

THE OBSERVER

MARCH 2024

LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church

“Driven out.” That is a phrase we hear pretty frequently. Refugees from Gaza or Ukraine are ‘driven out’ of their homes to seek shelter elsewhere. Economic factors are ‘driving out’ the poor from their own neighborhoods. Natural disasters are ‘driving out’ animals and communities to higher ground. Being driven out isn’t usually a good thing.

But in our scripture readings this year, Jesus himself is driven out: not by war or violence, but by the Holy Spirit. After his baptism in the Jordan, the Spirit drives him out of his day-to-day life into the wilderness of ministry. Can you imagine if the Spirit did that to us after our own baptisms? That might well halt the practice of infant baptism!

There’s a famous quote by the humorist Finley Peter Dunne that quickly became a slogan of the newspaper industry: The newspaper...“comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable.” The same could be said about the role of our ministry as disciples. In this world where so many are driven out and into harm, fear, doubt, and death – the Spirit is not content to let us sit by comfortably. Instead, the Spirit drives us into action: to stand in solidarity with the afflicted.

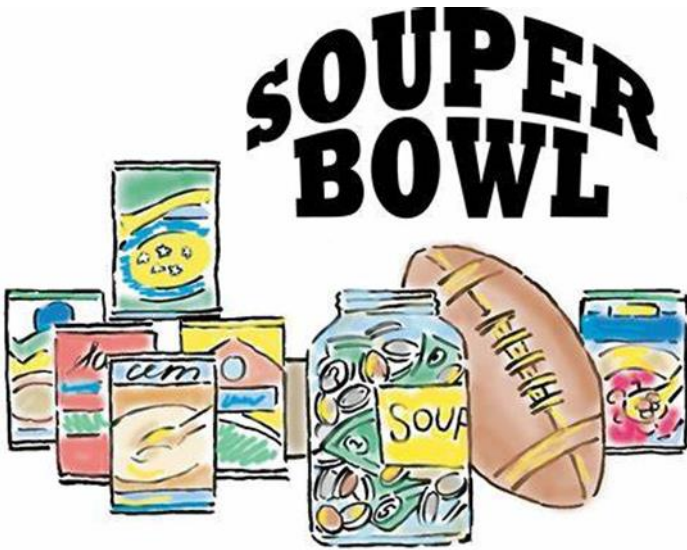
In our reading for March 3, Jesus himself does some driving out. He goes into the temple where the already-afflicted are inflicted with even more debt and burden. There, money changers are shortchanging the already short of change. And there Jesus ‘drives out’ the money changers. I checked and scripture even uses the same Greek word. Just as the Spirit drives Jesus into ministry, Jesus then drives injustice from the world. That is our call, too.

May we be so driven out!

Pastor Daniel



LoveJoy Children & Youth



Did you watch the Super Bowl Football Game on TV with the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs? The youth of LoveJoy United Church sponsored a **SOUPER BOWL** event after worship on February 11. Some adults prepared pots of soup, which was served to people who came to the Fellowship Hall with food items and money to help tackle hunger in the Riverbend area. These gifts were collected on tables set up along the wall. The food and money will be given to needy people in our area.



COLLECTED
357 Items
& \$625 in Cash



Things to Do During Lent

1. **QUIET REFLECTION:** Lent encourages quiet and thoughtful reflection. It is a time to think deeply about your faith, relationship with God, and the sacrifice of Jesus.
2. **PRAYER:** Christians are encouraged to pray more during lent. It is an opportunity to deepen your connection with God and seek God's guidance in your life.
3. **ALMSGIVING:** Almsgiving involves giving to those in need. You can do this by donating to charities, lending a helping hand to people in need, and performing acts of kindness to people you meet.
4. **READ GOD'S WORD FROM THE BIBLE OR BIBLE STORY BOOK:** Read and Explore parables (Jesus' stories with a meaning) such as the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Lost Coin, etc. Look for themes about forgiveness and repentance.
5. **FORGIVE AND MAKE PEACE WITH SOMEONE YOU HAVE HAD CONFLICT**
Most people have things happen in their daily lives that are in conflict with others. Pray for God to help you forgive people to make peace.
6. **SACRIFICE:** Many people choose to give up something they enjoy during Lent. This practice reminds us of Jesus' own sacrifice on the cross. Other people "take on" something to do to help them grown as followers of Jesus, such as the things listed above.



