

THE OBSERVER



Dear friends,

Our Wednesday Bible study group was recently talking about the Old Testament story of Naaman, a Syrian military commander suffering from leprosy. When he went to the Hebrew prophet Elisha seeking healing, he was instructed to go and bathe in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman was not impressed with the instructions. When did washing seven times in a muddy creek ever heal anyone? After some persuading by his servants, Naaman finally relented and washed seven times in the Jordan. He was healed of his leprosy - and of his arrogance.

In our bible study, we talked about the significance of this number "seven." It comes up often in the Bible, and is often a symbol of completion, of rest, and of healing. It took God seven days to create the world and on the seventh day God rested. In the Ten Commandments, we are told to honor the Sabbath, the "seventh day," and keep it holy. The Jewish people even have a special "Sabbath of Sabbaths" on the tenth day of the seventh month of the year. And every seven years, Hebrew farmers had to let their land lie fallow so the land itself could rest and heal.

As we enter the seventh month of our calendar year, I'm reminded of how important it is for us to rest and to heal. But I'm also reminded how often we fail to do that. These pandemic years have made rest feel like a chore and made sabbath feel like a luxury that many of us cannot afford. We hem and haw to ourselves and others like Naaman did, complaining about how busy we are but refusing to do the very thing that can bring us healing. I remember one hectic season while I was serving a church in Michigan. I had a run myself ragged at work feeling that I had no time to rest. I was venting to a friend and this wise mentor shifted my perspective. He said that refusing to take Sabbath is form of idolatry. That didn't make sense to me at first. But now I see that I was idolizing myself. I had come to believe that everything in my life and work depended totally, 100% on me. And that is an impossibly exhausting burden to bear. It also happens to not be true. Sabbath reminds us that we depend finally on God and not on ourselves. We can take out the time we need to rest and heal because God ultimately carries the weight of the world.

That's not an easy shift in mindset for us to make in our busy and hectic culture. But I invite you to give it a try this month. Perhaps you need to go jump in the pool or lake or tub seven times over the course of the summer. Perhaps you can consider one of your greatest burdens, and think about how you can give at least some of that burden over to God or others - enabling you to find nourishment.

The commandment to observe the Sabbath is not just an old relic from an ancient religion in the past. It's a vital part of our faith and trust in the God who not only sustains us, but sustains the whole world.

Wishing you a peaceful Sabbath, a Shabbat Shalom,

Pastor Daniel

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

RUMMAGE



Friday & Saturday

August 5th & 6th

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Pre-Sale – Thursday, August 4th

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. - \$3 entry fee

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

2550 Rock Hill Road

Wood River, IL

618-254-5880

(Across from Wood River Soccer Complex)

Announcements

Rummage Sale – August 4th – 6th

Mark your calendars now for our next rummage sale! We will begin accepting donations on Monday, August 1st. We are asking for donations of furniture, appliances, tools, shoes, luggage, handbags, jewelry, kitchen items, seasonal decorations, children's clothing, blue jeans of all sizes and anything else you can gather for us to sell! We do not accept adult clothing but would welcome coats and jackets. Marking your items in advance of drop off is greatly appreciated to allow our volunteers more time to sort through donations. Please don't price any items under 25¢. This makes it much easier to total when checking out. You can always bundle items so they are valued a quarter. We will be limited on picking up heavy items. The sale begins Thursday, August 4th with a Pre-sale donation of \$3 – hours from 5-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday (8/5 & 8/6) hours are 8 a.m.-noon. All unsold items will be donated to the Marines for their Toys for Tots campaign. If you want any of your items back, you must pick them up before noon on Saturday. Thanks in advance for everyone's support. We also need your help that week pricing and organizing our donations. We usually have crews there both day and evening.

If you have questions, contact Brenda Donohoo at 618-254-1539 or Jennifer Wyatt at 618-466-2328



Volunteer Opportunity Booth House

The Booth House is a shelter operated by the Salvation Army in Alton. They are no longer housed at the site on Alby in Alton but employees take "Individual To-Go" meals to their locations. We have been providing them a meal on the 2nd Sunday of even months for many years, but we get little participation with this effort. We have already completed the first half of this year and have August, October, and December remaining. So, to get more involvement in this "Mission Opportunity" we are going to try something new!

We will ask the congregation on the Sunday before to provide supplies. By this time we know how many are currently at the shelter(s). Then on Sunday, August 14th, October 9th, and December 11th we will assemble these "To-Go" meals in our kitchen and transport them to the Salvation Army location immediately following church service. We will provide approximately 15-20 meals. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Donohoo at 618-444-9190.

