

# THE OBSERVER



Dear friends,

March has greeted us with a world that is unraveling at the seams. Over the last week, I have been glued to my phone checking Twitter, to my car radio, and to my TV watching the horrors of Russia's war on Ukraine. I've been overwhelmed by the violence, yet I'm heartened by the courage of resistance and humanitarian efforts within Ukraine and around the world.

But even as I follow this unfolding conflict, I'm also struck with a sense of my own hypocrisy. There are so many conflicts, past and present, near and far, that I have watched with mere ambivalence. Our future seminarian, Kolby Carnes, pointed out on Facebook that we have a national sense of hypocrisy as well.

We have responded to Ukraine's plight with deep concern, and yet have failed to acknowledge and repent from our own acts of aggression in South America and other parts of the world. As one my theology professors said recently in response to world events, the "one basic Christian doctrine you can take to the bank: original sin."

I think she is right about that. Sin pervades even our most earnest and sincere intentions. Not only is it present in the action of aggressors, it's also present in us when we fail to acknowledge our own sinfulness. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent invite us into spirit of frank honesty with ourselves and with God. It is a time to look at ourselves in the mirror and confess what we see: we are people who have sinned in thought, word, and deed toward God and one another.

And while that is not an easy thing to do, this is not an act of condemnation - by ourselves or by God; it is the act of starting over on a better path, acknowledging our own brokenness, even as we work to heal the brokenness of the world.

Christians traditionally mark Lent with an increased intensity of spiritual disciplines or practices. Each Sunday during Lent - both in Sunday school, Worship, and Youth Quest, we'll be highlighting a practice that enables us follow Jesus more faithfully. I hope you'll join me on this journey to the cross and resurrection, and give some of these practices a try: Fast, Pray, Listen to God, Embrace Simplicity, Unplug, and more.

Lenten Blessings to you,

Pastor Daniel

# It's Time to Return to Youth Quest In-Person

## Sunday, March 6, 4:00-6:00 P.M.

MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED UNTIL SESSION

DECIDES OTHERWISE



### LESSONS DURING LENT

What is Fasting? *Esther 2-7*

Prayer *Matthew 6: 5-13*

Listening to God

*John 10: 1-5, 14*

Embracing Simplicity

*Matthew 6: 19-21*

Unplug

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; Mark 1: 35-39*



DINNER EACH NIGHT



## What Can Chemistry Teach Us About God?

Find out with connecting chemistry activities in our make-shift lab.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1  
Ann French  
2  
Lindell Blackford 5  
Amy Huebner  
6  
Susanne Randall 8  
Gloria Hunt  
9  
Stephanie Lindquist  
10  
Miranda Inlow  
Linda Schiltz  
11  
Nora Frank  
Glenda Pelot  
12  
Karen Auston  
13  
Kara Carmack  
16  
Shawn Huff  
18  
Donny Hayes  
Abigail Overstreet  
Alivia Luck  
Leroy Duncan

19  
Eaontae Coleman  
Kendelle Pelot  
21  
John III Rain  
Pat Fletcher  
23  
Barbara Elledge  
Ethan C. Humbert  
Pat Slayden  
24  
Joe Freeman  
26  
Janice Mckee  
Luke Workman  
Ross Chapman  
27  
Al Goewey  
28  
Daniel Ervin  
Doris Miller  
Doug Bristow  
Valerie Freeman  
30  
Gavin Chapman  
Tiffany Koenig  
Andrews

## Egg Salad

When walking at the Mall looking around, I start to  
get hungry.

Thus, being hungry I find a little sandwich shop.

What to eat?

A grilled Cheese?

A Ham and Cheese?

Cheese fries?

There are so many things.

Chili?

Ah an Egg Salad.

That sounds delicious.

Tastes great and Yummy.

One bite and I'm in Heaven.

Nothing beats an Egg Salad.

The perfect lunch.

Check Please?

And on I go to continue my adventures at the Mall.

Herbert J. Peel

Poet Laureate

## 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.

## Announcements



### Send Birthday Blessings to Gloria Hunt

Gloria Hunt turns 90 on March 8. Her daughter has invited her church family to send Birthday Cards to help make Gloria's day even more special. Gloria's address is 31 Parkside Dr., Bethalto, IL 62010. Thanks!

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### YouthQuest Sundays at 4 PM

Children and youth a brief (30 minute) gathering on Sundays at 4 PM.



### ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

As usual, LoveJoy United Church will honor high school and college graduates. This includes college students who have earned a higher degree. May 22 has been set to honor our graduates during the morning worship service. If you know an LUPC graduate, please call Ken Webster, Sandy Monroe, or Tabitha in the office. We don't want to leave anyone out.

### Session Notes

The Session makes meeting notes and financial updates available here online: <https://bit.ly/3wcWngT>. If you have questions, please reach out to Session Co-Clerks Sarah Carnes or Karen Cerny, or Pastor Daniel.

### 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.

# March 2022

March

April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5							1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest (Zoom Edition)	28 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	3/1 6:30p Mission and Outreach	2 Ash Wednesday 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	3	4 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	5 Saturday Café
6 Life@LoveJoy New Member Class (Tentative) 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:15 a Building and Grounds 4p YouthQuest	7 1:30p Good Samaritan	8 6:30p Worship Committee	9 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	10	11 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	12
13 Daylight Saving Time starts 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	14 1:30p Good Samaritan	15 6p Finance Meeting 6:30p Children and Christian Ed	16 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum	17 St. Patrick's Day 6p 5th Anniversary Committee	18 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	19
20 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	21 1:30p Good Samaritan	22	23 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p ACE Committee 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p Matthew 25 Goalkeepers	24 6:30p Session Meeting	25 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	26
27 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	28 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	29	30 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	31	4/1 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	2



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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

