

# THE OBSERVER



Dear friends in Christ,

One of the pastors who served my family's church when I was a child was named Aaron. In his sermons he'd occasionally refer to his mother or quote something she said. She was, as he liked to say, his "favorite theologian." I don't believe I ever met Aaron's mother, but I felt like I had. She was wise in a most gentle way and a person of immense faith.

Aaron posted on Facebook a few days ago saying that his mother had died. He shared how grateful he was for her life. And I myself felt a deep measure of gratitude for her life, though I knew her only indirectly through Aaron's sermons. On All Saints' Day, Aaron posted again, borrowing a phrase from another preacher saying, "I'm particularly grateful this All Saints' day for my mom, who was and is part of "God's Faculty."

I've never heard of saints referred to as God's Faculty before: God's teachers on earth and in heaven. I cannot think of a better image for the saints than that. Saints are those people living and dead who shape our lives in the direction of the deep love of God. Even those who have gone before us in death to new life continue to shape us powerfully through their legacy and memory.

This past Sunday, we read the names of those who have died and entered the church in heaven over the last year, members of God's faculty all of them. They and countless other saints have showed us in big ways and small how to embody the love of God in the world. We are grateful for each of them and the ways they have shaped our lives and our faith.

This month, I encourage you to reflect on "God's faculty" in your life. Who – living or dead – has helped you to learn the ways of Jesus and to live out his love? Spend some time giving thanks for their presence in your life, and consider how God is calling you to be part of the faculty, teaching others the love of God in Jesus Christ.

In gratitude for all the saints,

Pastor Daniel

# Children & Youth

The children and youth have been meeting **after worship, 11:30 – 1:00**. Attendance has been running low since COVID, but we are praying hard for the Spirit to guide us in rebuilding.

We have a good curriculum to follow, using the Presbyterian (USA) **FOLLOW ME** lessons. As the name suggests, each lesson is built around the principles laid out by Jesus, by what He said and did on Earth. This first semester focuses on two modules of lessons – **Diversity and Peacemaking**.



## DIVERSITY

When we observe God's Great Creation, it is obvious that God loves Diversity. Just think of the number of different animal and plant species – so many that it is hard to keep track and learn about all of them.

The same is true about people. There are so many types of people around us in the world; people of different races, cultures, talents, disabilities, orientations, genders,

on and on. God said that people are created in God's image, and that means all types. Jesus, the Son, taught us that we should love our neighbors, so we must work to love all the diversities of people (and wildlife), and work together as God's Church. LoveJoy United is a church that is **INCLUSIVE**. No one, **NO EXCEPTIONS**, are left out of being the body of Christ, and a seat at the table for the work to be done. **LET US STRIVE TO FULFILL OUR GOAL FOR BEING A TOTALLY INCLUSIVE CHURCH.**



At this writing, we are looking forward to our Great Halloween Party and Scavenger Hunt after church on October 30.

It may have already happened by the time you read this, though. So, look forward to a full report in the future.

# PEACEMAKERS KNOW PEACE



Have you noticed that LUPC uses a dove in our logo? Christians use the dove and olive branch as a symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. This implies that we are a congregation that values peace

Isaiah's vision of the peaceable kingdom (Isaiah 11: 6-9) gives us a glimpse into God's peace and how that might differ from what the world teaches us to expect. Jesus does the same thing, turning the expectations of who is blessed upside down. It is not those who battle and conflict, but those who find ways to cooperate and work together who are the peacemaking children of God. (Matt 5:9)



Mildred Lisette Norman gave up everything: her home, her possessions, even her real name. She called herself Peace Pilgrim, put on her sneakers, and started off on her quest to walk thousands of miles all around America. Step by step, mile after mile, Peace Pilgrim traveled tirelessly, inviting everyone she met to consider a world where each person and each nation chooses peace.

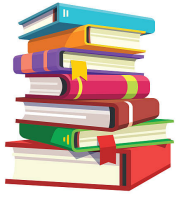
Herbert Peel,, our church Laureate Poet, came to our class to give a lesson about writing poetry. After reading some poems as samples, he had the students look out the window to receive inspiration for writing a short poem. They are posted to the right of this page.



I saw the trees being blown around. I felt the air, saw the clouds moving around in different shapes, heard the birds chirping, and singing. I saw that the trees have different colors of leaves. I felt clam, relaxed, enjoying the view outside God's House. Outside, I saw trees, grass, concrete; felt the air being blown around. - JACLYN LINDQUIST

I noticed the grass blowing in the wind; time flies just like the wind. Just like the wind , which blows in the grass. -CHARLIE MANKER

I saw the trees blowing outside, and I also saw the flurry clouds and the blue sky. Outside I saw the fall trees in all colors such as orange and red. The trees whisped in the wind and the crispy leaves fell. The wind blew and blew until all the leaves fell. -LUCY MANKER



# Announcements

## LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

The LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club selects and reads a book together each month. They meet via Zoom at 7:15 PM after evening prayer.

**November 16 - The Night Watchman by Louise Edrich**



## Church Cleanup Day - November 5 at 9am

Please help us clean up the church courtyard. All help is appreciated!!



## 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.

### September 2022 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2022	\$61,297.40
Savings Account Balance as of 9/30/2022	\$2,243.15
Ending Balance as of 9/30/2022	\$63,540.55

- ❖ The September financial report reflects that the Expenses for the month exceeded the Income by 1959.56
- ❖ Pledges: YTD Pledge total \$136,423.64
- ❖ Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$180,488.82. The interest rate is holding at .76%.

# 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](http://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 Boxed Cereal 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.

# November

## Happy Birthday

3	18
Craig Carnes	Charlotte Mae
5	Belchik
Trinity Jude Sidwell	Donald Jenkins
Milburn	19
Jacqueline Jensen	Cheryl Strobeck
Sandra Franke	21
6	Jackie Roberson
Ethan Humbert Jr.	Jill Roberts
7	22
Shawn Thompson	Margarette Trushel
8	23
Samantha Bauer	Jennifer Andrews
Spencer Slayden	Noah Mabb
10	24
Hendrix Drew Duncan	Leslie Ballard
Scott Slayden	Tara Mouser
Trevor Hale	25
11	Tacoma Monroe
Cheryl Bishop	26
Charlie Manker	Annabel Gibson
Lynna Humbert	28
17	Easton Coleman
Vivian Kerkemeyer	
Paige Lemasson	
Humbert	

## Twill Bless You

"Follow me my Child" the son said.  
"Put down your net, and follow me."  
The Father loves us.  
"Twill Bless you" the Father says.  
Blessed wit the Quill  
Blessed with the Harp  
Blessed to make cloths with the stitch  
Blessed to cook a feast  
Blessed to Preach my Word  
For you walk the hard road  
Follow me my children, and Twill bless you.

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 worshiping people. We hope you will join us online, by phone, or in-person. All three are good and faithful ways of worshiping. 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.

# November 2022

November

December

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		11/1 6:30p Mission and Outreach Meeting	2 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	3	4	5 Clean-Up Day
6 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a YouthQuest	7 1:30p Good Samaritan	8 Election Day	9 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a YouthQuest 11:30a Building and Grounds Meeting	14 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	15 6p Finance Meeting 6:30p Deacons' Meeting 6:30p CE for Children and Youth Meeting	16 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum: The Night Watchman	17 6:30p Session Meeting	18	19
20 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:15a Congregational Meeting 11:30a YouthQuest	21 1:30p Good Samaritan	22	23 10:15a Bible Study (Zoom and In Person) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a 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)			



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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

