



Dear friends,

After his baptism, God's Spirit chased Jesus out of his comfort zone into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. The church's season of Lent—all of March this year—is meant to be a kind of wilderness time too, where we are called away from old habits, practices, and territory, and asked to seek God in new habits, new places, and new people. Wilderness is a difficult part of the journey, but in scripture, wilderness just so happens to be the place where God's people re-learn who they are and grow deeper in God's purpose for them.

LoveJoy United is no doubt heading into one of these God-induced wilderness times. At the end of February, we said a big thank you and happy retirement to our church administrator, Vickie Hastings, who diligently and capably served not only LoveJoy United since the merger, but also served the College Avenue Church for many years prior. Vickie knows our congregation inside and out, likely better than many of us do. I have no doubt that Vickie's retirement will feel at least a little like being chased by the Spirit into some foreign place. I give thanks that Vickie has been most gracious in equipping me, our Session, and our new administrative assistant, Terri Miller, to move into this wilderness together. It will certainly be a place of surprises, change, and challenges, but knowing God, it will also be a time of growth and blessings as well. God's Spirit might be the one chasing us out into the wilderness, but God's Spirit also promises to see us through it as well.

As our congregation, as a whole, does some wilderness work this Lent, I pray that you will do some wilderness work in your own life of faith. What is God's Spirit calling you away from? What is the Spirit calling you toward? I hope that you'll consider joining one of our three small groups, which are focusing on the practice of Forgiveness. See the included article to read more or go to: <https://lovejoyupc.org/smallgroups>

In Christ,

Daniel Ervin

Daniel Ervin contact info: Church phone – 618.254.5880; cell – 704.380.0498

Email – [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

Variable office hours Tuesday through Friday as schedule permits.

# FORGIVENESS

LOVEJOY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

It's not too late to join one of our Lenten Small Groups as we grow together as a forgiven and forgiving people. Groups will begin the week of March 1.

Call one of the hosts below or the church office (618.254.5880) to join. Books are available through the church office for \$10.

### SMALL GROUP TIMES AND LOCATIONS

#### WOOD RIVER\*

Sundays, 4:30-5:30 PM  
(Begins 3/1)

The Church  
2550 Rock Hill Rd.  
Wood River, IL 62095  
618.254.5880

Host: Alice Buzzard

\*Children are invited to attend YouthQuest

#### ROSEWOOD HEIGHTS

Tuesdays, 2-3 PM  
(Begins 3/3)

Hershel Henson's Home  
44 Forest Drive  
East Alton, IL 62024  
219.363.5555

Hosts: Lucille & Hershel Henson; Carl Day

#### ALTON

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM  
(Begins 3/3)

Karen Gunter's Home  
1637 Rock Springs Dr.  
Alton, IL 62002  
618.465.8568

Hosts: Karen Gunter; Karen Wilson



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Karen Wilson

**Mission & Outreach** **One Great Hour of Sharing:** It's time again for the fish banks or you can use the OGHS envelopes. Any way you do it, supporting OGHS is one of the best ways to make a difference in our world. Many from LoveJoy United have gone on trips to rebuild after a hurricane, tornado or flood. *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* comes in after a disaster and helps organize this recovery work. *Presbyterian Hunger Program* takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. *Self-Development of People* invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. OGHS monies support these three agencies of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Let's be generous!

**Partners for Just Trade:** PJT sells fair trade items from Peru, Haiti, and Cambodia. We will have a sale coinciding with the Rummage Sale at LUPC on March 19, 20, and 21 and again following worship on March 22. This, unfortunately, will be the last opportunity to purchase these items at LUPC. PJT will be closing operations this summer due to a variety of circumstances. This is an inventory clearance, so prices will be marked down. Take advantage of this opportunity.

**Booth House:** LUPC prepares the Sunday evening meal for those housed at the Alton Salvation Army's Booth House once per month. Check the table in the narthex to sign up to provide and serve one of those meals. Instructions are on the sign-up sheet. It's not hard.

**Food Pantry:** We were fortunate to be the recipients of a FedEx food drive, so right now we have plenty of canned vegetables. We had been receiving bread from another source, but that's not happening any more. We'll be asking for bread only on Sundays before a food pantry. So, what we're asking for in March is as follows:

- March 1: Canned meats
- March 8: Bread
- March 15: Canned soups/chili
- March 22: Cereal
- March 29: Canned ravioli



## 2020 FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS



These first Sunday meals will again be provided by various committees of our church along with Deacons, Elders, Our Lunch Bunch Group and this year we have been blessed to have inherited a group of new members who came to us from Elm Street who have generously offered to provide us their famous spaghetti dinner; there's a secret recipe for the sauce.

There are no tickets to purchase in advance for any of these monthly luncheons. Take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy good fellowship and good food while providing support for the ministries of the church. If you have any questions or suggestions, you may contact Brenda Donohoo at 254-1539.

**FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEON – MARCH 1:** We have been hearing about the famous Elm Street Spaghetti recipe; you will want to come on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in March to enjoy great spaghetti, to be served with an Italian salad, bread and butter and dessert. Great fellowship is also on the menu.



