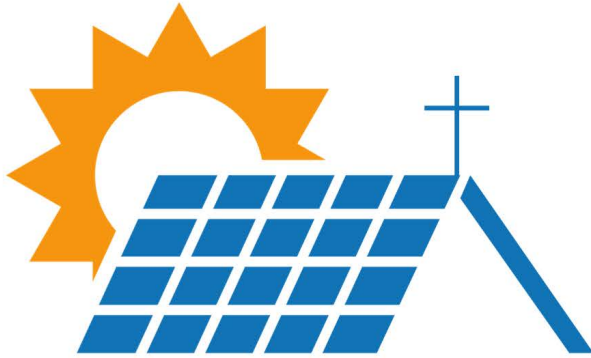


# THE OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2023



## Solar at LoveJoy United

For the last year, the Creation Care Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, and the Session have been exploring the feasibility of a solar energy system at the church. Clean, solar energy certainly falls within the Earth Care values of LoveJoy United. But this kind of project has significant financial implications as well.

During our investigations, we were pleased to learn that not only would this project significantly shrink our carbon footprint, it would also significantly shrink the amount we pay in utilities! These savings can instead be allocated to our ministries and mission.

Following worship on Sunday, Nov. 12, representatives from Session - Sarah Carnes, Mary Cordes - and the Creation Care team will present this project (along with structural, financial, and other information) to the congregation in the Fellowship Hall. We'll also have a representative from GRP Wegman here to answer your questions about the project.

In order to move forward on this project, the Session will be asking the congregation to approve a loan to cover the initial installation expense. With the substantial federal and state incentives along with the energy savings, we anticipate being able to pay off in about 5 years.

While we have received approval from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program as well as the Presbytery, your voice and approval matters most! The session is calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19 after worship to vote on that loan as well as to elect new elders, deacons, and members of the nominating committee.

So please come (or Zoom) to the information session on Nov. 12 after worship with your thoughts, questions, and concerns. If you are not able to make that meeting, please email your questions to Pastor Daniel ([daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)) and he will direct your email to someone on the committee or team who can respond.

## Important Dates

### Solar Project Information Session

November 12 after Worship in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom.

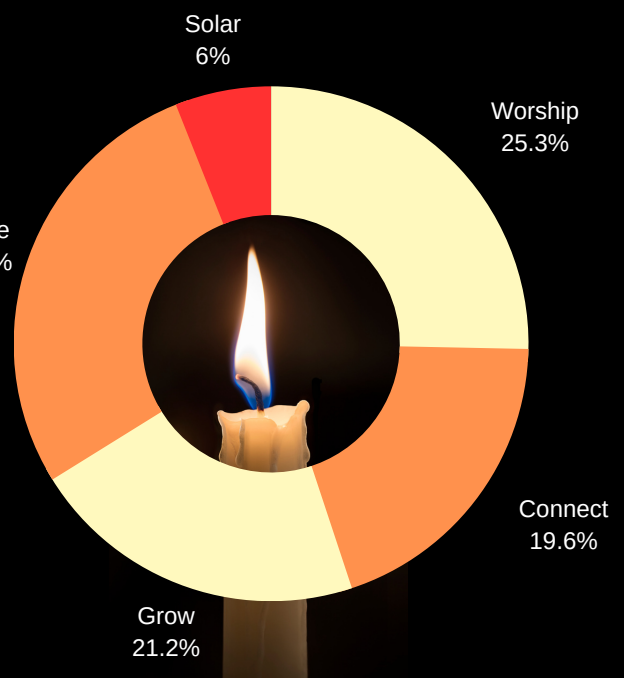
### Called Congregational Meeting

November 19 after Worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom. We'll be voting on the loan and on the nominating committee's nomination for elders, deacons, and members of the next nominating committee.

Let your

# LIGHT

shine!



## Shining to Worship (\$54,550)

Worship is the heartbeat of the church. When we worship, we encounter the Triune God who nourishes us with grace and shapes us as people who carry God's love into the world. Money in this area pays our pastor and musician for their gifts, time, and energy. It also pays for a sanctuary where we can gather, bread and wine to celebrate communion, music for our choir and handbells, and other supplies to make worship meaningful.

