

LoveJoy United  
Presbyterian Church

April

# The Observer



*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*  
—Hymn text by John M. C. Crum



*“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” — Howard Thurman*

Dear ones,

One cold morning several weeks ago, I stopped by Karen Gunter’s home to pick up some resources she wanted to share with me. I walked around to the back door because she also wanted to show me what was growing in her back yard. At first, I just saw the pale brown of dormant winter grass. But as my eyes adjusted, I saw dozens of little purple and white crocuses beginning to assert their will to live amid the barren cold of winter. It was for me a remarkable reminder of the promise of spring, and ultimately the promise of Easter: that out of even the finality of death, life will always blossom stubbornly forth.

This Easter feels especially significant because it comes at the point of this pandemic when it feels like life might finally win out over this awful virus. We have been buried in the tomb this last year, overcome by dramatic change, hardship, and tremendous loss. In our own congregation, some of you have experienced the loss of employment and financial certainty. Others of you have grieved the deaths of those dear to you. All of us have experienced a loss of normalcy and have a greater respect for the preciousness of life. We are now standing at the critical point of resurrection: where life is poised to emerge out of the ground, out of the tomb, out of the depression, out of the grief, out of the lockdown.

But let’s not kid ourselves. The world we are entering is not the same world we left behind. We are not the same people we were before. We have new scars, new learnings, and we are called into a new way of living as individuals and as God’s church. This season of Easter, we as a church are going to be living into a new commitment: to be a Matthew 25 Church (you’ll find more information about Matthew 25 in the pages of this newsletter). Among other things, this commitment calls us to respond to Jesus’ call to ‘come alive’ and care for the least of these among us. Each week during Easter, I’ll be highlighting in my sermons the ways that God’s people in Scripture have come alive and I’ll be inviting you to discern and share what makes YOU come alive in return.

It is in coming alive together – in being resurrection people – that we bear full witness to Jesus Christ in whom all the world finds redemption and peace.

Come alive with us this Easter,

Pastor Daniel Ervin

Daniel Ervin contact info: Church phone – 618.254.5880; cell – 704.380.0498  
Email – [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

# The Black Tax: The Cost of Being Black in America

Thursday, March 4 & Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 PM









The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy invites you to two special events with author, Shawn Rochester to discuss his book, *The Black Tax: The Cost of Being Black in America*. Rochester, a former corporate development, and global strategy executive quantifies the fiscal impact of the detrimental tax Black Americans pay in the auto, housing, online, job, and lending markets. The book examines the staggering financial cost from emancipation to the present day to answer the question of how, after 400 years, more than 40 million African Americans own only 2% of U.S. wealth. More than simply identifying the problem, Rochester lays out an empowerment plan to create much-needed jobs and businesses in the Black community. The first online session will meet on Thursday, March 4 and the second session is on Thursday, April 8. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 PM CST. There is no cost to attend, but advance registration is required. Advance reading of the book is highly encouraged, but it is not required.



Register for this event and read more: <https://bit.ly/3auwUEw>

## In-Person Worship begins March 28

While Zoom worship continues to be the safest way to join in worship, we will resume in-person worship on March 28 at 10:15 AM as long as COVID cases remain low. We can accommodate up to 50 people; however, you must make reservations to attend and follow our COVID-19 Risk mitigation rules.

	<b>Symptom Check</b>
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.	
	<b>Masks Required</b>
I will wear a mask at all times while in the building, only removing it briefly to receive communion.	
	<b>Social Distancing</b>
I will maintain social distancing in the building and on the church grounds.	
	<b>Reservations</b>
I will make a reservation for the Sunday I wish to attend no later than Thursday at noon before the service.	
	<b>No Singing</b>
I will refrain from singing during the service (whispering to the music quietly is allowed).	
	<b>Limited Capacity</b>
I will be gracious and understanding I am notified that there is not enough room to accommodate me or my family.	
	<b>The Data Decides</b>
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.	
	<b>Pray</b>
I will continue to hold in prayer those who worship via Zoom and make an effort to keep in touch with them.	

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### Food Pantry



You can drop off non-perishable items for the food pantry on Monday mornings between 9 am and 1 pm. The cart is by the front door. Thanks so much to those of you who continue to support our food pantry even though we're not in the building on Sunday mornings.