# Per Capita

## What is Per Capita in the Presbyterian Church?

Per capita is how our congregation shares the cost of doing God's work within our Presbytery and our denomination. In 2020, LoveJoy United will contribute \$32 for each of our members to support this work. If you'd like to help offset the per capita expense for yourself, your family, or others, we welcome your generosity!

## Adult Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Nursery/Multi-purpose room:

Jesus, God with us, is the central figure of our life as Christians in the church; yet, there is still so much to learn about his life, his ministry, and his calling on our lives to be his disciples. Join us each week for study, conversation, coffee, and snacks as we delve deeper into the life of Jesus Christ. Carl Day is the class teacher and facilitator.



## JUNE MOSELE MEMORIAL SERVICE MARCH 21 AT 3PM

Our dear sister in Christ, June Mosele, died on January 11 of this year. We will celebrate June's life with a Service of Witness to the Resurrection on March 21 at 3 PM at LoveJoy United. Please join us as we support June's family and claim the promise of resurrection for June and to all of us through Jesus Christ. Following the service, please join the congregation and June's family for a reception and meal in the Fellowship Hall.



**Easter Flowers:** We are ordering Lillies and flowering plants for the sanctuary (plan to order 8 Lillies and the rest flowering bulbs). If you would like to order an Easter Flower please fill out the form below with your check or cash to the church office or put in the offering plate. Cost will be \$9.00 each. Orders should be received by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Flowers may be taken home after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

**EASTER LILIES:** Anyone desiring to order an Easter Flower please return this form with your check or cash and place in offering plate or return to the church office. Cost is \$9.00 each. Please mark **in memory of or honor of**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How Many: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory or Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE – MARCH 19TH – 21ST**

Our Spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for Thursday (3/19), Friday, (3/20) and Saturday (3/21). The pre-sale Thursday is from 5-7 p.m. and we ask for a \$3 donation to shop early that evening. Hours for Friday and Saturday are 8 a.m. – noon.



This sale will also include items from Partners for Fair Trade that will be sold at a discounted price. All Fair Trade items will be set up in a separate room and must be paid for separately.

We will begin accepting donations on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We do not accept adult clothing but accept everything else you are willing to donate. Coats and jackets, all sizes of jeans, boots and shoes, purses, baby and children's clothing, furniture, sporting goods, books, puzzles, toys, electrical appliances, seasonal decorations, etc.

All unsold items will be donated to the Marines for their Toys for Tots campaign. If you want any of your items back, you must pick them up before 11:30 on Saturday.

Thanks in advance for everyone's support. We also need your help that week pricing and organizing our donations. We usually have crews there both day and night. If you need items picked up or have questions, contact Brenda Donohoo at 444-9190.



*Please join us for a*

*90<sup>th</sup>*  
*Birthday Celebration*

*honoring*  
**COLENE TESTER**

*Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.*

*Refreshments will be served during Fellowship Hour  
held immediately following the worship service  
at LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church*

*Your presence will be your gift to Colene!*

*If you wish to give a present,  
please consider making a donation to our church's Food Pantry.*

*We hope to see you there!  
With much love from Colene's family*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY 90<sup>TH</sup>**



I remember that back when I was a child, I said that I wanted to be a teacher. Some people make a career choice at an early age and stay the course to accomplish that goal. Others like me are still trying to decide what they want to be when they grow up even at the age of almost 73.

I have attended more than one school, even a couple of colleges, and am engaged in taking Berean Bible study classes through Global University even now in order to upgrade my ministerial credentials. Books have a lot of good stuff in them. A lot of the information in them adds to your steadily growing wealth of knowledge gained over the years and some of it you just have to question or downright not believe at all.

So, that might lead one to ask what my favorite book is; the answer is quite simple—it is the Bible. You see I can look back over the almost 73 years that I have lived and see many things that have changed, some for the better and some not so much. But, when I set down to read the Bible, I know that I have chosen the one piece of literature that tells the story of the one true God who is never changing and omnipresent. But it is not just God's story, it is also my story because it leads me to a place of understanding what it means to be a child of God.

Other than the obvious, why is that important to me? Let's talk about my retirement celebration on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the one theme that ran throughout it all—all of the many changes that had taken place during the 12+ years that I have worked for not one, not two, but three churches—CAPC, UPC & LUPC. Lots of changes, way too many to mention. Lots of new faces with which I have come in contact over the years—many of whom I am proud to call friends. For these years, this has been the ministry that God has called me to just as surely as if I had a pulpit to stand behind. It feels a little strange to know that my ministry is changing and going out into a different direction.

I want to thank everyone of you regardless of from whatever church you first came into my life. I treasure each one of you because you have helped me write my story and you have helped me to grow to prepare for the next chapter.

In no way do I feel like I deserve all of the accolades and well wishes and gifts that were bestowed on me during the day of my celebration, but I can assure you that I have even more memories that I will carry with me wherever my path leads.

I promise that I will come back to visit and I have promised to do a Lunch Bunch program just as soon as I figure out what the topic will be. I may have an idea.

