

April 2022

THE OBSERVER



Dear friends,

This April, we enter into the third cycle of Holy Week and Easter during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are fortunately in a time where life feels about as normal as one could hope after such a crisis, we are nevertheless wearied by the journey. All the pain we have felt and witnessed the last couple years: illness, death, racism, anxiety, political turmoil, violence, and now war - all of these are sufferings Christ bears with us and for us on the cross of Good Friday.

For the first time in a long time, LoveJoy United will hold a Good Friday service (April 15 at 7 PM) to proclaim the good news of salvation through the paradoxical suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. It is by taking on the sins of the world, even to the point of death, that Jesus makes way for resurrection.

We will celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:15 AM. The resurrection we celebrate at Easter is about life after death, but it is about even more than that. Resurrection means that every pain, every hardship, every illness, every hurt does not finally end in hopelessness. Christ makes a way into new life when there seems to be no way at all.

I hope that you will join us - in person or online - as we celebrate the good news of Holy Week: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Peace,

Pastor Daniel

LoveJoy United's
Holy Week
Gatherings

Palm Sunday	Sunday, April 10 10:15 AM Sanctuary and Online
Good Friday	Friday, April 15 7 PM Fellowship Hall and Online
Easter	Sunday, April 17 Worship 10:15 AM Sanctuary and Online Egg Hunt 11:15 AM Church Grounds

Celebrate with us: 2550 Rock Hill Rd,
Wood River, IL 62025

Livestream: www.lovejoyupc.org/live

Daniel Ervin contact info: Church phone – 618.254.5880; cell – 704.380.0498
Email – daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Puppy Shower for Waffles

Pastor Daniel gives thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Lunch Bunch group who threw a surprise puppy shower for him on March 9. Waffles - a Poodle and Havanese mix - came home to a plethora of wonderful toys and treats on March 19. Waffles' favorite pastimes are chewing on Daniel's hands and feet and sleeping on his bed... which appropriately looks like a big waffle.



Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

When Russia first invaded Ukraine in late February 2022, Deacon Hershel Henson immediately began envisioning a way that we at LoveJoy United could lift up the people of Ukraine in prayer. Throughout March, as the war expanded into Ukraine, Hershel gathered prayers and laments for Ukraine and compiled them into a booklet for the congregation to use in prayer. During the week of March 20, the church sanctuary was open for people to come in and pray. We hope to reopen the church periodically to continue this vigil with the prayer booklets available. Here is one prayer in that booklet from the Iona Community in Scotland:

We are members of a family, the human family
which, in the ancient land of Ukraine,
is torn by tension, suspicion, hatred,
hunger, killing and death.
We are troubled by cruelty and disaster
such as we have never known,
and we are unclear of the cause
and unsure of the remedy.
We believe that God accepts confusion
as well as concern,
and has never been deaf to the cries
of anger, fear, and hopelessness
in the face of injustice.
We are the body of Christ
in which if one part suffers,
the other parts pray to heal it
and help to bear it. Amen.



Youth Quest

WHAT DOES CHEMISTRY TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

STATES OF MATTER

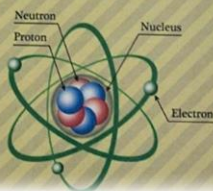


Just as **HEAT** energy can change one state of matter to another, God's **LOVE** can change our spirit to one of **LOVE** and **FAITH**.



God's greatness is revealed in the **VAST** cosmos to the **TINY** atom. God is in **ALL** things.

Atom structure



During a **CHEMICAL CHANGE**, molecules gain or lose atoms. This causes a **NEW SUBSTANCE** to be formed.

Likewise, when we lose or gain character traits, God can transform our lives into something new and better.

We display the **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT** - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



Learning to Knit . . . With Barb Pitt



BIBLE VERSE



YOUTH QUEST DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 10 – Make, Collect and Test Oxygen
- April 17 – NO YOUTH QUEST, but Egg Scavenger Hunt following morning worship
- April 24 – Observing Earth Day '22
- May 1 - Last Day of Youth Quest for this Semester; Mystery Gases

Why Should I Recycle?

Americans throw away enough plastic bottles each year to circle the Earth 4 times.

2 Recycling one ton of paper saves seventeen trees

3 Five recycled bottles make enough to stuff a ski jacket.

5 Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television or computer for three hours

4 Every hour we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles (22 billion/yr)



10 EASY THINGS TO HELP SAVE WILDLIFE

1. Learn about endangered species in your area. Teach your friends and family about the wonderful wildlife, birds, fish and plants that live near you. The first step to protecting endangered species is learning about how interesting and important they are. Our natural world provides us with many indispensable services including clean air and water, food and medicinal sources, commercial, aesthetic and recreational benefits. For more information about endangered species, visit endangered.fws.gov and [join our activist network](#) to receive updates and action alerts.

