



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
APRIL 26, 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 might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "Christ's flock is made up of sheep that not only listen to their shepherd, but are also able to recognize his voice, to follow him, faithfully and with full awareness, on the pastures of eternal life." ~ **Pope John XXIII**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Day by day God leads us:
**ALL: To the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

ONE: Day by Day Jesus calls us:
**ALL: To pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

ONE: Day by day the Holy Spirit shows us:
**ALL: To community we could be,
the family we are called to become.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Why is it so hard to trust your grace, generous God? You promise to pour out blessings upon us, but we are reluctant to let go of what we have. We are reluctant to share our hearts and feelings, while you share your precious Son with us. You call us home, but we would rather keep playing in the shadows of life. Forgive us, we pray. Anoint us with your grace until our hearts overflow with praise. Grant us your hope so we can share with others. Fill us with your joy, so we might follow you with glad and gracious hearts. 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:

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

HYMN

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

99

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SERMON

HYMN

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

505

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*)

Thank you, God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationship you offer and the opportunity for sharing that you provide. May all that we dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision, that we may live in awe and wonder before you, marveling before your goodness and mercy. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

* HYMN

In the Garden

300

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE, APRIL 19, 2026

St. John's – 8 St. Jacob – 27

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:	Kay Guse
Liturgist:	Angela Imming
Accompanist:	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Robin Pollman, Kathy Ritter, Ethan Rock, 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

- Zion (St. Joe) UCC, Waterloo - Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole, Pastor Tim Burns
- St. John UCC, Wood River - Rev. John (Jackie Gordon Pawloski) Pawloski

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Jane Hillman

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Darren Schmitt, May 1

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Strawberry Festival meeting following worship/congressional meeting

MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 17: STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, 11 am to 3 pm, St. Jacob Township Park

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED

We are preparing for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Festival and need volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 16th and for the event Sunday, May 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Also, we need cake/pie crust/cash donations. Volunteer sign-up/donation forms are on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS

There are envelopes labeled for each family with Strawberry Festival raffle tickets on the table in the Narthex for you to pick up. If you have family members who are not here, but you could drop off the envelope to them, it would be greatly appreciated, as it will help save on postage. Thank you for your support!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

T-Shirts are now available to order for our 42nd anniversary Strawberry Festival! Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex and may be dropped in the offering plate, or you may call the church office, 618-644-2142, to order. Orders must be submitted to the church office by noon, Sunday, May 3.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLYERS

We are preparing for our 42nd annual Strawberry Festival and we could use your help in getting the word out. There are pink flyers located on the table in the Narthex, please take a few and get them posted on bulletin boards at area businesses. The event will be held May 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park.

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER MAY 3

“Little Rae of Sunshine” group fried chicken dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 3 at the Moose Lodge (7371 Marine Rd., Edwardsville, IL), cost is \$14. The “Little Rae of Sunshine” group was formed after Rae Lynne's passing to keep her legacy alive and to continue to address community building which she was an advocate of. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Their chicken is the best in town!

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 and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

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):

May Shopping list: Peanut butter, juice, jelly, crackers, canned stew, pork & beans, corn beef hash, hamburger/tuna/cheesy helper, deodorant, & body wash

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: Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Now, it is commendable if, because of one's understanding of God, someone should endure pain through suffering unjustly. But what praise comes from enduring patiently when you have sinned and are beaten for it? But if you endure steadfastly when you've done good and suffer for it, this is commendable before God.

You were called to this kind of endurance, because Christ suffered on your behalf. He left you an example so that you might follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, nor did he ever speak in ways meant to deceive. When he was insulted, he did not reply with insults. When he suffered, he did not threaten revenge. Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this so that we might live in righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed. Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your lives.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life – indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.