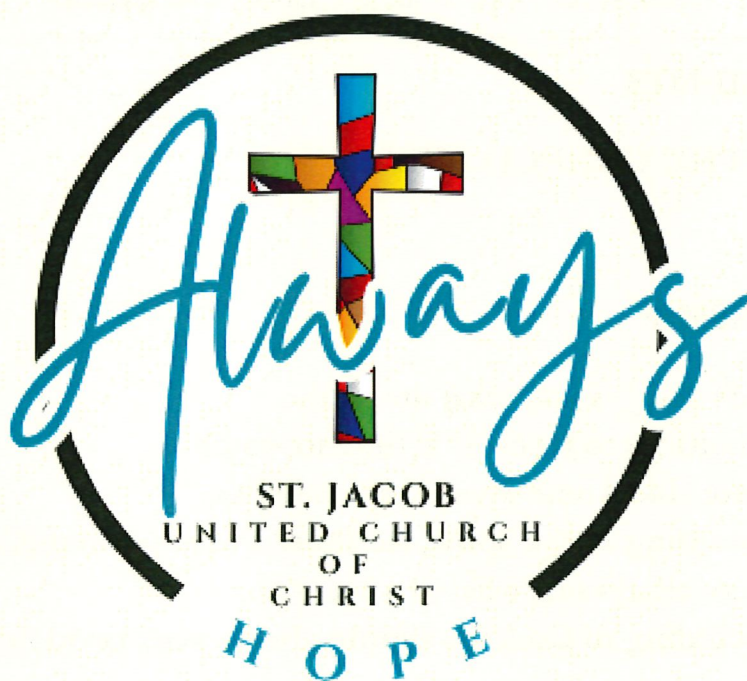




WELCOME TO WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 30, 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: "Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all." ~ **Emily Dickinson**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We don't always know what time it is,
ALL: but according to Jesus, it is time to watch.
ONE: We're not always sure what we should wear,
ALL: but according to the Spirit, we should wear garments of light.
ONE: We're not always sure what we should do,
ALL: but according to God, we should always seek good for those around
us.

* HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

153

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Toda la Tierra Espera: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2025 by Lisa Hancock used with permission.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/toda-la-tierra-espera-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2025>.

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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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of light, in this season of sales, shopping, and stress, we confess how easy it is to slip off your path. We can become so focused on having good times that we forget to take the time to do good for your people. We slip easily into Santa suits but find the teachings of Christ an uncomfortable fit for our lives. We find ourselves strangely jealous of the gifts others receive yet have trouble accepting the gifts of peace and serenity you hand out so freely. Forgive us, we pray. By your mercy, make us alert to the signs of your grace and hope in our midst and teach us your way of love and reconciliation that we may live as true disciples of our savior, Jesus Christ. 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:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Words: © 1973 Jubilate Hymns; Music: © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

158

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert

HYMN

O God of Every Nation

© Words: 1958. Renewed 1986 The Hymn Society; Music: Public Domain

626

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)*

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. Thank you for prospering our work and witness. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all your people be made ready for Christ’s coming. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.*

576

* HYMN

We’ve a Story to Tell the Nations

562

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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 23, 2025

St. John's – 17 St. Jacob – 28

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

Ty Gansmann

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller,
Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter, Sandy Rujawitz,
and Olin Zweck

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

- Grantfork UCC, Grantfork - Rev. Nancy Brooks

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

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

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

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 10: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

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.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

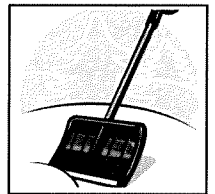
St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., Dec. 7, 14 and 21. All children pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register, fill out the online form at: <https://forms.gle/eW6KTtPzSm4DkVtx5> or call 618-644-2142.

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.

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!



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.

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 participating or for more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

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, please 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): 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

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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of the mountains.

It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will go and say,

"Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God

so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God's paths."

Instruction will come from Zion; the Lord's word from Jerusalem.

God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations.

Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools.

Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the Lord's light.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-38

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows. As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Human One. In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. They didn't know what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One will be like that. At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know what day the Lord is coming. But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn't allow the thief to break into his house. Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One will come at a time you don't know.