### Good Samaritan Fund



As we all know, these are not normal times. If you need some extra help meeting your bills or a gas voucher to make those necessary trips, please know that you can come on Mondays at 1:30 pm and we can help you.

Everything will be confidential. And if you can help support this fund, just mark your check for Good Samaritan Fund. We are here to help one another and those most vulnerable in our community.

### Booth House and Saturday Café



If you have a heart for feeding the hungry, as Jesus taught that we should, helping with meals at the Booth House and/or Saturday Café is a great opportunity for you. The Booth House is a homeless shelter operated by the Salvation Army in Alton. They do not have a meal prepared for them on Sundays. Six times a year we have agreed to prepare the Sunday evening meal to feed the approximately 20 people they may have. During these pandemic times, meals are dropped off and they serve themselves. Saturday Café is a ministry of First

Presbyterian in Alton, serving anyone needing a meal. We handle this meal on the first Saturday of March, June, September, and December. Let Brenda Donohoo or Karen Wilson know if you'd be willing to help with this.



## Presbytery Event: Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

Saturday, April 3-9:00am – 4:00pm



Given generally growing mental health needs, especially due to stressors related to the pandemic, Light for the Darkness and the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy will offer Mental Health First Aid training. We encourage pastors, deacons, elders, youth leaders, and anyone interested in mental health to attend. Please share this and spread the word.

### What is Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid is an early intervention public education program. It teaches adults how to recognize signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally and give reassurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge. Also, it includes how to refer a person to appropriate professional support and services.

The instructor will be our newest advisory board member, Lawson (Cal) Calhoun, M.A, MHFA, also the clerk of session at Westminster Presbyterian Church St. Louis.

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (30 spaces available): April 17th, 9-4pm; (deadline to register is 4/3) (this class is to help adults identify signs in youth, not a class for youth)



*To the dear members of our church family at LoveJoy United,*

*On behalf of the Tester/Cerny family, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for the many thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to us since the passing of our loving mother, Colene Tester.*

*We are so thankful that God is working through people like you to show His love and care for our family. Thank you for the kind and comforting words written in the beautiful sympathy cards you sent and for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during such a sad and difficult time in our lives. Thank you too for the generous monetary gifts made to our church's Memorial Fund in remembrance of our sweet Mom!*

*Your overwhelming support and Christian friendship are truly a blessing to us and is deeply appreciated!*

*May God Bless You All!*

*Karen & Jim Cerny      Brenda Tester      Barry & Tracy Tester*



As you all know, my husband decided to retire early due to some health issues. This was not planned as I wanted to work at LoveJoy for many years. We purchased a home in Branson last year for our summer vacation/retirement home, not realizing we would be moving so soon.

Thank you for all your kindness, love, and support while I was here, especially during my father's illness/death and the kindness you showed me. I am sorry I did not get to meet all of you in person, thanks to Covid. I will miss each one of you!

If there is anything, I can do to make the transition a smooth one, please do not hesitate to reach out. Feel free to call me at 618.304.5848 for anything you may need.

Your kind words and gratitude of thanks have been a tremendous blessing to me and my husband. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your support and encouragement!

I hope that we can stay in touch and continue to pray for one another.

Make sure you look me up if you are in Branson. I would love to visit and chat.

Blessings,  
Terri Miller



Christine Cunningham  
Stearns Nursing & Rehab  
3900 Stearns Avenue  
Granite City, IL. 62040

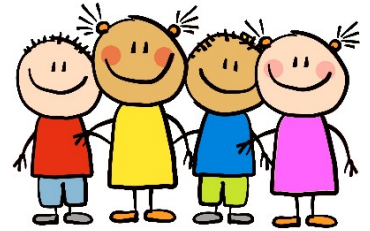


## COVID-19 Vaccine Help

If you or someone you know needs assistance getting an appointment to be vaccinated, please reach out to Cheri and Tony Levan, who have graciously volunteered to help connect folks to appointments. Call Cheri's number and leave a message if she is unable to answer: 618-531-7710.

