

THE OBSERVER

SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear friends,

During Worship on September 8, we will have the special joy of confirming some of LoveJoy United's youth. Confirmation is an ancient ritual in the church whereby we pray that God's Spirit will strengthen and encourage young Christians in their faith and baptismal identity. If the youth, mentors, or I look sleepy that morning, it's because we will have just returned from a Confirmation Retreat in St. Louis, preparing them for the parts of this ceremony: the laying on the hands, the prayers for the Spirit's gifts, and the anointing of oil.

After worship on that day, we'll celebrate these youth with a reception in the Fellowship Hall. But we celebrate these youth not because of what they've already done (they're just getting started on this faith journey!), but because of who they are becoming: followers of Jesus.

After confirmation, these youth, accompanied by their mentors, will begin meeting together regularly as they learn the way of faith and discipleship. I invite you to pray for them, to reach out to them, and to share this Christian walk alongside them.

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

Daniel Ervin contact info: Church phone – 618.254.5880; cell – 704.380.0498
Email – daniel@lovejoyupc.org

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY AT LOVEJOY UNITED

Maximizing Charitable Donations

For those of you who are 70½ or above, own Traditional and/or Roth IRA investments, and make donations to qualified charities, such as, religious institutions, veteran's organizations, fraternal societies, and community foundations that provide scholarships; it is now possible to make tax-free donations on the mandatory distributions from these securities. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) allow the owner, you, to forward a portion of the "required" annual distribution directly from the IRA custodian or trustee to the charity, thereby excluding that portion of the IRA distribution from taxable income.



It is important to note that each year, the QCD transaction must be completed before December 31. To learn more about this tax benefit, it is prudent to discuss your financial situation and personal gift giving desires with a qualified financial planner and/or income tax adviser.



Abundant Gifts

Our little church garden, which supplements our food pantry with fresh produce, is in its harvest season. One recent Monday, twelve families that our food pantry supports received tasty, fresh produce in addition to the usual non-perishable goods they receive. Brenda Donohoo, who works in our pantry, shared with us how appreciative the families were. Fresh produce is a luxury for many of us these days, but very rarely is it an option in local food pantries.

One of the unique challenges about our garden is that it does not check the church calendar to know when to be ready to be picked! It keeps producing even on weeks when our food pantry is not open. These gleanings have gone to Operation Blessing, to the homes of church members, and to other friends in our community. It is a beautiful image reminding us that what God has given us in creation is enough to go around to all!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Live at 9 a.m

Even as we add an additional Sunday School Class, we will continue our informal, conversational Sunday Morning Life offering. Rev. Dr. Mark Russell leads this engaging class as we talk about faith, life, and the world around us. All are welcome both in-person in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.

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!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We're thrilled to welcome K-12 Children and Youth to our 2024-2025 gatherings. We'll meet on the First Sunday (after the first Saturday) of each month following worship, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The first gathering will be September 8. Contact Tacoma Monroe, Ken Webster, Pastor Daniel, or Sandy Monroe to learn more!



One of our youth washes the hands of her confirmation mentor.

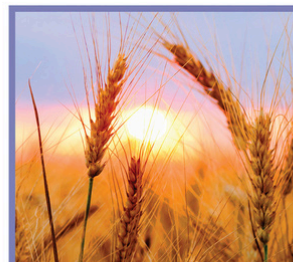
New Bible Study Coming in September

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

ANNUAL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE EVENT



Thursday September 26th – Saturday, September 28th

Our Rummage Sale is just around the corner. We will begin accepting donations on Monday, September 23rd. We are asking for donations of furniture, appliances, tools, shoes, luggage, handbags, jewelry, kitchen items, seasonal decorations, children's clothing and toys. We do not accept adult clothing but would welcome jeans, coats and jackets.

We will not accept donations after noon on Wednesday, September 25th.

