

## THE OBSERVER

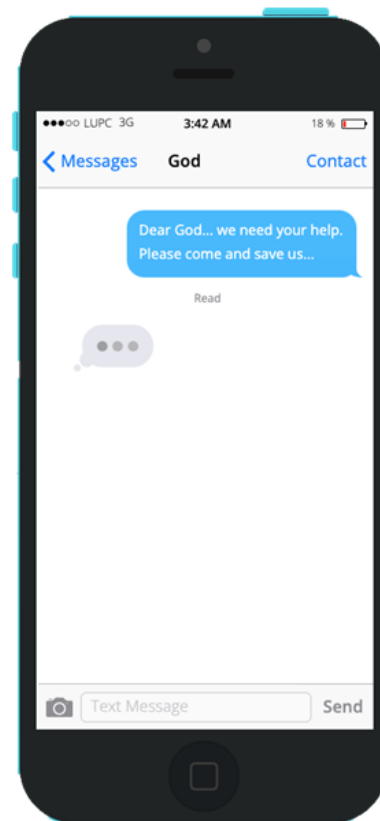
Dear friends,

Waiting is difficult, especially when there's so little we can do in the meantime. A young woman hopes for the best, but fears the worst as she awaits the results from her medical tests. Having just finished decorating their nursery, a young couple now waits to adopt the baby they have dreamed of loving and raising as their own. A man texts an apology to a friend he's had an argument with, but hours have gone by with no response. We hear the news of a new COVID variant, but wait to know what this will mean for us. Waiting is difficult. So difficult.

The Advent season is a season of waiting. This time of year, Christians focus intently on waiting for the second coming of Christ. But there is something different about our waiting. Unlike all those situations of uncertainty, when it comes to what we're waiting for in Jesus, we already know that what we are waiting for is going to be good news. It is the best news that we are waiting for: Jesus Christ, who has saved us in the past and who supports us in the present is coming in the future to make all things new.

And so even in this time of difficult waiting, we have good reason to hope. Even now, God is at work among us. Rest assured that what we are waiting for is good news!

Advent blessings,  
Pastor Daniel



## Advent & Christmas Happenings at LoveJoy United

### **O Zoom All Ye Faithful, Sunday, December 12 at 5:30 PM, Zoom Only**

You're invited to attend a Zoom Dinner with the LoveJoy United Congregation. Set your computer on the dinner table or your dinner on your computer table and join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, stories, and more. Those who register online or by calling the church office will receive a little Advent gift and a chance to have a homemade dessert delivered to their house in time for the meal. Register Online: <https://bit.ly/3kSDGZB>



### **Relax and Remember Love with Harpist Amy Camie, Sunday, December 19 at 6 PM, In-Person or On Zoom.**

We are delighted to host a program by Amy Camie, a harpist and certified clinical musician. Relax and Remember Love is a solo harp journey of traditional Advent and Christmas melodies. This 60-minute healing experience will help us slow down, quiet our thoughts, and remember the love within. Please join us in-person or via Zoom for this time of hope, healing, and calm. This musical offering has been made possible by the generous gift of two LoveJoy United members.



### **Christmas Eve Service by Candlelight, Friday, December 24 at 7:30 PM**

Join us as we welcome the Christ Child with song, communion, and candlelight on Christmas Eve. The service will be both in-person as well as on Zoom.

### **Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26 at 10:15 AM during worship.**

Depending on how you count it, Christmas lasts one day or twelve. Either way, there are far more hymns and songs written for the Christmas season than we ordinarily have time to sing. Join us for this service of singing our way through the Christmas story, both old songs and new. The service will be both in-person as well as on Zoom.



## ASTRONOMY WITH AMY MANKER

### Come to Youth Quest

**On December 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner Served**

**Amy will set up her telescope for students to observe the stars and planets. She is also bringing her star projector.**

*(In case of a cloud cover, we will still have YQ at 5:00, but reschedule the telescope viewing.)*



# Youth Quest

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE DATES**

**November 28** Thanksgiving Break, NO YOUTH QUEST

**December 5** Astronomy Night with Amy at Youth Quest

YQ will be **5:00-7:00** to maximize darkness for the telescope.

*(In case of cloud cover, we will have YQ anyway at 5:00, but reschedule the telescope viewing.)*

**December 12** Last Youth Quest for 2021 4:00-6:00 p.m.

During the meal, we will ZOOM with other church members for a church dinner.

