

THE OBSERVER



Good Grief

Time heals all wounds. But not really. Some wounds, sure: cuts, bumps, and bruises. There are other wounds that time can only dull - like a wave that slowly laps upon a rock over a thousand years, smoothing out its harsh edges. The deepest wounds were never of the skin, but of the soul and the heart.

Many in our church community have experienced the kind of loss that leaves such a profound wound behind. I suspect most of us - past a certain age - carry the wounds of the death of a spouse, parent, child, friend. But other losses can be just as profound: the death of a dream, a relationship, an ideal, or hope. These losses shake the core of our being because our lives are so caught up in the person or thing we have lost. In losing them we have lost a part of our own selves, a part every bit as integral as any arm or leg.

In times of grief, many of us (and those who love us) turn toward the famous "Stages of Grief" like a roadmap that will lead us through unfamiliar territory. There, we learn, we will encounter denial, anger, bargaining, and so on until we finally arrive at acceptance. But seldom is grief so simple and direct.

Working out my own grief, I once confided in a trusted seminary professor that my grief was refusing to follow that trusty roadmap. Over months, I found myself jumping from anger to acceptance, acceptance back to denial, depression and acceptance at the same time. I felt like something must be wrong with me and with how I was grieving. I needed to know what "normal" grief was supposed to look like.

That's when I really learned that when it comes to grieving there is no "normal." We each grieve in our own way, which was a relief to me at the time and I hope it is a relief to many of you. Grief, my teacher told me, is seldom linear like the neat and tidy "stages" - it is more like a spiral, wrapping around itself, where we return again and again to different stages over time at our own pace in our own order, all while the feelings slowly lessen in harshness and intensity.

Time cannot heal all wounds, but God is already at work - deep within the wounds of each of us. And God calls us to labor in the wounds of one another through listening and companionship. And when we ourselves are experiencing the wounds of loss, God is calling us to risk vulnerability with one another in sharing our wounds.

Please know that I will listen to the story of your wounds - and that so many others in the church will as well, even as you listen to ours. Please know that none of us is expected or able to carry these wounds alone. God has given us one another to share in the work of healing.

Peace,

Pastor Daniel

Announcements

A word of thanks from the family of Jeff Auston

We would like to thank the members of the Lovejoy UPC congregation for all of your prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and support during Jeff (Austin's) illness. Your outpouring of support meant a great deal to our family during this difficult time. May God continue to bless you all. The Family of Jeff Auston.

Nominating Committee is looking for your input

As Christians we are called to service. Service - What does that mean? For each of us that will look different. As a member of LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church one of the ways it might look is serving as an Elder or Deacon or member of the Nominating Committee. As an Elder, you are one of the leaders of the church making sure every aspect of the church runs smoothly. As a Deacon, you are one of the servers of the church caring for those in your care group and assisting with funeral meals, just to name a few. As a member of the Nominating Committee you represent the congregation to choose the future leaders of the church.

If you are interested in finding out more information about any of these offices please contact someone you know who is an Elder, Deacon or member of the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in self nominating or nominating someone, please have those notes to me or Daniel no later than August 27th. If you have any questions please call or text me at 618-567-1458 or email me at 60juju@gmail.com.

Julie Spurgeon
Nominating Committee Chair



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:

August 17 – The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

5 – Year Anniversary Celebration Update ****OOPS!****

There was an error on the Jeane Slayden recipe “Pizza Burgers” printed in the Fifth Anniversary Memory Cookbook. The ground beef is not supposed to be made into hamburger patties! Below, the recipe has been reprinted in its correct form.

Pizza Burgers – Jeane Slayden

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef (enough beef that would make 4 to 6 burgers)
- 1 can pizza sauce (extra sauce can be added to your preference)
- 1 package hot dog buns
- 1 package grated mozzarella cheese

Optional – chopped onion, garlic powder, salt & pepper, Italian seasonings

Directions

Cook the ground beef and drain off the grease. Pour the pizza sauce over the beef and cook for a few minutes. Open a hot dog bun and place a small amount of the grated cheese in the middle of the bun. Place the pizza-sauced ground beef on top of the cheese and then put more grated mozzarella on top. Wrap the pizza burger in just enough aluminum foil to completely enclose it. Place all the pizza burgers in a 9 X 13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes (until the cheese has melted).

Optional – chopped onion and seasonings of one’s choice can be added to the ground beef when making the pizza burgers.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE WORK: Long before College Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Wood River United Presbyterian Church merger was even a thought, members from these two churches already had a working relationship. It started with Hurricane Katrina recovery work, but then included flood and tornado recoveries as well. Then Elm Street Presbyterian Church closed, and several members joined with the current LoveJoy UPC. So, there were workers from all three churches on these trips. These trips included individuals from various area churches, but on most of the trips, the majority of workers were from these three churches. Following worship on August 14, there will be a presentation about these trips. If you were on any of the trips it will be good to bring back some of the memories of the hard work that was done. And if you weren’t on a trip, come to see what was done to help some of the most vulnerable families hit by disasters. If you have a PDA shirt, you are encouraged to wear it that day. 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.

June 2022 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2022	\$65,582.29
Savings Account Balance as of 6/30/2022	\$2,243.15
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022	\$67,825.44

- ❖ The June financial report reflects that the Income for the month exceeded the Expenses by 1094.01
- ❖ Pledges: YTD Pledge total \$94,143.94
- ❖ Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$180,200.28. The interest rate is holding at .50%.

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

August

1	18
Don Clapsaddle	Katie Davis
Hannah Klette	19
Joel Freeman	Colten Daily Diana
2	Thompson Kori
Kiara Alexis	Frankford
Chapman	20
Mason Ballard	Anthony Carmack
Derek Lankford	Erica Griggs
Maggie Dillinger	21
3	Shane Lindquist Jr.
Marilyn King	22
4	Aurora Joellen
Eva Huff	Hayes Groman
5	Cheryl Panyik Russ
Chrissy Bristow	Thompson
6	23
Crystal Shelton	Robert Musgrave-
7	Perkins
Sharon Jenkins	24
9	Terry Allen
Delores Bloemker	25
Jeffrey	Payton Todd
Frankford	26
11	Kate Workman
Mary Cordes	28
13	Amy Maggart
Mary Barnes	29
14 Carol Foraker	Sandy Monroe
Larry Strohbeck	30
17	Brenda Gremli
Sandy Blackford	Jaynie Doerr

We are Forgiven

We have sinned.
 We have broken the rules.
 For it is displeasing to the Father,
 but our Father is loving and kind.
 He is understanding.
 He sent his only son, to touch us the Father's way.
 He died for our sins.
 For our Father loves us.
 We are forgiven.

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.

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Good Samaritan	2 6:30p Mission and Outreach	3 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	4 LUPC Rummage Sale	5 LUPC Rummage Sale Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	6 LUPC Rummage Sale
7 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	8 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO 1:30p Good Samaritan	9 6:30p Children and Youth CE Planning Meeting 6:30p CE for Children and Youth 6:30p Worship Committee Meeting	10 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	11	12 Office Closed - Daniel is available by appointment	13
14 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30 a Sunday Lunch Picnic	15 1:30p Good Samaritan	16 6p Finance Meeting	17 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p Lovejoy Lyceum - Bulest Eye	18 6p 5th Anniversary Committee 6p ACE Meeting 7p ACE Meets with Sarah and Kolby	19 Office Closed -Daniel is available by appointment	20
21 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	22 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	23	24 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	25 Presbytery Gathering Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting	26 Office Closed -Daniel is available by appointment	27
28 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Nominating Committee Meeting	29 1:30p Good Samaritan	30	31 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)			



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