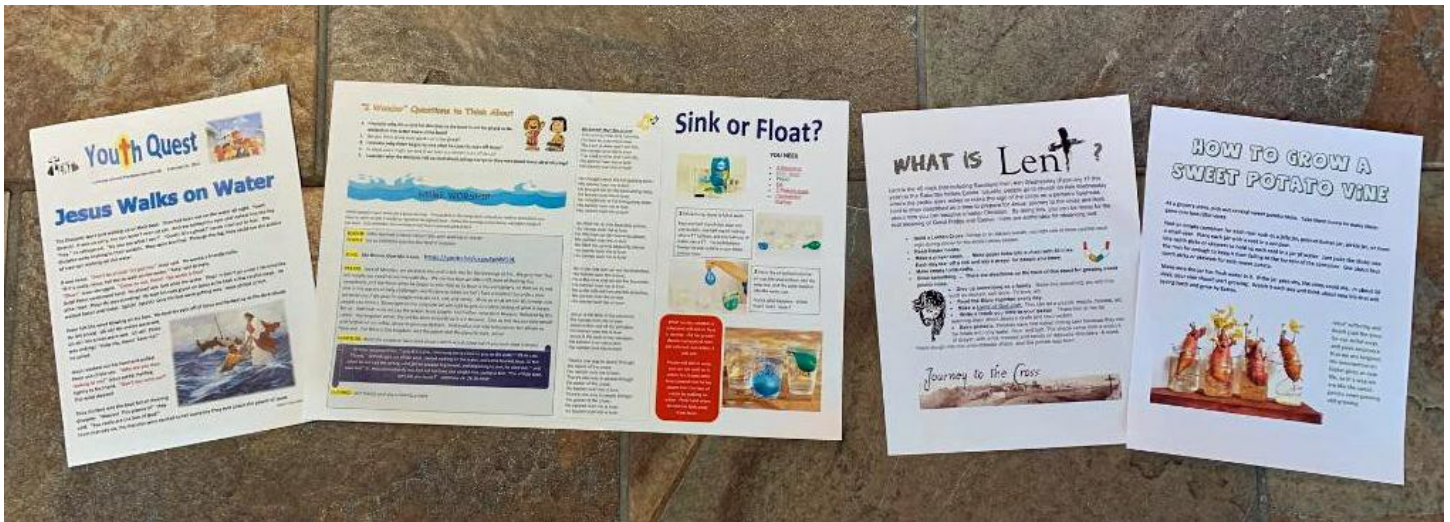


# Youth Quest



We may not be able to meet in person, but that does not mean our children and youth have been forgotten. Weekly mailings are still ongoing with lessons that follow the curriculum established last year. Each lesson contains the story, “wondering” questions, home worship, connecting activities, and websites for songs and YouTube story of the week. Also, the weekly Bible story has been recorded on our church website so children can hear it read by familiar faces. Some samples of recent mailings are pictured below.

A Holy Week packet is being prepared. There will be eight lessons – one for each day of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter, April 4.



## Honoring LUPC Graduates

Since organization, LUPC has honored its high school and college graduates. It is time to begin plans to carry on this tradition in the spring.

If you will be graduating or know someone in our church family who is graduating from high school or college, including earning a more advanced degree, contact the church office, Sandy Monroe, or Ken Webster. We don't want to leave out anyone.

## 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, Judy Luck, Marilyn Twigg, Cheryl Strohbeck, John Lindquist, Herbert Peel, Terry Tiller (Leukemia), Katie Davis, Bill Meyers (Neighbor of Henson's), Jama McPeak, Nancy Yarnell (friend of Slayden's), Vickie Aldrige, Patrick Bone, Tollie Family, Jack Kleinert, Glenda McDonald, Kathy Testori (Glenda McDonald's sister), Gayla Boehm, Rebecca (Rev. Pam Laing's daughter), Dorothy Kelley, Sam and Sue Taylor (friends of Tim and Nanette Cerny), Larry King, Laura Martin, Daniel (Friend of the

Humbert's), Edwin Ehlers (friend of the King's), Dorothy Freeman (Joe Freeman's mother), Annabel Gibson, Deborah (friend of Paula Blair), Maurice and Susie Musgrave, Marian and Gavin Twigg, Amy Seville (Bev Hayes' niece), Jennifer and Waymon Taylor (family of Brenda Grelli), Bill and Susan Nesmith (family of Tanya Sisk), Jeff Loyet (friend of Humberts), Leroy Duncan, John Dorersam (Lisa's brother).

