

THE OBSERVER

AUGUST 2024



Dear friends,

Just recently, I was catching up with an acquaintance I hadn't seen in a long time. She and I don't know each other well, but we always chit chat a bit when we see one another. She told me how much she was enjoying her retirement and asked what I do for work - and I shared that I was a pastor. She looked concerned and expressed how hard that must be, being everything to everyone all the time.

I laughed. "It is not always an easy job, but fortunately not for that reason," I said. "I couldn't be everything for everyone in a million years. But I don't have to be. There are so many gifted folks in the congregation that, between all of us, there is enough. I'm just one part among many."

"I hadn't thought about church that way," she said.

That conversation reminded me of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church. In a world where there was a strong hierarchy of gifts and responsibilities, where few people mattered and most did not, Paul taught that a church is community of people who share their God-given gifts in order to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Paul writes, "If the foot says, 'I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand,' does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, 'I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye,' does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted."

Christ is the head of the Body and each of us has been brought into the body with our own unique gifts. I was talking to church member recently who lamented that she could no longer do in the church what she used to. She told me that all she can do is make phone calls to other church members who are going through a lonely or difficult period. "But that is a tremendous gift to offer those folks!" I reminded her. Chuck and Lisa Randall, two of our newer members, love a good party. They provided cookies and treats for our Fellowship Sunday in July - even though they were on the road to Yellowstone when the event took place. What a great gift to share! Shane Lindquist came by the other day and fixed a faulty light switch. Ann French and many of our musicians are helping us to worship through special music on Sundays. Several of you provided food for the Carnes family in their time of need. And our hosts on Sunday always greet us and our guests with big smiles as we enter to worship. People are gardening, praying, giving, weeding, discerning, singing, playing, fixing, thinking, and more - and every bit of it is a part of God's ministry at LoveJoy United.

No one person can be everything to everyone. But together, we are Christ's Body, and we have all we need to show his love to one another and to the world around us.

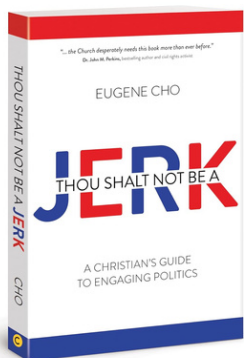
Thanks to all of you for the gifts you so freely share!

Daniel

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ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Live at 9 a.m. in August



It is impossible to live in this country and not feel the tension and polarization of this current political moment. Jesus never engaged in *partisan* politics as we have them today, but he has much to say about how people of faith engage with with the community and world. In that sense, discipleship entails a particular way of approaching the questions raised by politics: where does our ultimate hope lie? How do we engage those with whom we disagree? How does our faith inform our vote?

Join us during Sunday Morning Live this August as we enter into a four week series of discovering how discipleship informs the way we view and participate in politics. Our conversation will be loosely guided by selections from Eugene Cho's book, *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics*. While the book is a good resource, you do not need it to participate in the class.

“To be a Christ follower is to be faithful amid tension. To stay engaged, to remain hopeful, to love anyway, to walk with integrity, and to bear witness to the love, mercy, and grace of Christ.” - Eugene Cho

Wednesday Lectionary Study at 10:15 a.m.

From Pastor Daniel: Do you know the most valuable resource I have in preparing my sermons and planning worship? Hint: it's not Biblical commentaries, Theology Books, or the internet (although they are all very helpful). My most valuable resource is the Wednesday Lectionary Study Group! Together we wrestle with scripture, share our insight about the passages, and wonder together what God is saying to us, our community, and our world. We always love having new voices at the table in-person or Zoom!

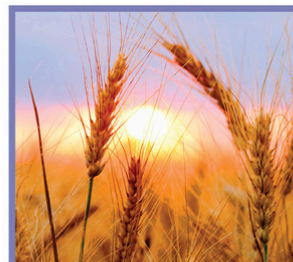
New Bible Study Coming in September

Interested in digging deeper into the themes of scripture? We are excited to offer a new Sunday morning faith formation class! Using the Present Word Curriculum, Dr. Ryan Harris will be leading the first quarter of this series on the theme of “Worship in the Covenant Community.” We look forward to welcoming other church leaders and teachers to facilitate this offering in the future.