Announcements

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

July 20 – American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

August 17 – The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

5 – Year Anniversary Celebration Update

Since the kick-off in September of last year, our 5 – Year Celebration committee has been working to keep us connected through our various histories, present day activities and future endeavors. So far, we have had greetings from our two “Temporary Supply” Pastors, Rev. Carol DeVaughn and Rev. Gary Kornell; an accounting, along with pictures, of the proceeds from the sale of the CAPC building; a Zoom potluck supper “O Zoom All Ye Faithful” that was also shared with Youth Quest participants and included fellowship and Christmas trivia games; and a 5 plus years pictorial history of LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church. The Committee will be hosting a Fellowship Hour following Sunday Service on July 17th where three recipes (from a small cookbook that has been compiled) will be the featured treats. This cookbook contains a limited number of recipes from the Elm St. Presbyterian Church, the United Presbyterian Church and the College Avenue Presbyterian Church and the “back story” for each of the recipes. Enough copies have been made so that each family in the church can receive one. The books will be available at the Fellowship Hour on July 17th and copies will be placed on the table in the Narthex for picking up at a later date. If you are unable to come to the Church, arrangements can be made to either deliver or mail a copy to you by calling Jeanie McCoy at 1-618-377-1569 or the Church Office at 1-618-254-5880. Stay Tuned!

There will be more upcoming events including a presentation by Karen Wilson about past Mission Trips, along with pictures, that all three churches participated in and a catered meal on a date tentatively set in September 2022.

May 2022 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/2022	\$63,177.98
Savings Account Balance as of 5/31/2022	\$2,243.10
Ending Balance as of 5/31/2022	\$65,421.08

- ❖ The May financial report reflects that the Expenses for the month exceeded the Income by 7,886.23
- ❖ Pledges: YTD Pledge total \$80,168.31
- ❖ Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$179,990.58. The interest rate is holding at .45%.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Anyone who's been to the grocery store or filled their gas tank recently, knows that prices have risen. I, like most of you I'm sure, don't like it but haven't missed any meals because of it. There are some in our community, however, who are really struggling. Prior to these conditions, many have barely been able to keep their heads above water. But now, they are needing help.

Our food pantry tries to be there for those needing additional help with having enough food to feed their families. Our Good Samaritan Fund finds people needing help filling their gas tanks to get to work or to get to a doctor appointment. Or they may need help with a utility bill or whatever.

Both our food pantry and Good Samaritan Fund are hurting right now. So far this year our expenses have exceeded our income for both of these funds. So, if you can help, we, and those needing our assistance, would be most grateful. You can purchase an additional item or more when you're at the grocery store and put that in the grocery cart in the narthex when you're in the building. Or an amount for either fund can be added to your check if that's your preference. Another easy option is to go to www.lovejoyupc.org and click on the "give" button. It gives the option of how you want LUPC to designate your funds. Both the food pantry and Good Samaritan Fund are options you can choose. There are options to use your credit card or funds can be deducted from your bank account. It's just that simple.

We are, after all, a Matthew 25 congregation. If you are able, this is one way you can live into the Matthew 25 way of life. Thank you.

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.

The Pantry is in need of barred soap and toilet paper this month.

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.



Happy Birthday

July

1
Logan Inlow
Alaina Frankford
Jennifer Hooker

2
Beth Mabb
Neil Huff

3
Aubree Leggett
Hannah Carnes

6
Kimberlee Belchik
Sarah Carnes

7
James Klette
Donna Crawford

9
Allyson Klette
Larry Abraham
Karen Wilson
Peggy Hagaman

12
Jo Carter
Linda Duncan
Mark Utnage

13
Judith
Hazelwonder

15
Evan Leggett
Ryan Leggett

17
Carolyn Cook

18
Ann Cook

19
Stephanie Trudell

20
Nanette Cerny

23
Dee Howe

Judy Denother
Mallory Slayden

24
Misty Davis

25
Reagan Lynn

27
Karen Cerny

28
Phyllis Suhre

29
Jeff Frankford
Ronald Franke

30
John Shugert

31
Alyssa Kudelka

Does not wisdom call?

Walk through the school halls.

Listen for it.

Does not wisdom call?

Let us study by book.

Let us hear the master of the classroom speak.

Wisdom is everywhere.

In common sense.

For helping our fellow man.

Does not wisdom call?

Yes it does.

Take that wisdom and let's go to work.

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.

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	2
3 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 6:30p Mission and Outreach	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 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:45a Chenoa Stock Luncheon	11 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Group Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	12 6:30p Children and Youth CE Planning Meeting 6:30p Deacons' Meeting	13 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30 a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	14	15 Office Closed -Daniel is available by appointment	16
17 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Nominating Committee	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	22 Office Closed -Daniel is available by appointment	23
24 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	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 6:30p Session Meeting	29 Office Closed -Daniel is available by appointment	30
31 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship						



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