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

### **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

**Riverside Care Center, Alton** - Ron Franke.

**Stearns Nursing & Rehab, Granite City** - Christine Cunningham

### **RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS**

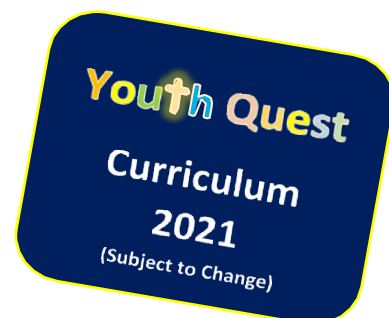
**Integrity Healthcare, Wood River** – Herbert Peel

**The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville** – Shirley Martin

**Villa Rose, Bethalto** – Beth Forrester

**Aspen Creek, Troy** – Susanne Randall

**Cedarhurst, Bethalto** – Cliff & Mary Barnes, Shirley Burris.



### APRIL

**4 EASTER; EGG HUNT???** NO YQ

**11** Matthias the Apostle *Acts 1: 15-26*

**18** The Armor of God *Ephesians 6: 11*

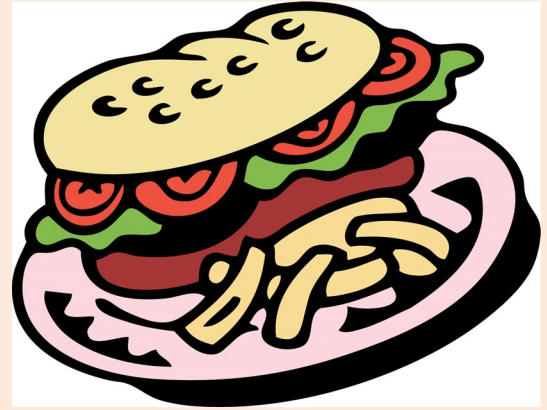
**25 YQ FINALE???** TBA



## Birthdays of the Month



- 01 Austin King
- 01 Susan Musgrave
- 02 Evie Bristow
- 02 Hayden Lindquist
- 02 Jill Goewey
- 03 Diane Alford
- 03 JoAnn Moss
- 06 Sebastian Panyik
- 06 Debbie Suerig
- 06 Joey Gremli
- 08 Herbert Peel
- 08 Julie Spurgeon
- 10 Mackenzie Cerny
- 10 Amy Manker
- 10 Valerie McCoy
- 11 Phyllis Pierson
- 11 Robert Wilson
- 12 Ryne Blair
- 13 Justin Carnes
- 13 Michael Baum
- 14 Mary Trudell
- 15 Hayden Panyik
- 16 Brandy Cunningham
- 17 Emmett Cunningham
- 17 Janet Workman
- 17 Linda Andrus
- 20 Ashley Panyik
- 20 Lucy Manker
- 22 Chase Bauer
- 26 "Cozy" Lindquist
- 26 Sherry Davis
- 28 Addison Plummer
- 28 Paige Jacquin
- 28 Joyce Fleming
- 30 Tony Levan



### The Perfect Burger

By Herbert J. Peel

My hunger says it's time to eat.  
After a long day of college or work I am  
hungry.



















My stomach growls.  
All is quiet in the cafeteria.  
On the menu it says, "perfect burger."  
Lunch is served.

This is the perfect burger.  
It is a one pounder.  
Between two buns are two thick patties  
with gooey melted cheese.  
There is also bacon, mustard, and  
catsup.

O how my mouth waters.  
The perfect burger.  
Lunch is served.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>4</b> 9:00am Online Adult S.S 10:15am Online Worship 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 	<b>7</b> 10:15am Online Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Presbytery Event: The Black Tax: The Cost of Being Black in America 	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> 
<b>11</b> 9:00am Online Adult S.S 10:15am Online Worship	<b>12</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 	<b>13</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Online Finance Meeting 6:30pm Deacons Meeting 	<b>14</b> 10:15am Online Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 
<b>18</b> 9:00am Online Adult S.S 10:15am Online Worship 4:30pm LUPC Philanthropic Crusaders	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 	<b>21</b> 10:15am Online Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Session Meeting 	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:15am Online Adult S.S 10:15am Online Worship	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry 	<b>27</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 	<b>28</b> 10:15am Online Bible Study 7:00pm Online Evening Prayer 	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 