

THE OBSERVER

DECEMBER 2023



Friends,

In the foreground of this season, I'm seeing Christmas lights and winter decorations. I'm seeing festive outfits and dressed-up store windows. "Christmas is supposed to be a joyful time," it all seems to be telling us. In so many ways, it is joyful.

But I can't help but also look at what's going on in the background of this season: wars raging in Israel/Palestine and Ukraine; unsettling news of huge bodies of water now dry as a bone due to climate change; people I know and love who are facing this season with a sense of loss or grief. Maybe you, too, are facing this season with a sense of melancholy.

This season of Advent, starting Sunday, we'll be starting a new series based on the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who teaches us what it means to hope, especially when hope is elusive. We will remember that the Good News of Jesus' birth comes not to people who are all dressed up for a celebration, but to people who are in desperate need of hope. People just like us.

So whether you are already full of the Christmas spirit, or if you are struggling in this season, I hope you'll make a point of worshiping with us as we dig down to the deep, muscular hope we have in God.

With hope,

Daniel



Hope Blooms
in a Weary World

Advent 2023



Hope Remembered
Dec. 3 10:15 a.m.

Hope Revealed
Dec. 10 10:15 a.m.

Hope Reborn
Dec. 17 10:15 a.m.

Hope Embodied
Dec. 24 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24 7:30 p.m.



Items Needed for Christmas Food Box

Our Food Pantry plans to provide a Christmas box to our patrons on Monday, December 11th. In addition to a ham or turkey (that we will purchase), we would like to collect a few extra items for their box. We have approximately 25 families. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome.



- 5# Bag of Potatoes**
- Boxed Stuffing Mix**
- Onion Topping**
- Mushroom Soup**
- Canned Green Beans**
- Cranberry Sauce**
- Dinner Rolls**
- Butter**

We thank you for your generous donations throughout the year!

If you have any questions, you may contact Brenda Donohoo or Marilyn King.



Attention all Bakers and Candy Makers:

We are bringing back our Annual Bake Sale which will be held Saturday, December 9th. 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.

LOVEJOY CHILDREN & YOUTH



CONFIRMATION



On Sunday, November 5, a confirmation ceremony was held for our new confirmands, [Lucy Manker](#), [Maddie Wimbleton](#) (*Moro Presbyterian*), [Uriyah Pennington](#), and [Tony Carmack](#). They began their journey as member of Christ's Church with an overnight retreat at the Amen House at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.

Over the next six months they will be meeting with their mentors, who have pledged to support them through their journey. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW CONFIRMANDS !!**



Happy Birthday

1	15
Mason Inlow	Judy Collins
5	Taylor Drew
Faye Beurk	(Donohoo)
Randy McKee	19
8	Chloe Dillinger
Seth Slayden	Elizabeth Blair
Lucas Bristow	Jordyn Whitten
Seth Slayden	20
Lucas Bristow	Kevin Kerr
12	22
Stephen Abraham	Dillan Plummer
Lois Thompson	24
13	Brenda Tester
Kailey Burton Todd	Don Chapman
14	27
Chris St. Peters	Jason Gould
Marissa Leggett	28
Melissa Todd	Bradley holt
Tanya Sisk	31
	Terry French

Warm & Fuzzy Tree



We are bringing back our Warm & Fuzzy Tree again! We will be collecting various warm and fuzzy items and donating them to the Alton Warming Center. We will collect hats, scarves, gloves, socks, blankets, etc. Anything that will bring warmth! Thank you for your donations.

Announcements

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club is currently reading DAEMON COPPERHEAD by Barbara Kingsolver. Gather via Zoom on November 15 at 7:15 PM for lively discussion.

October 2023 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 10/31/2023 \$ 79,961.47.
 Savings Account Balance as of 10/31/2023 \$ 9,368.74
 Ending Balance as of 10/31/2023 \$ 89,330.21
 Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$143,789.04
 Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$183,117.14. The interest rate is holding at 2.00 %

Happy Christmas

Cheers and Joy
It is a time for celebration.
It is time to be happy.
Christmas is here.
Let the music play.
Let the carols be sung.
Let us feast and drink.
Let us celebrate a birth.
It is that time of year.
So let's start by saying
Happy Christmas

Poet Laureate,
Herbert J. Peel

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 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.



December

January

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	12/1	2 Saturday Café 9a Choir Rehearsal
3 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship	4 1:30p Good Samaritan	5 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Mission and Outreach	6 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	7	8	9 Christmas Bake Sale
10 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 9a Christmas Food Pantry Boxing 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children and Youth	11 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	12 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Worship Committee	13 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch Christmas Party 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	14 6:30p Children & Youth CE	15	16
17 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday	18 1:30p Good Samaritan	19 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6p Finance Meeting	20 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub	21 1p ACE Committee Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting	22	23 9a Choir Rehearsal
24 Christmas Eve 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship 7:30p - Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed all week 9a CANCELLED Food Pantry 1:30p CANCELLED - Good Samaritan	26 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Hybrid Adult Sunday School 10:15a Hybrid Worship						



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

