

# THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

Sunday, January 30 was a big day for us. Even though we continued to meet online via Zoom, we held the annual meeting of the congregation and commissioned our Matthew 25 Goalkeepers. Thanks to your generosity, the Finance Committee presented a strong budget for 2022 that included increases in our mission giving to the denomination as well as additional increases in several areas of the life of the church. As I said during the meeting, I'm tremendously grateful to be serving alongside a congregation and Session who, despite the challenges of the pandemic, have continued to focus on God's vision for our congregation. As we continue to live into 2022, remember our Matthew 25 map - and where God has placed you - and how we are more than a building, but a congregation of disciples living as Christ's followers every moment of our lives.

In Christ,  
Pastor Daniel



## A Covid Update

Thanks for your gracious understanding as we went back online in early January because of the surge of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. We anticipate this being a much shorter shut-down than our previous experience; however, Omicron has not yet fully subsided in our community. Rather than trying to guess at an arbitrary day to return to in-person church activities, the session has set a metric to follow much as we did in 2021. When our community's COVID-19 test positivity rate decreases below 8%, we will begin in-person activities again. As of February 1, that number was around 13%, down from 21% on January 20, so we anticipate re-opening soon. You can check covid positivity rate yourself at <https://bit.ly/34cosJF>. When we reach that 8% threshold and re-start in-person activities, we'll update our website and send out an email. You can also call the church office at 618-254-5880 to get more information. As always, we're committed to continuing our online worship and participation option for those unable to participate in person.

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



## YOUTH QUEST CONTINUES IN SPITE OF COVID RESTRAINTS

The COVID virus has restrained, but not stopped Youth Quest lessons from continuing. There are no in-person meetings during January or February, but lesson packets have been mailed each week to each elementary and middle school student. Also, beginning January 30, ZOOM sessions are held each week.



We continue to follow the "FOLLOW ME" curriculum outline –

### HOPE MODULE

JANUARY 2 – See Hope

JANUARY 9 – Share Hope

JANUARY 16 – Proclaim Hope

### BAPTIZE MODULE

JANUARY 23 – You are a Child of God

JANUARY 30 – Crossing the Water,  
Building Community

Let's pray that we are able to safely resume in-person sessions again this spring.

## CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES



Although it seems like yesterday that we honored our high school and college graduates, we are already beginning plans to honor the LUPC Class of '22 grads.

If you know of anyone graduating from high school or college, including higher degrees, please report it to the church office, Ken Webster, or Sandy Monroe. May 22 has been set for the date to honor graduates during morning worship.

## JOIN YOUTH QUEST ON ZOOM

Each Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

Lasts about 30 minutes

<https://lovejoyupc.org/>

Then scroll down and click on  
"Connect via ZOOM"

## Announcements

### Join the LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club

On February 16 at 7:15 we'll discuss Kent Nerburn's highly-recommended portrayal of modern Native American life, "Neither Wolf Nor Dog."

### Who is Graduating This Year?

Know any high school or college students in the congregation graduating this year? Please let us know! We'll be honoring our graduates on May 22 during worship.

### Church Directory Updates

Tabitha is in the process of providing an update to our church directory. If you've had a change in address, phone number, email, etc, please reach out to Tabitha to make sure that information is updated. You can check our records through the online directory. Email Tabitha at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org) or call the office.

### Per Capita in 2022

LoveJoy United will contribute \$32 per church member to the Presbytery and larger church as a way of supporting the church's work. Think of it as a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well. Some members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members.

### YouthQuest on Zoom continues on Sundays at 4 PM

Children and youth a a brief (30 minute) gathering on Sundays at 4 PM. This will give us time to catch up with one another, read a story together, and pray. Connect via Zoom at [lovejoyupc.org/live](https://lovejoyupc.org/live) and click "Connect Via Zoom."

## 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.



- 1  
Tara Caputo
- 4  
Kathleen Chappell
- 5  
Virginia Shelton
- 7  
Elise Gremler
- 8  
Michael Rust
- 9  
Bob Hagaman  
Pat Cooper
- 11  
Nora Bristow  
Taylor Pruitt (10)
- 14  
Beverly Kowalewich  
Brenda Creasey
- 15  
Alex Hayes
- 16  
Carol Bouyea
- 17  
Darvin Bloemker
- 18  
Rev. Dr. Mark Russell
- 22  
Jonathan Carnes
- 23  
Edie Chappell
- 24  
Jim Cerny  
Ken Ringhausen  
Susan Johns

### **Love Thy Neighbor**

*The Father says "This is my most important commandment."*

*Love thy neighbor.*

*Your neighbor is the person who sits next to you on Sunday morning.*

*The person in the car on the other side of the road.*

*Your buddy at the sports game.*

*A study buddy at school.*

*We should love them.*

*We should care a lot about them.*

*We should help them.*

*We are commanded and we shall*

*Love thy Neighbor.*

*Herbert J. 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.

# February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 6:30p Mission and Outreach Meeting	<b>2</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Building and Grounds (Zoom) 4p YouthQuest (Zoom)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30p Deacon's Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest (Zoom)	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 6p Finance Meeting (Zoom) 6:30p Children and Youth Christian Ed Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum BookClub	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest (Zoom)	<b>21</b> President's Day Office Closed	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>24</b> 6:30 Session Meeting	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest (Zoom)	<b>28</b>					



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

---

2550 Rock Hill  
Road Wood River,  
IL 62095 Phone:  
618-254-5880  
Fax: 618-254-1288

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

