

THE OBSERVER

MAY 2023

LoveJoy  United
Presbyterian Church

This night is a special night.
The star shines down on the
stable.
All have gathered to witness
what has come to pass.
The birth has happened.
With Joseph and Mary, the
wise men,
the shepherds, and the
animals are there.
The Angels shall sing.
This night is a special night.
This is the birth of the savior.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel



Throughout 2023, LoveJoy United's Poet Laureate, Herbert Peel, is sharing a poem to go along with each of the seven stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

@ LoveJoy United

We celebrate with Riverbend Family Ministries, who had their grand opening at their new facility in April. RFM uses collaborative, holistic efforts to serve children, youth and families who've experienced trauma, most often due to violence, addiction, poverty and homelessness. In 2021, LoveJoy United supplied a new set of washers and dryers, along with towels and laundry supplies for RFM's new location. Thanks to your generosity, these gifts are helping to bring dignity, health, and wellness to children, youth, and families in our community.



Pastor Daniel and Rob LaMarsh present gifts to RFM director, Tammy Iskarous

AN UPDATE FROM ROB LAMARSH

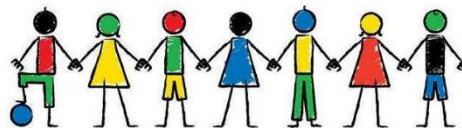
During the month of January, members of your Stewardship Committee participated in three Zoom presentations entitled: Past, Present, Future Giving and Generations, which was presented by Christian Kinard. The focus of these presentations were to identify the five generations of individuals that may be worshiping within a congregation (Elders, Boomers, Gen-X, Millennial, Gen- Z) and to detail not only the variations in each generation's characteristics, but how to effectively communicate with each generation in terms of stewardship.

The Stewardship Committee feels that it is important to share some of the most impactful information with you and, as such, over the coming months will include informational highlights for you through the newsletter, email, and announcements.

A WORD OF THANKS

Just a quick note thanking everyone, again, for giving so generously last year and fulfilling your pledge commitments. These are crazy times right now and just trying to keep up with grocery bills and utility bills and everything else is enough to handle in itself, but thanks to all of you, we're off to a great start this year. It's always a good feeling to cover all of your expenses at the end of the month. We are blessed as a church and a community and a nation.

Thank you and keep up the good work!
John Rain & the Stewardship Committee



LoveJoy Children & Youth

CALLING ALL GRADUATES We are finishing up with compiling our list of annual graduates. This is for high school, college, trade school, and post-graduate levels. These are to be students who have been involved in the life of the church in some way such as: attendance or confirmation or baptism or mission trips or Youth Quest at LUPC or pre-merger churches. The graduates will be recognized during Worship Service on **May 21**. Turn in names to Ken Webster, Sandy Monroe, or Tabitha in the office.



PHOTOS FROM THE APRIL 9 EASTER EGG HUNT



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We have been invited to participate in VBS at the Godfrey United Methodist Church again this year. At this writing, we have not had a Christian Education Committee meeting, but it will be on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting.

The dates are Jun 25–30 (Sun - Thurs) from 6–8:30 PM.

Theme: 'Outer Space.'



LET'S CONTINUE EARTH DAY!

On April 23, we experienced a worship service honoring Earth Day and recognized the Tamaroa peoples who once inhabited the land on which our church building was erected. Water from our baptismal font was used to bless an area outside our fellowship hall where a three-sisters garden will be planted, similar to what the Native Americans did.

The 10 Indian Commandments:

- 1) The Earth is our Mother; care for Her.
- 2) Honor all your relations.
- 3) Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit.
- 4) All life is sacred; treat all beings with respect.
- 5) Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more.
- 6) Do what needs to be done for the good of all.
- 7) Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each day.
- 8) Speak the truth but only for the good in others.
- 9) Follow the rhythms of Nature.
- 10) Enjoy life's journey; but leave no tracks.



In the United States, there is a nationally recognized Earth Day each spring and also an Indigenous Peoples Day in the fall. We will be acknowledging that later in the year. For the Native Americans, every day was Earth Day. We, too, should follow their example of caring for this planet on which we live. Native Americans have a lot to teach us about caring for the Earth.

There are many resources available to learn more about these things. Some suggested sources are:

The Nature Institute in Godfrey - www.thenatureinstitute.org

Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville – www.cahokiamounds.org

Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Wash. Univ., St. Louis –

www.buder.wustl.edu The Presbyterian Church (USA) – www.pcusa.org/nativeamerican

Treehouse Wildlife Center in Dow – www.treehousewildlifecenter.com

Youth Mission Opportunity

Do you love campfires and s'mores or just want to put your hands and heart to good use for your neighbors?

Have fun serving God while in fellowship with church friends!