**December 19** NO YOUTH QUEST

**December 26** NO YOUTH QUEST

**December 28** In person, or ZOOM

meeting for students and parents, grandparents, facilitators to discuss how to proceed with Youth Quest during winter months.





## December Birthdays

- 1 Mason Inlow
- 5 Faye Burke  
Randy McKee
- 7 John Lindquist
- 8 Seth Slayden  
Lucas Bristow
- 12 Stephen Abraham  
Lois Thompson
- 13 Kalley Burton Todd
- 14 Chris St. Peters  
Marissa Leggett  
Melissa Todd  
Tanya Sisk
- 15 Judy Collins  
Taylor Donohoo
- 16 Holly Rain
- 19 Chloe Dillinger  
Elizabeth Blair  
Jordan Whitten
- 20 Kevin Kerr
- 22 Dillan Plummer
- 24 Brenda Tester  
Don Chapman
- 26 Dorothy Kelley
- 27 Jason Gould
- 28 Bradley Holt
- 31 Terry French

## The Star That Shined Down

*It was that time  
"Shine down my Star" commanded the  
Father.  
Joseph and Mary looked for a place, for  
they found, stable.  
"It is time, shine down on the stable  
so all shall find my son."  
"I will shine down on the son," the  
Star said.  
The light was seen by all.  
The Parents saw the star.  
The Shepherds saw the star.  
The Wise Men saw the star.  
Today the star still shines, to all shall  
find and see the son of God.*

*-Herbert Peel*

## Many Ways to Worship

We continue to gather in several ways at 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings as God's worshipping people. We hope you will join us online, by phone, or in-person. All three are good and faithful ways of worshipping. Online: Go to [lovejoyupc.org/live](http://lovejoyupc.org/live) and click 'connect Via Zoom.'

Phone: Dial +1 (669) 900-6833 and then at the prompt enter: 611 784 858# (long distance rates may apply)

In Person: Participants are asked to remain masked and refrain from singing during the service. We can accommodate up to 50 people in-person. Zoom Adult Sunday School meets at 9 – 9:45 AM. Connect online or by phone according to the instructions above.

Tech Deacons are available to help you get connected online or by phone. Call the church office for information.

## Re-Entry Groups

In an effort to support our community, the Adult Christian Education (ACE) team is offering an opportunity to let each of us be heard and share our experiences and intentions in moving forward through small group experiences, meeting twice a month. **Re-Entry Group – December 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at the church OR on Zoom.** Our Re-Entry Group is an opportunity to talk about and process the changes the Pandemic has brought to our lives, as well as how we move forward together into the next normal. Hospital Chaplain and Elder, Sandy Monroe, will be facilitating this group. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are interested, please confidentially email facilitator Sandy Monroe, [monroe5216@gmail.com](mailto:monroe5216@gmail.com) with your preference for meeting day and time. You can call the church office to connect with Sandy. All persons, in and outside of the congregation are welcome to attend.

## MISSION AND 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.

# December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom & In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum BookClub	<b>2</b> 9a Bell Choir Practice	<b>3</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10.15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Building and Grounds 5p YouthQuest	<b>6</b> 1:30p Good Samaritan	<b>7</b> 11a Re-Entry Group 6:30p Mission and Outreach Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom & In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p ACE Committee (Zoom) 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>9</b> 9a Bell Choir Practice	<b>10</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10.15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest 5:30p O Zoom All Ye Faithful Virtual Dinner	<b>13</b> 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	<b>14</b> 6:30p Deacons' Meeting	<b>15</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom & In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>16</b> 9a Bell Choir Practice 6:30 Session Meeting	<b>17</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10.15a Hybrid Worship <b>NO YouthQuest</b> 6p Healing Harp	<b>20</b> 1:30p Good Samaritan	<b>21</b> 11a Re-Entry Group	<b>22</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom & In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p ACE meeting 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>23</b> 9a Bell Choir Practice	<b>24</b> Office Closed <b>7:30p Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>26</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10.15a Hybrid Worship <b>NO YouthQuest</b>	<b>27</b> 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	<b>28</b> 7p Children and Youth Planning Gathering	<b>29</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom & In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>30</b> 9a Bell Choir Practice	<b>31</b> Office Closed New Year's Eve	



**LoveJoy United**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
A WELCOMING, NURTURING,  
PRAYING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