2. Visit a national wildlife refuge, park or other open space. These protected lands provide habitat to many native wildlife, birds, fish and plants. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the places where they live. Get involved by volunteering at your local nature center or wildlife refuge. Go wildlife or bird watching in nearby parks. Wildlife related recreation creates millions of jobs and supports local businesses. To find a wildlife refuge near you, visit www.fws.gov/refuges/ To find a park near you, visit www.nps.gov To find a zoo near you, visit www.aza.org.

3. Make your home wildlife friendly. Secure garbage in shelters or cans with locking lids, feed pets indoors and lock pet doors at night to avoid attracting wild animals into your home. Reduce your use of water in your home and garden so that animals that live in or near water can have a better chance of survival. Disinfect bird baths often to avoid disease transmission. Place decals on windows to deter bird collisions. Millions of birds die every year because of collisions with windows. You can help reduce the number of collisions simply by placing decals on the windows in your home and office. For more information on what you can do, check out these tips from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

4. Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Attracting native insects like bees and butterflies can help pollinate your plants. The spread of non-native species has greatly impacted native populations around the world. Invasive species compete with native species for resources and habitat. They can even prey on native species directly, forcing native species towards extinction. For more information about native plants, visit <https://www.plantsocieties.org>.

5. Herbicides and pesticides may keep yards looking nice but they are in fact hazardous pollutants that affect wildlife at many levels. Many herbicides and pesticides take a long time to degrade and build up in the soils or throughout the food chain. Predators such as hawks, owls and coyotes can be harmed if they eat poisoned animals. Some groups of animals such as amphibians are particularly vulnerable to these chemical pollutants and suffer greatly as a result of the high levels of herbicides and pesticides in their habitat. For alternatives to pesticides, visit <https://www.beyondpesticides.org>.

6. Slow down when driving. Many animals live in developed areas and this means they must navigate a landscape full of human hazards. One of the biggest obstacles to wildlife living in developed areas is roads. Roads divide habitat and present a constant hazard to any animal attempting to cross from one side to the other. So when you're out and about, slow down and keep an eye out for wildlife.

7. Recycle and buy sustainable products. Buy recycled paper, sustainable products like bamboo and Forest Stewardship Council wood products to protect forest species. Never buy furniture made from wood from rainforests. Recycle your cell phones, because a mineral used in cell phones and other electronics is mined in gorilla habitat. Minimize your use of palm oil because forests where tigers live are being cut down to plant palm plantations.

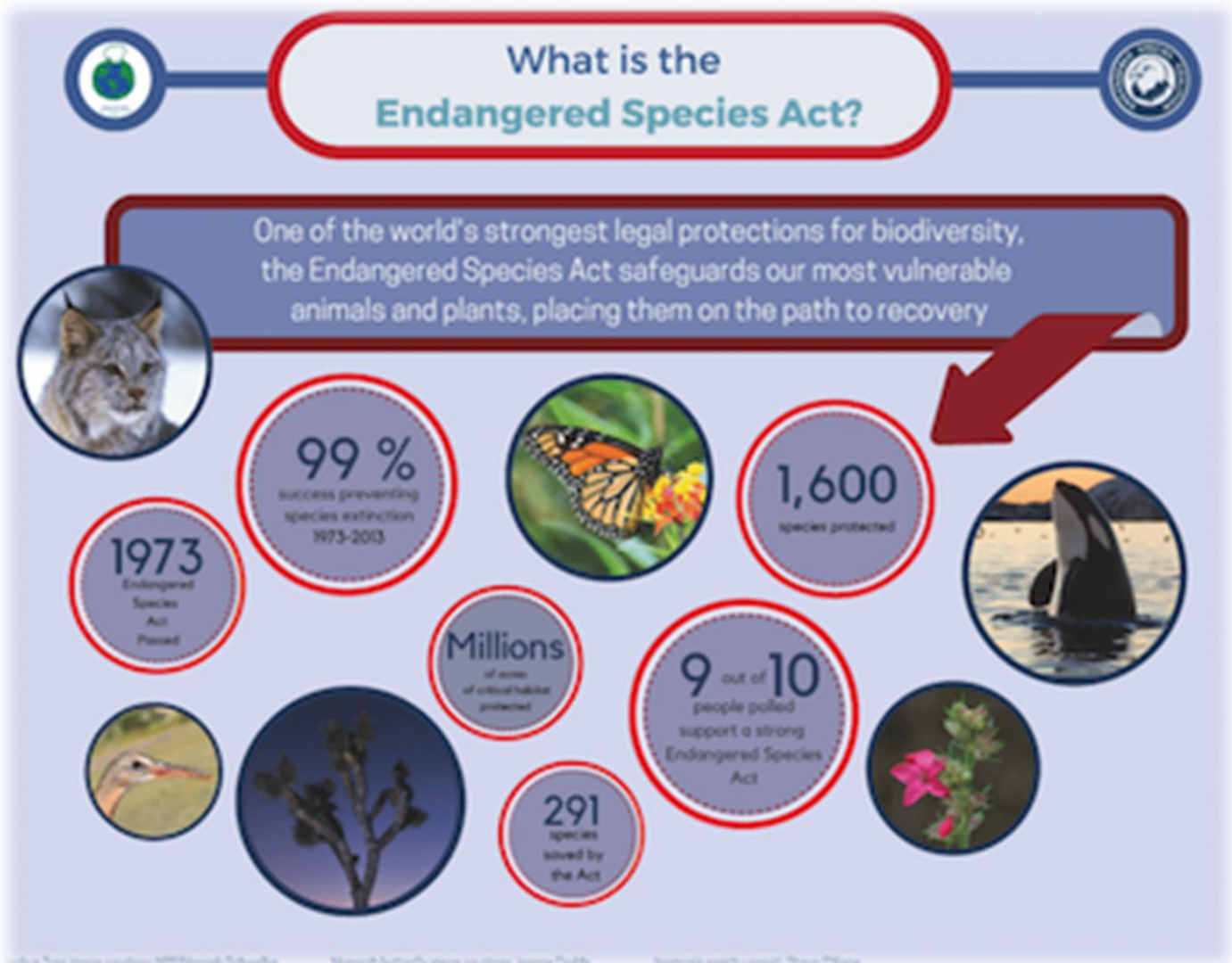
8. Never purchase products made from threatened or endangered species. Overseas trips can be exciting and fun, and everyone wants a souvenir. But sometimes the souvenirs are made from species nearing extinction. Avoid supporting the market in illegal wildlife including: tortoise-shell, ivory, coral. Also, be careful of products including fur from tigers, polar bears, sea otters and other endangered wildlife, crocodile skin, live

