

THE OBSERVER

April 2023

LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church



"He shall bear their iniquities" Isaiah said. The Christ, the savior, and messiah is on his way. For we have sinned, and the Father is displeased. He shall send a savior. He will be called many things. He shall do the Father's work. We must learn the ways of the Father. "He shall bear their iniquities." For the Son is coming.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

Dear friends,

As a part of my Lenten spiritual practices, I have been using a devotional recently published by one of my teachers, Paul Galbreath. Paul is passionate about how Christians worship, and he's particularly passionate about how our worship prompts us to care for the Earth around us. Each day during Lent, the devotional includes a verse from scripture relating to the Earth, followed by a reflection on how scripture calls us to tend to it. For example, Psalm 1 invites us to imagine ourselves as trees planted near streams of water. The devotional then asks us to thank God for the water sources in our community that give us life.

The onset of Spring in our area has been an added blessing to these devotions. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we've also been witnessing the resurrection of God's creation all around us.

Since 1970, people have celebrated Earth Day on April 22. This celebration is one that churches are beginning to adopt with greater urgency. On Sunday, April 23, we'll celebrate Earth day during worship. We'll also recognize the native Tamaroa people, on whose ancestral land the church stands. Finally, our Creation Care and Building and Grounds committees are doing preliminary investigations into the feasibility of solar energy production for the church's energy needs.

These are all exciting ways LoveJoy United is responding to God's commandment to care for the Earth. How might you make Earth care a part of your spiritual practice this year?

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

Holy Week

at LoveJoy United

Palm Sunday

April 2 | 10:15 a.m.
worship & communion

Maundy Thursday

April 6 | 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
worship, communion & simple meal

Good Friday with Church Women United

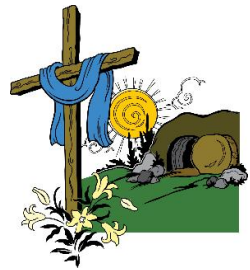
April 7 | 12 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Alton (4th & Alby)
worship led by Pastor Michael Porter from Millennium Temple.
A light lunch to follow with a \$5 suggest donation.

Easter

April 9 | 10:15 a.m.
worship & communion



CHILDREN & YOUTH



SING IN TIME OF SADNESS



After lunch on March 26, we met in our classrooms for the lesson, using Psalm 22 as our text. The

Psalmist begins by lamenting about feeling abandoned by God in a low period of life. But the Psalm ends on a positive note by offering praise to God for always being there, recognizing God's love and trustworthiness.

This Psalm serves as a good model to use for our own lives.

GRADUATES RECOGNITION

The Christian Education for Children and Youth Committee is planning our annual graduate recognition for LUPC high school and college graduates. A date will be announced in the near future.



If you know anyone from LUPC who is graduating from high school or college (including higher degrees), please contact **Sandy Monroe, Ken Webster or Tabitha** in the church office.

SAVE THE DATES



April 9: Easter Sunday

Egg Hunt for Children & Youth after worship

April 23: Earth Day Sunday

END OF SEMESTER

Final lesson session until fall, after worship 11:30-1:00; lunch served

ATTENTION PARENTS & GUARDIANS

You will be receiving an email survey to help the Christian Education for Children & Youth plan good programming for our students. The survey will be sent by Tacoma Monroe, and will request your input. Just respond to the email electronically, and return it to Tacoma.



Sherry looks on as Charlie and Uriyah search owl pellets for mouse skeletal bones to assemble in showcases.

Here are 6 Reasons Why Over 1,000,000 Americans Have Switched To Earth Breeze Laundry Detergent Sheets



1. Easy To Use

Earth Breeze Eco sheets are pre-measured and mess-free. No need to worry about pouring the right amount of liquid into a cup. All you do is fill your washing machine with water, add your laundry in, and place a sheet on top. That's it.

2. Great for the Environment

Did you know that over 700,000,000 single-use plastic jugs end up in landfills and oceans each year and only about 9% actually get recycled! Earth Breeze packaging and ingredients are biodegradable - making it the eco-friendliest solution. The planet and animals thank us.

3. You Are Not Paying For Water

Did you know that your liquid detergent could contain up to 90% water? Big Detergent likes to fill up their jugs with water to make it seem like you are getting a lot of detergent to maximize their profits. Earth Breeze has developed their laundry sheets highly concentrated leaving you with more detergent for each load.

4. Great for Sensitive Skin

Earth Breeze Eco Sheets is hypoallergenic that has been tested and verified by a dermatologist - making it safe for adults, children, toddlers, and even pets with sensitive skin.

5. A Company with Values

Unlike greedy Big Detergent, Earth Breeze is a mission based company. This is why they have pledged to donate 10 loads to those in need after each purchase AND donate 1% of their revenue to various non-profits.



6. 100% Money-Back Guarantee

Earth Breeze understands that you've probably been using the same detergent for years and it's hard trying something new. That's why they offer 100% money back guarantee, no questions asked. You won't even have to send the sheets back.

NOTE: LUPC Creation Care Committee is exploring what it means to be an Earth Care Congregation. One step can be to have an "Eco-friendly Laundry" practice. If you are interested in an inexpensive alternative to large plastic laundry jugs ask one of the members of the Creation Care Committee about Earth Breeze OR go to EarthBreeze.com to order. Kathi Cooper, and Lynna and George Humbert have been using Earth Breeze laundry sheets for a couple of years.

Announcements



Happy Birthday

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

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:



Hybrid Book Club Meeting

The book to be discussed on April 19 is LoveJoy Lyceum: The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn. Plan to join us via zoom at 7:00 either from your own home or at the church.

February 2023 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 2/28/23	\$70,996.66
Savings Account Balance as of 2/28/2023	\$10,367.99
Ending Balance as o 2/28/2023	\$81,364.65

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$39,545.12

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$180,951.21 The interest rate is holding at 1.25 %

Many Ways to Worship

We 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 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) Hybrid Adult Sunday School meets at 9 – 10 AM. Connect online or by phone according to the instructions above. Tech Deacons are available to help you get connected online or by phone.

Save the Dates

Rummage Sale --- July 20th - 23rd

Many have been asking and we now have a date! More information will be provided later but for now... ..Save the Date to donate and to assist with our sale. If you have any questions, you may contact Brenda Donohoo or Jenny Wyatt.

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 spaghetti and spaghetti sauce.

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 2023

April

May

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

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

4/1

<p>2</p> <p>9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30 a Worship Committee Decorating</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30p Good Samaritan 7p Lenten Small Group - TBD</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9a Handbell Practice 7p Lenten Small Group - Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 6:30p Mission and Outreach 7 p Evening Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6p Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30p Lenten Small Group - Shu</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Easter Sunday 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Youth</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Easter Monday Office Closed 9a Food Pantry 12:15a PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30p Worship Committee Mee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:30p Good Samaritan</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6p Finance Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum: The Diamond Eye</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1p ACE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Young Adult Group 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a YouthQuest</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9a Presbytery Gathering</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30 Fellowship Sunday</p>						



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

2550 Rock Hill
Road Wood River,
IL 62095 Phone:
618-254-5880
Fax: 618-254-1288

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