## Shining to Connect (\$43,250)

A congregation is a collection of people who have decided their lives are richer when they are together. Money in this area provides for Congregational Care events, homebound and hospital visitation, and welcoming spaces to gather for fellowship within the church. As a church, we laugh together, cry together, eat together, stand together, and commit to simply being together through all life's moments.

## Shining to Grow (\$45,750)

Shaping and nurturing our faith is a lifelong commitment. Jesus calls his followers "disciples," learners of God's truth. Money in this area provides for clean spaces to learn, curricula for all ages, formation events, and safety-trained children and youth volunteers. We are committed to providing opportunities to grow and deepen our faith at every stage of life.

## Shining to Serve (\$59,750)

Scripture calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to alleviate suffering, and stand for justice. Money in this area enables to provide a food pantry and give emergency support to our neighbors in need. It also helps maintain our building to house our food pantry, mission supplies, and to host community groups in our space. Through our per capita and mission giving, we support the local mission of our Presbytery and global mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

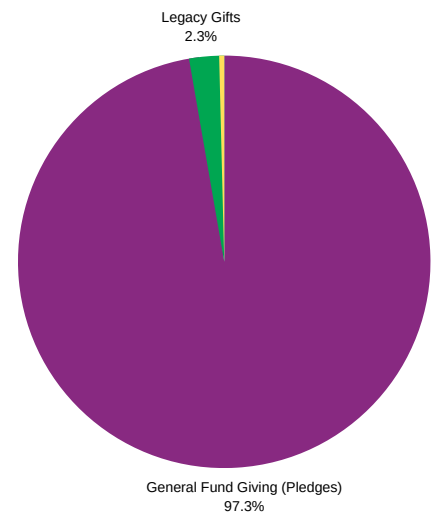
## Catching God's Light with Solar (\$13,000)

As an Earth Care Congregation, we celebrate God's gift of creation, but we also take seriously God's commandment to care for it. In 2024, we plan on installing solar panels at the church that will capture God's gift of light to provide enough electricity to power our church building. This will not only reduce our reliance on dirty energy, it will also save us a considerable amount of money that we can put directly to work in mission and ministry

\*Numbers are approximated and reflect the 2023 budget. Narrative budgets tell the story of a church's mission by discerning how the church lives out God's purpose for it and then determining how each dollar given supports that mission. Building, salary, administration, and finance costs are divided into the area of ministry they support. Traditional budgets are available from our treasurer.

# Where does LoveJoy United get its money?

97% of the money in our yearly budget comes directly from you, the financial supporters of LoveJoy United. 3% comes from outside sources: legacy gifts given to the church and interest earned on our mission market account. While we are grateful for these alternate revenue streams, it is truly YOU who makes our ministries happen. Thank you!



## Why pledge? Why not just donate like I do everywhere else?

Simply put, pledging allows us to plan! When you make your pledge, you are promising to donate a certain amount of money over the year. Knowing what will come in allows us to create responsible budgets for our ministries. A pledge is not legally binding; if you find you need to adjust your pledge as the year goes on, simply contact the church office at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org).

## I'm in! How can I make my best gift?

The pledging process should begin with prayer. How is God's Spirit calling you to direct your money? Pledging is a spiritual practice of trust: trusting that God will enable you to fulfill your promise to give, and trusting that the church will use your gifts to serve God and God's world.

**If you have never pledged before**, consider adding pledging and giving to your spiritual practices alongside prayer, worship, and service. To give is to participate in God's work and ministry at LoveJoy United.

**If you do regularly pledge**, consider increasing your pledge this year. ANY increase in giving allows us to dream about what your generosity might enable us to do!

## How do I submit my pledge?

- **Online** - go to [lovejoyupc.org/pledge](http://lovejoyupc.org/pledge) and fill out the pledge form.
- **Pledge Card** - return the pledge card mailed to you to the church office or put it in the offering basket.
- **Call** the Church office at 618-254-5880

## What else can I offer?

There's no way around it: we need money to make our ministries happen. But the most valuable treasure you have to offer is yourself! All these numbers mean nothing without you committing to worship, grow, serve, and connect with us. Our church runs off the wisdom, time, talents, energy, prayers, and presence of its congregation. So in addition to your financial pledge, pledge to be all-in to this community of faith. We pledge in turn to treasure you like the gift you are!

