

I choose...

TO LOVE MY
NEIGHBOR AS
MYSELF

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OCTOBER 25, 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: "There is no remedy for love but to love more."

~ Henry David Thoreau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

ALL: **We will widen our hearts so might cradle the lost.**

ONE: We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

ALL: **We will open our minds so we might discern God's dreams for us.**

ONE: We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

ALL: **We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.**

HYMN

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

545

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them. We care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors. We think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom. Forgive us, O Lord. Renew our lives with your grace. Restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow. Refresh our spirits with your joy that comes to us through your son, 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:

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Acts 10:44-48

Matthew 22:34-46

HYMN

Baptized in Water

679

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SERMON

HYMN	<i>Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song</i>	327
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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)*

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal your love in such a way that many will respond. Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is contagious. Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed that we may grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with you. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE	<i>Into My Heart</i>	485
<i>Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.</i>		
<i>Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.</i>		

* HYMN	<i>Lord, I Want to Be a Christian</i>	457
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE, OCTOBER 18, 2026

St. John's – 12 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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Patti Woods

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, and Jackie Miller

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 UCC, Mascoutah - Rev. Cherie (Rev. Paul Burden) Hambleton
- St John's UCC Midway, Moro - Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Chris (Cathy) Hill

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Troy Gansmann, Oct. 26

Kathy Ritter, Oct. 27

Denise & Paul Baer, 54 years, Oct. 27

Madeleine Schmidt, Oct. 31

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: We will celebrate Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Pastor Phil's 5th Anniversary today following worship, please join us for cake and lemonade.

THURSDAY: Free Flu Immunization Clinic, 3-6 p.m., Heritage Hall

SATURDAY: HALLOWEEN

NOV. 1: TOTENFEST

NOV. 3: ELECTION DAY

FREE FLU IMMUNIZATION CLINIC THURSDAY

St. Jacob Township annual free flu immunization clinic will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., **Thursday** at Heritage Hall. The immunization clinic is **only for residents of St. Jacob Village and Township**, and you must be 18 years or older (proof of residency is required).

SWEATSHIRT ORDER FORMS

"Always With You" sweatshirt/t-shirt order forms are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob. Deadline to submit your order is Nov. 2. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142, or Rebecca at Trendy Trees at 618-974-7130.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., every second and fourth Sunday. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register contact the church office: e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com, or call 618-644-2142.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELF's organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthex to place the labels.

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):

October Shopping list: Flour, canned stew, sugar, corn beef hash, vinegar, crackers, coffee, hearty soup, shampoo, & body lotion

November Shopping list: Syrup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pancake mix, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, pudding cups, toilet bowl cleaner, & Mr. Clean

Food Pantry “FILL THE SHELVES” drive-thru food donation drive will be held Nov. 6, from 2 to 6 p.m.; Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Nov. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop off location is 108 E. Dee Street, Lebanon, IL. There will be early drop off bins at the Lebanon and Summerfield Firehouses Nov. 1 through Nov. 5.

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: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our help, generation after generation.

Before the mountains were born, before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world –
from forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God.

You return people to dust, saying, “Go back, humans,”

because in your perspective a thousand years

are like yesterday past, like a short period during the night watch.

You sweep humans away like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning.

True, in the morning it thrives, renewed, but come evening it withers, all dried up.

Come back to us, Lord! Please, quick! Have some compassion for your servants!

Fill us full every morning with your faithful love so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long.

Make us happy for the same amount of time that you afflicted us –

for the same number of years that we saw only trouble.

Let your acts be seen by your servants; let your glory be seen by their children.

Let the kindness of the Lord our God be over us.

Make the work of our hands last. Make the work of our hands last!

SECOND LESSON: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, “These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?” He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“David’s son,” they replied.

He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’*? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.