



Dear friends,

This has been a hard year for many of us. It has been hardest, perhaps, for those of us who have lost friends and loved ones without the support that a traditional funeral gives to us. Due to the Pandemic, many of the funerals I've led this year have been small family affairs—beautiful and meaningful in their own right—but not quite the send-off any of us had hoped for. Others of us have struggled through other challenges and losses: the loss of a job, a relationship, a hope, or a dream.

Reflecting on All Saints Day, which is November 1, a pastor friend of mine shared something she had once heard a hospital chaplain say, “in God nothing is ever lost or forgotten.” The losses and challenges we are facing are significant, no matter how big or small. We have not been able to mourn and grieve in the ways we know best. But it is true: In God nothing is ever lost or forgotten. God hears the secret cries of our hearts. Even when it feels like we are suffering all alone, even when no one else pays attention to our need, God is with us. God hears. God remembers. God does not forget us or what we've lost.

That's kind of what All Saints' Day is all about. There have been millions (perhaps billions!?) of saints in the history of the people of God—far too many to count or remember. But we celebrate All Saints' Day because we know that God remembers each and every saint: every gift, every need, every grief, every pain, every joy. And God remembers you and those you love, too. Our All Saints' Day service on November 1 will include a special time of remembering with God those who have gone before us. I hope you will join us through Zoom.

Here's a little prayer you can lift up for All Saints' day:



God of the ages,  
We give thanks for those whom we have known and loved,  
who, by their patient obedience and self-denial, steadfast hope and helpfulness in  
trouble, have shown the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

*(say aloud in thanksgiving the names of the saints who you wish to remember to God)*

As they have comforted and upheld our souls, grant us grace to follow in their steps,  
and at last to share with them in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

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.

## Zoom/In-Person Hybrid Services



Beginning on Sunday mornings this in November, we will add an In-person option to our hybrid service. If you are concerned about your health, please know that Zoom worship will continue as usual. In-person participation will be held as long as the 7-day average positivity rating for Madison county is no greater than 8%. Those who wish to participate should call the church office no later than Thursday at noon to make a first-come first-serve reservation. Sunday mornings, participants will need to submit to a symptom check, commit to wearing masks, maintain social

distancing, and refrain from singing during the service. We can accommodate up to 20 reservations. Know that in-person services may be cancelled last minute depending on the county positivity rate. Here is the covenant all in-person worshippers must abide by:

Christians are those who live in covenant community with God and with one another. These COVID-19 time are difficult and depend on mutual trust to do what is best for the community. Those who choose to participate in hybrid worship must abide by this Covenant.



### **Symptom Check**

I attest that I currently have no symptoms of COVID-19 (headache, cough, shortness of breath, fever, etc). I also have not been in contact with anyone known to have COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms in the last 14 days.



### **Masks Required**

I will wear a mask at all times while in the building, only removing it briefly to receive communion.



### **Social Distancing**

I will maintain social distancing in the building and on the church grounds.



### **Reservations**

I will make a reservation for the Sunday I wish to attend no later than Thursday at noon before the service.



### **No Singing**

I will refrain from singing during the service (whispering to the music quietly is allowed).



### **Limited Capacity**

I will be gracious and understanding I am notified that there is not enough room to accommodate me or my family.



### **The Data Decides**

I will be gracious and understanding if test positivity rates increase and the in-person service must be canceled and I am unable to attend.



### **Pray**

I will continue to hold in prayer those who worship via Zoom and make an effort to keep in touch with them.

## Resources to be in Touch during COVID-19

### Worship Online and by Phone



While we miss gathering in-person for worship, worship by phone and online through most of March through October has brought its own blessings and graces. Members who are homebound and have been unable to worship with us for some time are now able to participate by phone and internet. Children of members who have moved far away have worshipped with us regularly. We have prayed together earnestly on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday's evenings through this crisis. We are learning each week how to incorporate more people into leading worship, so that it is the work of all of us. Most importantly, worship online and by phone has provided much needed connection with one another and with God in a time of isolation and social distancing. Because we do not know how long this pandemic will last, we plan on keeping online worship going as an option, even after in-person worship resumes. We hope that you will continue to connect with us!



**Connect via Zoom:** Zoom is a videoconferencing app and software that allows many people (hundreds!) to meet, see one another, and talk using their smartphones and computers. Worship this way is more participatory than simply looking at a screen. Worshippers light candles, sing, read, wave and smile at one another, and share prayer concerns with the community. The best way to connect to Zoom is to go to [lovejoyupc.org/live](https://lovejoyupc.org/live) and click "Connect Via Zoom" on the right side of the page. If you have a smartphone or tablet, you will need to download the Zoom App from your app store and go to the website above.



**Connect via Phone:** Zoom allows people on traditional phones and cell phones dial in to hear and participate in the service.