Announcements



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1
Ann French | 19
Eaontae Coleman |
| 2
Lindell Blackford | Kendelle Pelot |
| 8
Gloria Hunt | 21
John Rain III |
| 9
Claude Hunter, Jr.
Stephanie Lindquist | Pat Fletcher |
| 10
Miranda Inlow
Linda Schiltz | 23
Barbara Elledge
Ethan C. Humbert |
| 11
Nora Frank
Glenda Pelot | 24
Joe Freeman |
| 12
Karen Auston | 26
Janice McKee
Luke Workman |
| 13
Kara Carmack | Ross Chapman |
| 16
Shawn Huff | 27
Al Goeway |
| 18
Donny Hayes
Abigail Overstreet
Leroy Duncan | 28
Daniel Ervin
Doris Miller
Doug Bristow
Valerie Freeman |
| | 30
Gavin Chapman
Tiffany Koenig
Andrews
Lisa Randall |

January 2024 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2024 \$142,251.79
Savings Account Balance as of 1/31/2024 \$14,264.86
Ending Balance as of 1/31/2024 \$156,516.65
Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$20,996.61
Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$137,461.79. The interest rate is holding at 2.14 %

We are Forgiven

*We have sinned.
We have broken the rules.
For it is displeasing to the Father,
but our Father is forgiving and kind.
He is understanding.
He sent his only son,
to touch us the Father's way.
He died for our sins.
For our Father loves us.
We are Forgiven.*

Poet Laurette,
Herbert J. Peel

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is THE AGE OF AI by Henry Kissinger. We ZOOM it 03/20 @ 7:15p. Our next book is HORSE by Geraldine Brooks. We ZOOM it on 04/17 @ 7:15p.

MEMBERSHIP

Interested in Membership at LoveJoy United? Learn more on March 10 at 2 PM.

If you are interested in learning more about membership at LoveJoy United, you're invited to an informal gathering on March 10 at 2 pm at Pastor Daniel's house in Edwardsville. Please RSVP to Daniel (daniel@lovejoyupc.org).



"A great big THANK YOU to everyone who made my 90th birthday such a special occasion. Your warm welcome to my family, the good wishes, the birthday cards, the singing of Happy Birthday and the help with the party are all deeply appreciated. The perfect way to be launched into the next decade." - Edie Chappell

Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church

LoveJoy United will pay \$36 per member in 2024 to fund the work of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.

To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. **Per Capita for 2024 is \$36/person.** You can send a check or pay online at lovejoyupc.org/give.

LoveJoy United's
Holy Week
Gatherings

Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24 10:15 AM Sanctuary and Online
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 28 6 PM Fellowship Hall, Dinner provided
Easter	Sunday, March 31 Worship 10:15 AM Sanctuary and Online

Celebrate with us: 2550 Rock Hill Rd.
Wood River, IL 62025

Livestream: www.lovejoyupc.org/live

March 2024

March

April

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													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	3/1	2 Saturday Café
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 6p Lenten Poverty Book Group	1:30p Good Samaritan	9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Mission and Outreach M	10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time starts 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth 6p Lenten Poverty Book Group	9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 3p Poverty Sim Training 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	6:30p Children & Youth Christia		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday 6p Lenten Poverty Book Group	1:30p Good Samaritan	9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6p Finance Meeting 6p Poverty Sim Training	10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	1p ACE Committee Meeting 6:30p Session Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth 11:30a Confirmation Check In 6p Lenten Poverty Book Group	9a Food Pantry 11:30a Worship Committee Decorates for Easter 1:30p Good Samaritan	9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	6p Maundy Thursday		
31						
Easter Sunday 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a - Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship						





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

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62095
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