monkeys or apes, most live birds including parrots, macaws, cockatoos and finches, some live snakes, turtles and lizards, some orchids, cacti and cycads, medicinal products made from rhinos, tiger or Asiatic black bear.

9. Harassing wildlife is cruel and illegal. Shooting, trapping, or forcing a threatened or endangered animal into captivity is also illegal and can lead to their extinction. Don't participate in this activity, and report it as soon as you see it to your local state or federal wildlife enforcement office. You can find a list of state wildlife departments at <https://www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html>.

10. Protect wildlife habitat. Perhaps the greatest threat that faces many species is the widespread destruction of habitat. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the special places where they live. Wildlife must have places to find food, shelter and raise their young. Logging, oil and gas drilling, over-grazing and development all result habitat destruction. Endangered species habitat should be protected and these impacts minimized.

By protecting habitat, entire communities of animals and plants can be protected together. Parks, wildlife refuges, and other open space should be protected near your community. Open space also provides us with great places to visit and enjoy. Support wildlife habitat and open space protection in your community. When you are buying a house, consider your impact on wildlife habitat.



LUPC IS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION.



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1
Austin King
Susan Musgrave | 13
Justin Carnes
Michael Baum |
| 2
Evie Bristow
Hayden Lindquist
Jill Goewey | 14
Mary Trudell
15
Hayden Panyik |
| 3
Diane Alford
JoAnn Moss | 16
Brandy Cunningham
17
Emmett Cunningham |
| 6
Sebastian Panyik
Debbie Suerig
Joey Gremli | Janet Workman
Linda Andrus
20
Ashley Panyik Lucy
Manker |
| 8
Herbert J. Peel
Julie Spurgeon | 22
Chase Bauer
26
Lenda "Cozy"
Lindquist
Sherry Davis |
| 10
Mackenzie Cerny
Amy Manker
Valerie McCoy | 28
Addison Plummer
Paige Jacquin
Joyce Fleming |
| 11
Phyllis Pierson
Robert Wilson | 30
Tony Levan |
| 12
Dan Miller
Ryne White Blair | |

The Lord is with Me

The Lord is with me, Whatever I do

My daily routine,

At church during worship

The lord watches over me

For he is my Father

For he is my Teacher

God commands my heart

And I follow my heart For the lord loves me.

The Lord is with me.

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 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.

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.

April 2022

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	29 6:30p Mission and Outreach	30 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	31	1 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	2 Saturday Café
3 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	4 1:30p Good Samaritan	5 6:30p Worship Committee	6 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	7	8 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	9 10:30a - Mission Event: Easter Egg Hunt Boys and Girls Club - Scatter Eggs
10 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	11 1:30p Good Samaritan	12 6p Finance Meeting 6:30p Children and Christian Ed	13 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 1p Spring Cleanup Meeting 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	14	15 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment Good Friday	16
17 Easter Sunday 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	18 1:30p Good Samaritan	19 6p Finance Meeting	20 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	21 6p 5th Anniversary Committee 6:30p Session Meeting	22 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	23 Church Cleanup Day
24 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 4p YouthQuest	25 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	26	27 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	28	29	30 (Alternate Rain Day) Church Cleanup Day



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