Dial +1 (669) 900-6833 and then at the prompt enter: 611 784 858#

**Connect via Livestream:** While Zoom or Phone are the preferred methods of connecting—because of the ability to participate—you may also simply watch the service (and many previous services) online. Simply go to [lovejoyupc.org/live](https://lovejoyupc.org/live).

### **Worship Times**

Sundays at 10:15 AM (with Sunday School via Zoom/phone at 9:15AM)

Wednesdays at 7 Pm Evening Prayer

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### Food Pantry Drop-Off



Many of you had been in the practice of throwing a few extra items in your grocery cart when you shopped to donate to our food pantry. Obviously, that is not happening now because our building is closed, and you have no way to bring them to church with you. We are now putting the cart outside the front door of the church on Mondays between 9 am and 1 pm so you can come by and drop off those items for our food pantry, which is beginning to look a little sparse. Our pantry is serving those who come every 2nd and 4th

Monday from 9 am until 10 am. Clients stay in their cars and groceries are brought out to them. So, the need continues. Items that we can always use include spaghetti and sauces, soups, chili, canned vegetables, meats, ravioli, toilet paper, and bar soap. If you prefer, you can always make a financial contribution. Your support of this endeavor is much appreciated by our clients and the Mission and Outreach Committee.



### Food Pantry

Our food pantry continues on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month from 9 'til 10 am. It is a drive-thru with food being brought out to those in need.



### Good Samaritan Fund

Good Samaritan Fund: Those who call the church needing assistance with gas voucher, utility bill, etc. are asked to come at 1:30 pm on Mondays. Again, no person has access to the building. We meet them at the door to determine their need and again, it is a curb service style of accommodating them when and to what extent they can. Usually at this point I suggest what food pantry items are needed to be brought on what Sunday. As we are now (and we do not know for how long), our Sunday morning worship is done online and/or by phone. Expenses continue, so it is our hope that you will continue to support the church financially. When you mail your check, please consider adding an amount for food pantry and/or the Good Samaritan fund, designating that on your check. Thank you for your concern for those less fortunate.



## Stewardship Update



In a world where only the fittest should survive and where self-interest is king, biologists, psychologists, philosophers have all sought the origin of humankind's tendency toward generosity. Where does generosity come from when it seems to be the exact opposite of self interest? There are lots of interesting theories on the subject. Biologists tell us that generosity on the part of an individual helps the whole species thrive, which in turn benefits the individual. Psychologists and philosophers both focus on the warm, fuzzy feelings humans feel when they give out of generosity to others. All of these things are probably true, but there's more to it than that.

For Christians, generosity does not begin within ourselves. Before we can be generous people, we have to recognize that God is a generous God. Everything that we have ultimately does come from God, and it's been given to us that we might share. Christians are generous because we seek to be like our God who is generous. As we continue our stewardship season, think about how God has been generous to you: in your relationships, your finances, your time, your energy, your skills. Pray about how you might respond in turn through generosity.

Giving financially to the church is a concrete way to express gratitude to God for God's gifts. But it also enables us as a congregation to be a generous church: generous in how we love our children into the Christian faith, generous in the food we share with the hungry, generous with the joy we share in worship and fellowship, generous with the care we offer to the sick and dying, and generous in our desire to seek God's kingdom.

If you've never given or pledged to the church before, this is a good time to begin this important spiritual practice. As some in our congregation are experiencing financial hardship, others are stepping up in new and more generous ways to support the church's important work. We ask that you give generously too and be a part of our congregation's hopeful mission.

Make your 2021 pledge by calling the church office at 618.254.5880, completing a pledge card, or filling one out online at [www.lovejoyupc.org/give](http://www.lovejoyupc.org/give).

## Per Capita



We also must not forget about our Per Capita. This helps support Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. I just paid mine. It was super easy. Pull up the Giving tab on our webpage. If you already have an account, just log in and add another payment. If you do not have an account just fill in the boxes. Super easy. If you need assistance let me know or call the church and ask to be put in contact with a Tech Deacon.

God Bless All Julie Spurgeon  
618-567-1458 [60juju@gmail.com](mailto:60juju@gmail.com)

## Prayer Concerns

Please keep these people in your prayers and contact those you know to extend a message of support and love.



JoAnn Moss, Scott Shelton's Mother, Carol, & his sister, Tina, Mary Trudell, Pat Fletcher, Kate Trudell, Lexie Suerig (Debbie Suerig's daughter), Jim White, Rachel, Ralph Thompson, Terry Allen, Judy Ballard, Alma Cooper, Judy Luck, Mike Harvey (Russ & Lois Thompson's son-in-law), Marian Twigg, Cheryl Strohbeck, Shelly Devore (Brenda & Debbie's niece), John Lindquist, Herbert Peel, Darlene Kratz (Jean Day's niece), Terry Tiller (Leukemia), Glenna Donohoo, Katie Davis, Bill Meyers (Neighbor of Henson's), Jama McPeak, Atlas (Paula Blair's great grandson), Christian (friend of Humberts' who has liver cancer), Nancy Yarnell (friend of Slayden's), Vickie Aldrige, Mike Huff, Patrick Bone, Tollie Family, Jack Kleinert, Mary Ann Roney (Barb Roney's mother), Glenda McDonald, Vickie Hastings, Debbie Goskie.