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

*No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ~ Matthew 5:15*



# LoveJoy Children & Youth



## GRATITUDE IS THE BEST ATTITUDE



Congratulations to Lucy Manker and Kole Sutton on being inducted into the National Jr. Honor Society at Alton Middle School.

## CONFIRMATION

LUPC has begun the process for establishing confirmation for teen students. Instead of using a traditional format with a series of classes followed by confirmation, a new strategy is being used. Instead, students will begin with an overnight retreat November 3-4 at the AMEN HOUSE in St. Louis (at Oak Hill Presbyterian). Each student has a mentor, who will be present, lending support, along with Pastor Daniel and Tacoma Monroe. Then, on **Sunday, November 5**, we confirm, thus commencing an exciting adventure of spiritual discovery and adventure. Four students will be participating – **Tony Carmack, Lucy Manker, Uriyah Pennington, and Maddie Wendleton** (from Moro Presbyterian). All LUPC members are encouraged to support these young people along their journey of faith.



Picture on the left shows Tony demonstrating the Native American Bird Dance. Charlie models family heirloom costuming and an authentic peace pipe. Both of these boys helped us observe Indigenous Peoples Day.



Uriyah brought his new pet dog, Molly, to the Pet Blessing ceremony on October 7. The picture shows him with Molly as they observe other pets.

# Attention all Bakers and Candy Makers:

We are bringing back our Annual Bake Sale which will be held Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a signup sheet available the beginning of November. We are looking forward to another successful sale with a large variety of cookies, candies, breads and this year we are *adding pies*.

## *Bake Sale*



*Cookies, Candies, Breads & Pies*

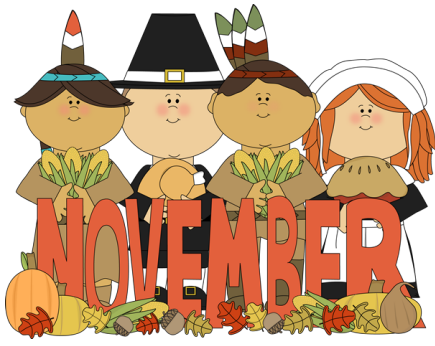


*Saturday, December  
9th*

*10:00 am – Noon*

*If you have any questions, contact  
Brenda Donohoo at 618-444-9190*

Proceeds from this sale benefit our Good Samaritan Fund which assists those in need with Utilities Bills.



## Announcements

### Happy Birthday

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

### LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club is currently reading *FORDLANDIA* by Greg Grande. Our next book is *WEST WITH GIRAFFES* by Lynda Rutledge. Gather via Zoom on November 15 at 7:15 PM for lively discussion.

### Sept. 2023 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2023 \$ 77,178.13  
 Savings Account Balance as of 9/30/2023 \$ 9,868.74  
 Ending Balance as of 9/30/2023 \$ 87,046.87  
 Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$131,005.04  
 Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$182,205.56. The interest rate is holding at 2.00 %

### Many Ways to Worship

We 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](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) 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.



# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>11/1</b> First Day of American Indian Heritage Month 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study (hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	2	3 Confirmation Retreat	4 Confirmation Retreat Presbytery Gathering
5 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 11:30a Bldg & Grounds Meeting 10:15a Hybrid Worship 6:30p Movie Night-The Mission (ACE Committee)	6 1:30p Good Samaritan	7 Election Day 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study (hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	9 12p LoveJoy Memorial Gathering 6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed Meeting	10 Veterans Day (substitute)	11 Veterans Day
12 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth 11:30a Solar Project Information Session	13 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	14 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study (hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	16 1p ACE Committee Meeting	17	18
19 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday 11:30a Called Congregational Meeting	20 1:30p Good Samaritan	21 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6p Finance Meeting	22 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study (hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	23 Thanksgiving Day 6:30p Session Meeting	24 Native American Heritage Day	25
26 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children and Youth	27 Christmas Wonderland 9a Food Pantry 12p Worship Committee Decorates for Advent 1:30p Good Samaritan	28 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	29 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study (hybrid) 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	30		



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

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