In closing, let me share one of my favorite Bible verses with you.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



## YOUTH QUEST

Lessons for February and March focus on Jesus' interaction with people, beginning with calling of disciples and His teachings for daily living – Salt & Light, Love Your Enemies,

Do Not Worry, House on the Rock, The Greatest Commandment, Parable of Talents, Zacchaeus, and the Woman at the Well.

Keep a watch for the Lenten Tree in the Kids' Corner in the Fellowship Hall.

Each week during YQ, students will be adding artifacts

to observe the season of Lent. Also, a cultural element will be added to

the weekly worship service, highlighting traditional Maori people of New Zealand. Lots of fun and meaningful connecting activities have been included each week.



## Confirmation

Pastor Daniel and Carol Foraker have been leading confirmation classes for two students, Hayden Lindquist and Tony Carmack. Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Pray for them as they take this step in their faith journeys.



## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

The Christian Education Committee for Children & Youth will be honoring LUPC high school and college graduates again this year. On May 3, the graduates will be honored during worship, followed by a cake and punch reception in the Fellowship Hall along with the First Sunday Luncheon Cinco de Mayo meal.

If you know of an LUPC graduate, inform Terri in the office or Ken Webster.





## **2020 Community Lenten Services & Lunches Sponsored by Church Women United**

Wednesday - March 4th: Unity Fellowship Church – 1301 W. Delmar Ave. - Godfrey  
*Speaker: Rev. Tim Pate – (Main St. United Methodist Church)*

Wednesday - March 11th: Tabernacle M.B. Church – 2621 Amelia St.  
*Speaker: Rev. J. Hanscom - (Godfrey First United Methodist Church)*

Wednesday - March 18th: Morning Star M.B. Church – 1 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
*Speaker: Rev. Janet Riley – (First Presbyterian Church)*

Wednesday - March 25th: Millennium Temple (COGIC) - 801 Blair St.  
*Speaker: Rev. John Buford – (Tabernacle M.B. Church)*

*The ecumenical 30-minute Community Lenten Services begin at 12:00 PM (Noon).*

*A Free-Will Offering is collected at the end of each Lenten Service - as attendees leave.*

*This Offering is split between Crisis Food Center and Oasis Women's Center.*

*Following each Community Lenten Service – the women of each host church provide a Lunch of Homemade Soups, Sandwiches, & Desserts – cost for the Lunch is \$5.00.*

*Please plan on attending and invite others to attend &/or come with you!!!*

Lilies and other flowering plants will once again be used to decorate the sanctuary. As in times past, anyone desiring to order a flower(s) in memory or in honor of someone special may do so. Don't overlook the order form that is on the back page of the mailing page if you receive your newsletter via regular mail. The form will be sent electronically and available on the table in the narthex. The deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost per flower is \$9.

## Birthdays of the Month



01 Ann French  
02 Lindell Blackford  
05 Amy Huebner  
05 Terri Miller  
06 Susanne Randall  
08 Gloria Hunt  
09 Stephanie Lindquist  
10 Miranda Inlow  
10 Linda Schiltz  
11 Nora Frank  
11 Glenda Pelot  
12 Betty Milburn  
12 Karen Auston  
13 Kara Carmack  
16 Shawn Huff  
18 Donny Hayes  
18 Abigail Overstreet  
18 Alivia Luck  
18 Leroy Duncan  
19 Eaontae Coleman  
19 Kendelle Pelot  
21 John Rain III  
21 Pat Fletcher  
23 Barb Elledge  
23 Ethan Humbert  
23 Pat Slayden  
24 Colene Tester  
24 Joe Freeman  
26 Janice McKee  
26 Luke Workman  
26 Ross Chapman  
27 Al Goewey  
28 Daniel Ervin  
28 Doris Miller  
28 Doug Bristow  
28 Valerie Freeman  
29 Audrey Stewart  
30 Gavin Chapman  
30 Tiffany Andrews



### THY WILL BE DONE

O our gracious Father in  
heaven.

What is thy will?

For what is your command?  
For what should you have  
us do?












How then shall we live?  
For it is your word that we  
read and listen to.

You have given us your  
commandments and we  
shall obey.

For you are the Father and  
we are the children.  
For thy will be done.

Herbert J. Peel, Poet Laureate



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<b>1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 8:45 AM Choir Practice 9:15 AM Adult Ed. Series 10:15 AM Sunday Worship 11:15 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Luncheon - Spaghetti 4 – 6:00 PM Youth Quest & Confirmation Prep Class 4:30 PM Lenten Small Group	<b>2</b> 6:00 – 7:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM SCA	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Bell Choir Practice 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Mission & Outreach Canceled 2:00 PM Lenten Small Group 6:30 PM Lenten Small Group Locations on 2 <sup>nd</sup> page of Newsletter.	<b>4</b> 10:15 AM Lectionary Bible Study with Daniel 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM Adult Education Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Worship Committee 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Set your clocks up an hour prior to retiring for the evening. 																																																	
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**LoveJoy United**  
Presbyterian Church

A WELCOMING, NURTURING,  
PRAYING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