Food Pantry prayer list: Gary, Carolyn, Herbert, Cynthia, Stephanie, Marisa, Tonya

### **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

**Rosewood Care Center, Alton** Betty Rain, Ron Franke.  
**Highland Healthcare,** Alma Cooper

### **RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS**

**Integrity Healthcare, Wood River** – Herbert Peel  
**The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville** – Shirley Martin  
**Villa Rose, Bethalto** – Beth Forrester  
**Aspen Creek, Troy** – Susanne Randall  
**Cedarhurst, Bethalto** – Cliff & Mary Barnes, Shirley Burris.





# Youth Quest

## Curriculum 2020 - 2021

(Subject to Change)

### SEPTEMBER

- 13 Creation Phases *Genesis 1-2:4*
- 20 God's Promise to Abram *Genesis 15: 1-18*
- 27 Rebekah & Isaac *Genesis: 24: 25: 19-28*

### OCTOBER

- 4 Baby Moses *Exodus 2: 1-10*
- 11 The Burning Bush *Exodus 3: 1-15*
- 18 The 10 Commandments *Exodus 20: 1-17*
- 25 **TRUNK OR TREAT? NO YQ**

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Queen Esther *Esther 2*
- 8 Fiery Furnace *Daniel 3: 19-30*
- 22 Intro to Play with Christmas Story
- 29 **THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO YQ**

### DECEMBER

- 6 Play Rehearsal & Connecting Activities
- 13 Play Rehearsal & Connecting Activities
- 20 **CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS**
- 27 **CHRISTMAS BREAK, NO YQ**

### JANUARY

- 3 Escape to Egypt *Matthew 2: 13-23*
- 10 John the Baptist *Matthew 11, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1*
- 17 Jesus is Tempted *Luke 4: 1-13*
- 24 Jesus Goes to Nazareth *Luke 4: 14-30*
- 31 A Storm *Matthew 8: 23-27*

### FEBRUARY

- 7 **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY???, NO YQ**
- 14 The Centurion's Servant *Matthew 8: 5-13*
- 21 Walking on Water *Matthew 14: 22-23*
- 28 The Vineyard Workers *Matthew 20: 1-6*

### MARCH

- 7 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men *Matthew 20: 29-34*
- 14 Early Believers *Acts 2: 43-47; 32-37*
- 21 Peter & Tabitha *Acts 9: 36-43*
- 28 Holy Week Stories

### APRIL

- 4 **EASTER; EGG HUNT???, NO YQ**
- 11 Matthias the Apostle *Acts 1: 15-26*
- 18 The Armor of God *Ephesians 6: 11*
- 25 **YQ FINALE???, TBA**



## Birthdays of the Month



- 03 Craig Carnes
- 05 Trinity Jude Milburn
- 05 Jacqueline Jensen
- 05 Sandy Franke
- 06 Ethan Humbert, Jr.
- 07 Shawn Thompson
- 08 Samantha Bauer
- 08 Spencer Slayden
- 10 Scott Slayden
- 10 Trevor Hale
- 11 Cherry Bishop
- 11 Charlie Manker
- 11 Lynna Humbert
- 17 Vivian Kerkemeyer
- 17 Paige Humbert
- 18 Don Jenkins
- 19 Cheryl Strohbeck
- 19 Kelsee Pelot
- 21 Jackie Roberson
- 21 Jill Roberts
- 22 Margarett Trushel
- 23 Jennifer Andrews
- 23 Noah Mabb
- 24 Leslie Ballard
- 24 Tara Mouser
- 25 Tacoma Monroe
- 26 Annabell Gibson
- 28 Easton Maggart



Oh, what a warm Sunday  
morning.  
For it is time for people to  
gather at the church.  
And now it is time for you to  
sing,  
Song of the bells.  
Song of heavenly music.  
From high to low you are  
beautiful.  
For the song you sing touches  
my heart.  
You sing with such poetry and  
grace.  
You sing such heavenly  
music.  
And for this that I love you.  
Let God be praised on this  
day.  
Let the bells sing.

**Herbert J Peel  
Poet Laurent**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<b>1</b> 9:15am Online Adult SS 10:15am Online Worship 	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Stewardship Team Meeting 	<b>3</b> 10:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 	<b>4</b> 10:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 7:00pm Courageous Conversations 	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30pm Session Meeting 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 9:00am Presbytery Meeting																																																	
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<b>15</b> 9:15am Online Adult SS 10:15am Online Worship 11:15am Congregational Meeting 4:30 LUPC Task Force	<b>16</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30pm Session Meeting 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 																																																	
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<b>29</b> 9:15am Online Adult SS 10:15am Online Worship	<b>30</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	December 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
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