The class will meet at the same time as Sunday Morning Live on Sunday mornings from 9–10 a.m. both in person and via Zoom.

Everyone is welcome at both these Sunday morning gatherings. See you there!

THE
PRESENT
WORD
ADULT BIBLE LESSONS



FALL 2024
WORSHIP IN THE
COVENANT COMMUNITY
PARTICIPANT'S BOOK

LoveJOY Children & Youth

POOL PARTY

Come One! Come All!
Everyone is Invited
Children, Youth, Adults

AUGUST 9
RIVER -AIRE POOL
5300 DOVER DR.,
GODFREY
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Food & Refreshments
BRING A FRIEND

*Children under 18 without an adult
should have a permission slip*



CONFIRMATION
& RECEPTION
SEPT. 8



On **AUGUST 11**, there will be a blessing of backpacks during morning worship. This is for students of all ages, teachers, and support staff.

After worship, there will be an **OPEN HOUSE** for all to explore our Sunday School classrooms. There will be classes for all children and youth the first Sunday following the first Saturday each month.

JOSEPH

And His Coat of Many Colors

On **AUGUST 25**, the Word will be presented during worship with a dramatization of the Old Testament Bible story about Jacob and his sons, including his favorite, Joseph. Adults, teens, and children will use the chancel to sing select songs from the famous musical, along special effects.

DON'T MISS IT !

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 19 |
| Don Clapsaddle | Colten Daily |
| Hannah Klette | Diana Thompson |
| Joel Freeman | Kori Frankford |
| 2 | 20 |
| Kiara Alexis Chapman | Anthony Carmack |
| Mason Ballard | Erica Griggs |
| Derek Lankford | 21 |
| 3 | Shane Lindquist Jr. |
| Marilyn King | 22 |
| 4 | Aurora Joellen Hayes |
| Eva Huff | Groman |
| 5 | Cheryl Panyik |
| Chrissy Bristow | Russ Thompson |
| 6 | 23 |
| Crystal Shelton | Robert Musgrave- |
| 7 | Perkins |
| Sharon Jenkins | 25 |
| 9 | Jackson Russell |
| Delores Bloemker | Garrett Jensen |
| Jeffrey Frankford | 26 |
| Mag Paddock | Payton Todd |
| 11 | Betty Langenwalter |
| Mary Cordes | Kate Workman |
| 13 | 28 |
| Mary Barnes | Amy Maggart |
| 14 | 29 |
| Carol Foraker Larry | Sandy Monroe |
| Strohbeck | 17 |
| Sandy Blackford | 30 |
| 18 | Brenda Gremler |
| Katie Davis | Jaynie Doerr |

June 2024 Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2024 \$96,944.77
 Savings Account Balance as of 6/30/2024 \$14,265.18
 Ending Balance as of 6/30/2024 \$111,209.95
 Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$93,477.05
 Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$124,203.71.
 The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %
 7 Month CD: The current amount in the fund \$30,000. The interest rate is 5.11%.

Friendship Psalm

*My heavenly Father, thou art with me.
 We shall walk together on the holy journey.
 For thy servant, I am also thy friend.
 You shall be there to guide and inspire me, like the
 gardener and his garden.
 The father shall touch and help the son.
 Like two friends, we shall battle together.
 Thy will be there for each other.
 Oh Father, you are my Master and Friend.*

Poet Laureate,
 Herbert J. Peel

Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk:

Engaging in Political Life as Followers of Jesus, Sundays in August at 9 AM in-person and on Zoom in the Fellowship Hall.
 Join us for a structured time of learning about how disciples of Jesus interact faithfully with the world around them. Pastor Daniel along with other leaders of the Adult Christian Ed. Committee will lead us.

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is MORNINGS IN JENIN by Susan Abulwaha. We ZOOM it on 08/21 @ 7:15p. Our next book is THE IMMORAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot. We ZOOM it on 09/18 @ 7:15p.

August 2024



August

September

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	8/1	2	3

<p>4</p> <p>9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30p Mission and Outreach</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Eveing Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6p Pool Party</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Blessing of the Backpacks Shape Notes! 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Eveing Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1p ACE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6p Finance Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Eveing Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3p Presbytery Gathering 6:30p - CANCELLED Session Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Joseph Play 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9a Food Pantry</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Eveing Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

