



Join the Lenten journey of Abundant Welcome - Lenten Small Groups

One of LoveJoy United's Matthew 25 goals in 2022 was to become more welcoming and inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community. Sarah Carnes, Kolby Carnes, and Michael Musgrave-Perkins gave us tremendous insight into how we, as a church, can do that. We learned so much about human sexuality, gender, and the challenges faced by God's LGBTQ+ children.

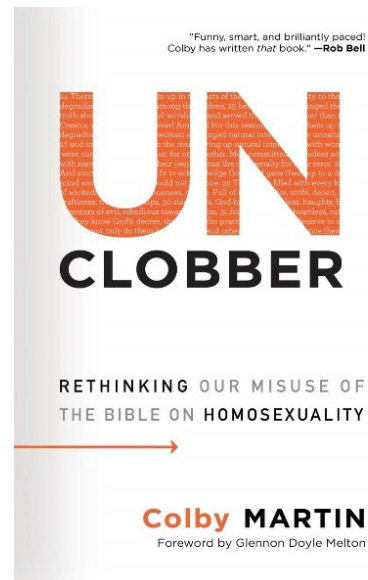
But we still have work to do - and we can't do it without you. Jesus may have founded the church, but we who are members are merely human. We have gotten so much wrong over the generations. The church has committed unfathomable harm to LGBTQ+ folks, and many parts of the church continue to do so today. But the truth is, so much of that harm stems from inaccurate, unfaithful, and plain misreadings of scripture. So as we enter the season of Lent, this season of repentance, it's critical that we take a closer look at those few Biblical texts many have used as a weapon and study them for ourselves. Perhaps even through these 'clobber' texts, God is calling us in a more welcoming and loving direction.

Our Adult Education Committee (ACE) invites you to join one of four small groups this Lent. Together with a facilitator and host, we'll be reading and reflecting on *UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin. All participants will get a free copy of the book. We will wrestle with these texts. And we want to welcome you to the conversation with whatever thoughts, questions, and assumptions you have. It is this deep conversational, relational, and interpretive work that God is calling us to do as a Matthew 25 church.

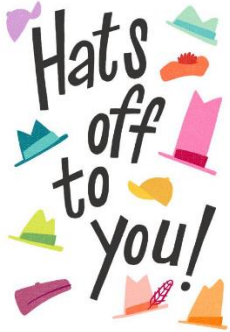
For more information, see the signup table in the Narthex or go to our website, <https://lovejoyupc.org>, click on 'Next Steps,' and then 'Lenten Small Groups.' Space is limited to eight people per group.

## Small Group Times and Locations

- Mondays at 7 PM starting on Feb 27 at LoveJoy United
- Tuesdays at 7 PM starting on Feb 28 on Zoom only
- Thursdays at 1:30 PM starting March 2 at the Cerny Home in Bethalto
- Fridays at 1:30 PM starting March 3 at the Shugert Home in Glen Carbon



# Children & Youth



January 8 was a special day for some of our children and youth. Four students teamed to present a spiritual message about being created unique. The familiar Peanuts characters – Charlie Brown (**Charlie Manker**), Lucy Van Pelt (**Lucy Manker**), Linus (**Tony Carmark**) and Schroeder (**Uriyah Pennington**) acted and sang their parts on our Chancel stage. “*THE DOCTOR IS IN*” was used to present the message in theater form. **Jaelyn Lindquist** wasn’t able to make the rehearsals, but we consider her a loving part of our family, and she was able to be in the congregation and join us at the reception. A cake and punch reception for the young Thespians was held after worship.



# PEACEMAKERS FOR JUSTICE

**But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. -Amos 5:24**

January 15 is Martin Luther King's birthday, so on his birthday holiday, we stop to reflect on justice. MLK worked hard to peacefully bring racial and social justice to all people.



Likewise, Jane Goodall has devoted her entire adult life to bring ecology justice to wildlife. Her hard work to save chimpanzees from extinction has made her famous with thousands of people around the world contributing to her efforts.

