

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## DECEMBER 28, 2025

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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.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

- ONE: Praise God, all who dwell on this earth.  
Praise God in the heights and depths of life.
- ALL: **We will recount the deeds of God.**  
**Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.**
- ONE: Praise God, sun and moon and stars.  
Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost.
- ALL: **Men and women, young and old, together:**  
**Let us praise and honor our Creator**
- ONE: Let God's name be praised and exalted.  
God's glory is above heaven and earth.
- ALL: **By God's steadfast love, we are drawn to worship.**  
**Our gracious Savior leads us in new ways.**
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* HYMN	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	203
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HYMN	<i>O Holy Night</i>	187
Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company		

FIRST READING:      Isaiah 63:7-9

HYMN	<i>Were You There on that Christmas Night</i>	215
Words and Music © 1976 Hope Publishing Company		

HYMN	<i>I wonder as I Wander</i>	225
Words and Music © 1934, Ren. 1962 G. Shirmer		

SECOND READING:      Matthew 2:13-23

HYMN	<i>Mary Did You Know</i>	192
Words and Music © 1991 Word Music and Rufus Music (Admin. Gaither Copyright Management)		

HYMN	<i>The First Noel</i>	229
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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)*

Awesome God, when we recount your gracious deeds and praiseworthy acts, we want to imitate them. Because of your mercy and favor and the abundance of your steadfast love, we are moved to respond. Thank you for the gift of life, for all you have entrusted to us, for your watchful care over us, and for surrounding us with love when loss and suffering overwhelm us. It is when we give with generous hearts that we begin to understand how much we have been given. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Make Me a Servant*

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*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.*

\* HYMN

*Hymn of Promise*

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BENEDICTION

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Latimore, Kelly. Refugees: Holy Family, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image-link.pl?RC=57108>. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 21, 2025**

**St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 45**

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### **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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

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### **SERVING YOU TODAY**

Council Person

Dian/Ty Gansmann

Liturgist

Audrey Yann & Angela Imming

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

### **IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

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

**St. Jacob:** Carol Casperson, Rich Erwin, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon,  
Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander,  
Kathy Ritter, 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**

- St. John's UCC, Johannsburg - Rev. William Groennert

- St. Paul UCC, Lebanon - Rev. Josiah (Ryan) Accola-House

#### **Retired Pastors**

- Rev. Allen (Lynn) Reiter

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

Myrna Anderson, Dec. 29

Ryan Baer, Jan. 2

Jane Noeltner, Jan. 2

Alex Schreiber, Jan. 2

## **CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THURSDAY:** “Degreening” starting at 10:30 a.m., St. John’s

**JANUARY 4:** “Degreening” following worship, St. Jacob

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### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

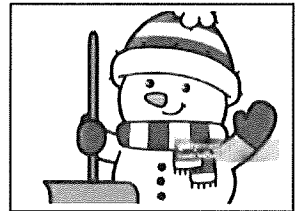
This year’s Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, Feb. 25 – March 25 at 7 p.m., meeting in Heritage Hall.

### **ST. JACOB UCC WORSHIP VIDEO STREAMING ISSUE**

Due to video streaming issues, St. Jacob UCC worship service is temporarily unavailable to view on-line.

### **SNOW SHOVELING**

We still need volunteers at St. Jacob UCC to shovel the church sidewalks. Currently, we don’t have any volunteers. 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.

### **ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS**

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

## **ST. JACOB 2026 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

The St. Jacob 2026 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

### **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, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

### **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.

### **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 63:7-9**

I will recount the Lord's faithful acts; I will sing the Lord's praises, because of all the Lord did for us, for God's great favor toward the house of Israel. God treated them compassionately and with deep affection.

God said, "Truly, they are my people, children who won't do what is wrong." God became their savior.

During all their distress, God also was distressed, so a messenger who served him saved them. In love and mercy God redeemed them, lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt.

When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

*A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and much grieving.  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she did not want to be comforted,  
because they were no more.*

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. "Get up," the angel said, "and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.