This is an Overnight or One-Day Mission Trip for Youth (going into 6th grade through graduating seniors). The Presbyterian Church of Washington is hosting a Youth Mission Trip to Bethel Hills in Dutzow, Missouri. All youth are invited to join in for a single day of service on Saturday, June 3rd or an overnight trip Friday afternoon, June 2nd until Saturday afternoon.

All costs are being covered by the Presbyterian Church of Washington and the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. There are no costs to the participants except for transportation to and from the facility.

Bethel Hills is an inclusive community where people of all abilities thrive together, are connected and have abundant opportunities. They are developing Phase 1 of 3 phases that will eventually house 70-80 residents. Currently they house approximately 15 residents.

If you wish to have more details on this opportunity or a registration form, please email Sandy Monroe at monroe5216@gmail.com to receive a registration form. Deadline for registration is May 12, 2023, but registering sooner than later is encouraged. See the Flier on the next page for more information.



JUNE 3, 2023

YOUTH

MISSION TRIP

Use and develop your skills while serving God! A local (Warren County, MO) mission trip is happening at Bethel Hills in Dutzow, MO on June 3, from 9 am to 5 pm (lunch provided).

Bethel Hills was established to address a gap in the choices afforded to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – to allow the option for people to live in community with their friends, families, and others who value them. An inclusive community where people of all abilities thrive together, are connected, and have abundant opportunities. They are developing Phase 1 of 3 phases that will eventually house 70-80 residents. Currently they house approximately 15 residents and staff. We will be working on housing, gardening, and facility projects on their 127 acres of beautiful land.

Youth can participate in an overnight experience as well. A half-day on Friday (arriving at 1:00 pm) is additionally available. Overnight stay will be supervised by vetted Presbyterian Church members. Sleeping bags are required. Youth will be housed indoors in a hostel (girls) or a gym (boys). Games and activities including a campfire worship will be available Friday evening.

Bethel Hills is located at: 10450 Voelkerding Rd, Dutzow, MO

**Serve God with
your hearts and
hands!**

**Fabulous Local
Location with
Beautiful Grounds**

**No costs to
participate,
except personal
transportation to
and from the site**

**Deadline to
Register is May
12, 2023**

**Junior & Senior
High Youth**

**FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:**

Jolene Patterson,
Presbyterian Church of
Washington

jolenespatter@gmail.com

Announcements



Happy Birthday

1 Candis Jazquin Jake Friederich	11 Amber Holt Amber Kerkemeyer
2 Marilyn Holt	13 Kelly Slayden
3 Jaclyn Lindquist Rue Foe	14 Debra Goskie
4 Tim Cerny	15 Lynn Boston
5 Keleb Klette Kaylynn St. Peters	17 Waylon Duncan Michael Carnes
6 Linda Frizzell Robert Vandalia	19 Albert Jake Bienemann
8 Karissa Joi Chapman Scott Thompson	21 Julie Gvillo
9 Beth Forrester	22 Emilia Huff
10 Katie LaMarsh Stella Lemasson Humbert	24 Ashley Cox
	25 Jeanie McCoy
	29 Viktoria Monroe
	30 Alice Carter
	31 Heather Carnes

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

“Lyceum Book Club is currently reading *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* by Kent Nerburn. We ZOOM together on May17 at 7:15pm for lively discussions.

Our next book will be *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor and we will ZOOM together on June 21 at 7:15pm for more lively discussions.”



March 2023 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 3/31/2023	\$69,601.87
Savings Account Balance as of 3/31/2023	\$10,368.23

Ending Balance as of 3/31/2023	\$79,970.10
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Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$50,696.40
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.

Funeral Service for Glenda McDonald - Saturday, May 6

Our dear sister Glenda McDonald died on November 10, 2022 in Urbana, where she had been living to be closer to family. We will hold a service of Witness to the Resurrection for Glenda at the church on Saturday, May 6. Visitation will be at 10 a.m with the service at 11 a.m. The deacons will provide a luncheon after the service.

M A Y 2023

May

June

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5/1 1:30p Good Samaritan	2 6:30p Mission and Outreach	3 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 10a Visitation for Glenda McDonald 11a Memorial for Glenda McDonald 11:30p Luncheon for Glenda McDonald
7 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Building and Grounds	8 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	9 6:30p Deacons' Meeting	10 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch - Guest Sp 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	11 6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Youth	15 1:30p Good Samaritan	16 6p Finance Meeting	17 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum	18 1p ACE Committee Meeting	19 2p PEO Uses Fellowship Hall	20 9:30a PEO Women's Group
21 Honor Graduates 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday	22 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	23	24 10:15a Bible Study (Hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	25 5:45p Stewardship Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting	26	27
28 Bread for the World Offering 9a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth	29 Memorial Day- Office Closed 1:30p Good Samaritan	30 A Place of Grace (Tentative)	1	2	3	4



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