Marking your items in advance of drop off is greatly appreciated to allow our volunteers more time to sort donations. **Please don't price any items under 25¢. This makes it much easier to total when checking out. You can always bundle items so they are valued a quarter.**

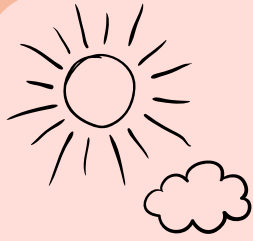
The sale begins Thursday, September 26th (5-7 p.m.) with a Pre-sale and donation of \$3 to enter that evening.

Friday and Saturday (9/27 & 9/28) hours are 8 a.m.-noon. All unsold items will be donated to the Marines for their Toys for Tots campaign. If you want any of your donations back, you must pick them up before noon on Saturday or let one of our volunteers know.

Thanks in advance for everyone's support. We also need your help that week pricing and organizing our donations. We usually have crews there both day and evening. And while it's a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun!

If you have questions, contact Brenda Donohoo at 618-254-1539 or Jennifer Wyatt at 618-466-2328.

And as I always say: "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot!"



Poem



By Candlelight

For a writer and poet

For I have been given a gift.

*With a quill, some parchment, and an ink
pot, I shall write poetry, stories and essays.*

*Anything my imagination can think of
For my writing skills are a gift from God
himself and for that, I thank him.*

Thank God for all the gifts he hath giveth me.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

We are Called

We are born, and so it begins.

We are called by God to do a job.

We have work to do.

Some are called to sing.

Some are called to write.

Some are called to read.

Some are called to help others.

There is a job that needs to be done.

For we are called by God to do a job, so, let's get to work.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

Announcements

SEPTEMBER

Happy Birthday

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Tara Hayes | 18 Sydnee Jacquin |
| 2 Kate Trudell | Courtney Russell |
| James White | 19 Keelan Crawford |
| 3 Scott Davis | Lance Hatcher |
| 4 Adele Lakin | 20 Rob LaMarsh |
| Lisa Mabb | 21 Kolby Carnes |
| Josh Utnage | 22 Amanda Cox |
| 5 Michael Mayerhofer | 23 Derek Kerr |
| Randy Bishop | 24 Alvie Young |
| Winnie Whitaker | 25 Judith Sutter |
| 7 Emma Carnes | Judy Luck |
| Heather Ballard | 26 Kyle Duncan |
| Joanne Lenhardt | 27 Austin Miller |
| 8 Steven Lewis | 28 Linda Welch |
| 10 Cavi White | 29 Casey Daniel |
| 11 Kennedy Carnes | |
| 12 Jack Gould | |
| Greg Bauer | |

July 2024 Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as 7/31/2024 \$44,951. Savings Account Balance as of 7/31/2024 \$14,265.18 Ending Balance as of 7/31/2024 \$59,216.82

Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$109,657.31

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$124,863.21

The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %

7 Month CD: The current amount in the fund \$30,000. The

Rummage Sale Meeting

Wednesday, September 11 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, for anyone interested in helping with the Rummage Sale. If you cannot attend, please call or email Jenny Wyatt (618) 978-4725, JWYATT1413@GMAIL.COM or Brenda Donohoo (618) 444-9190, BSDONOHOO@GMAIL.COM

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is THE IMMORAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot. We ZOOM it on 09/18 @ 7:15p. Our next book is TOM LAKE by Ann Patchett. We ZOOM it on 10/16 @ 7:15p.

September 2024

September

October

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| 9/1 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship | 2 Labor Day - Office Closed | 3 6:30p Mission and Outreach | 4 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer | 5 | 6 Confirmation Retreat ----- | 7 Saturday Café |
| 8 Confirmation Sunday 9a Present Word Class Begins 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Deacon's Meeting 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth | 9 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting | 10 | 11 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer | 12 6:30p Children & Youth Christi | 13 | 14 11a Alton Pride |
| 15 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday | 16 | 17 6p Finance Meeting | 18 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub | 19 2p ACE Committee Meeting | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship | 23 9a Food Pantry | 24 | 25 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer | 26 5p Rummage Sale - Presale 6:30p Session Meeting | 27 8a Rummage Sale | 28 8a Rummage Sale |
| 29 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship | 30 | | | | | |



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