After church on January 22, children and youth traveled to the St. Louis Science Center to experience the special exhibit about Jane Goodall's life and work.



Josie, Charlie, Grace, Owen, Uriyah, and Lucy pose for a picture in front of the Jane Goodall hologram.

## Announcements

# TALENT SHOW

### Sunday, February 12, following Worship.

LoveJoy Loves Your Talent! What better way to celebrate the New Year and banish those February blues than the first-ever, LoveJoy United Talent Show! It's not a contest---if you have talent, you're a winner! All ages 1---101! Costumes welcome. Oh, and did we mention food? Delicious soups, salads, and dessert will be provided before the show! Please sign up in the Narthex. See you there!

### LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Members of the Lyceum Book Club recently completed the reading list for the rest of the 2023 year (July through December):

JULY 19: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

AUGUST 16: Foster by Claire Keegan

SEPTEMBER 20: Rolling Nowhere by Ted Conover

OCTOBER 18: Fordlandia by Greg Granden

NOVEMBER 15: West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

DECEMBER 13: (2nd Wednesday) Daemon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



In addition to the book list, the Book Club also decided to change its meeting format. Beginning on Wednesday evening February 15, we will host a hybrid meeting. The members will “meet” from homes on zoom and others will join the group in person in the small meeting room at the church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The book to be discussed on February 15 is Confederates in the Attic by Tony Horwitz. Plan to join us via zoom at 7:00 either from your own home or at the church.

### SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The ACE Committee will again sponsor Sunday Night at the Movies on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. The Long Walk Home takes place during the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott. It stars Whoopi Goldberg as the housekeeper for Sissy Spacek. As the movie trailer says: “At a time in America when everyone did what was expected, they had the courage to do what was right.”

This is a story that people won’t soon forget! You can see it in fellowship hall at the church on February 26. Doors will open at 6:30; the movie begins at 7:00. Popcorn, soda and bottled water will be provided.

## 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 \$1.25 bottles of Laundry Detergent from Dollar Tree.**

### 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

1	15
Tara Caputo	Alex Hayes
4	16
Kathleen Chappell	Carol Bouea
5	17
Virginia Shelton	Darvin Bloemker
7	18
Elise Gremli	Rev. Dr. Mark Russell
8	22
Michael Rust	Jonathan Carnes
9	23
Bob Hagaman	Edie Chappell
Pat Cooper	24
11	Jim Cerny
Nora Bristow	Ken Ringhausen
Taylor Pruitt	Susan Johns
14	25
Beverly Kowalewhich	Alex Cunningham
Brenda Creasey	Jean Utnage
	27
	Paula Blair

## Times

We Each are different  
We follow the father's star  
But the lines we follow are  
different  
The Paths are different.  
Sometimes our lines will cross.  
We shall meet  
Up, down, left, right  
We shall go in circles and  
squares  
In the end, our lines, our paths,  
shall reach the same place that  
the Father has destined for us.

Poet Laureate  
Herbert J. Peel

## 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](https://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.


# February 2023

February

March

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				

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
29	30	31	2/1 First Day of Black History Month 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	2 3:30p Presbytery Gathering (Zoom)	3	4
5 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	6 1:30p Good Samaritan	7 6:30p Mission and Outreach Meeting	8 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	9	10	11 2p Setup for Luncheon and Talent Show
12 Salvation Army Meal Valentine's Day Talent Show 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Building and Grounds 11:30a YouthQuest	13 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	14 Valentine's Day 	15 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum: Confederates in the Attic	16 1p ACE Committee Meeting	17	18
19 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	20 Office Closed Presidents' Day 1:30p No Good Samaritan	21 6p Finance Meeting	22 Ash Wednesday 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p <b>NO</b> Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7p Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30p Session Meeting	24	25
26 8:40a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a YouthQuest 6:30p Movie Night: The Long Walk Home	27 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan 7p Lenten Small Group - TBD	28 7p Lenten Small Group - Zoom	3/1 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	2 1:30p Lenten Small Group -Cernys	3 1:30p Lenten Small Group -Shugerts	4 Saturday Café Alby St & E Fourth St



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

