



THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

With October comes a busy and exciting season in the life of our congregation. On October 2, we'll be hosting our second Red Cross Blood Drive. Our Native American Sunday festivities will take place on October 13. We'll be celebrating our now-operating solar panels during and after worship on October 20. And sprinkled throughout, our choir and bell choirs will be rehearsing, children and youth will be gathering, food will be donated and distributed, prayers will be offered, meals will be prepared, people will be welcomed, and God will be glorified!

October is also the month of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, "The Glory Belongs to God." We will remember what the catechism teaches us: the 'chief end of humankind: to glorify God and enjoy God forever.' As Christians, we're called to live every part of our lives in a way that brings glory to our God. That is why we worship, why we care for the least of these, why we forgive, why we pray, and it's also why we give to the ministry of the church.

Over the last year, LoveJoy United's ministries have flourished due, in no small part, to your generosity. And through that growth and flourishing, we have brought greater glory to our God and more love to our neighbors. As we enter into this stewardship season, I invite you to discern how your giving can be an expression of praise and thanksgiving for God's presence in your life. Ryan and I have been prayerfully thinking about how we can grow our financial support of this community God has called us to. And we will make our pledge for 2025 to enable our church leaders to plan and dream for the future God has in store for us. We hope and pray that you and your family will join us and do the same.

You can make your pledge now at lovejoyupc.org/pledge.

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Daniel

SUNday

Celebrating our solar energy system

October 20, 2024 after worship

We are delighted to announce that our church's new solar panels are now fully operational! This significant step toward sustainability aligns with our commitment to caring for God's creation. To celebrate this milestone, we will hold a special blessing ceremony after worship on Sunday, October 20.

Following the service, join us for a joyous fellowship gathering where we'll share Sun-themed snacks. Let's come together to mark this important occasion in the life of our church. We hope to see you there, basking in the shared warmth of our faith and our dedication to a greener, more faithful future!

SUNday

Celebration

October 20, 2024

STAY HEALTHY THIS FALL

Vaccine Clinic at LoveJoy United

Wednesday, October 9, 12 PM

The Medicine Shoppe will be offering COVID, Flu, RSV, Shingles, and Pneumonia vaccines in the Fellowship Hall at LoveJoy United on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 12 PM. Please bring your insurance card.

Help keep each other well!

During COVID we learned how to love one another by taking precautions when we're sick. If you're not feeling well, please consider worshipping with us via Zoom and by wearing a mask when you are in the church building.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO WE CARE ABOUT UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS?

Last May we had a Poverty Simulation exercise to help us understand some of the problems those living in poverty face. Some of those were problems of our unhoused persons. Now is our opportunity to actually do something about it. On Sunday, October 6, during worship we will be writing letters to our County Board asking them to take action on developing a plan to use the \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan monies for our homeless people in Madison County. If a plan is not submitted by December 15, that \$2.5 million is to be returned. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we are to care for the “least of these.” Writing a letter (copy enclosed) is certainly a way to speak out for our unhoused persons. See next page for a sample letter to the Madison County Board Chairman.

PLASTIC PEOPLE: A new toy? No, each and every one of us, even newborn babies have plastic in our bodies. The Adult Christian Education Committee is hosting a movie night showing the PBS documentary, “We’re All Plastic People Now.” We hope you’ll join us in Fellowship Hall to watch and then discuss this documentary on Sunday, October 20, at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). As an Earth Care Congregation, it’s important for us to be aware of one of the major pollutants on earth so we can do what we can to reduce the plastics in our lives (and in our bodies).

NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 13, we will celebrate Native American Sunday. Following worship the congregation is invited to a special dinner and program in fellowship hall. Hamburgers and hot dogs and all the “fixins” will be provided (including pie and cobbler), and Ken Webster will talk about our Wood River Native American forebears. Ken will also have his book available for purchase. To help with the cost of the meat (other foods are provided by willing volunteers), we will collect a free will offering. If the offering exceeds the price of the meat, that overage will be donated to the mission projects of the church.

Sample Letter to Madison County Chairman

Mr. Kurt Prenzler, Chairman
Madison County Board
157 N. Main St., Ste. 165
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Mr. Prenzler:

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church in Wood River is designated by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Matthew 25 Congregation. As such and as Jesus commands us to do, we, at LoveJoy, care for the “least of these.” Certainly, our unhoused persons in Madison County fit that description.

As I understand it, the County’s \$2.5 million American Rescue Plan funding needs to have a plan submitted by December 15. The Salvation Army’s plans for a transitional housing facility have been denied by the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) people twice. I don’t want to see that \$2.5 million sent back. Something needs to be done. The County needs to act.

There is a program called Housing First (fact sheet enclosed) that doesn’t require a particular facility to be built or designated. People are simply permanently housed. They are provided with mental health, substance abuse, or whatever type of counseling needed to help them stabilize their lives. Among other places, Finland and Sarasota, FL have had great success with the Housing First method. Though Housing First does cost more to implement in the beginning, societal costs have been shown to have a savings of \$1.44 for every dollar invested.

The Salvation Army has \$2.5 million to put toward helping our unhoused persons. That added to the County’s ARP funds is \$5 million. I would hope the County would be open to something other than a facility to house these individuals. Please don’t be stuck on the idea of needing a facility that likely would be subject to the NIMBY criticism. This problem will not just go away. Please take action.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

1	HEATHER FRANK	13	KEN WEBSTER
2	CARL RUSSELL	14	CYNDY SHUMWAY
3	LINDA ALLEN	15	CRAIG UTNAGE
4	BENSON BAUER	16	CAROLE ABRAHAM
	PAXTON BELCHIK	20	BARBARA PITT
	DIXIE ENGLEMAN		DOTTIE KLEINERT
	JACK KLEINERT		SYDNEY SLAYDEN
	JORDAN WHITE	21	ERIC UTNAGE
	JORDAN WHITE BLAIR	23	NIKKI RUSSELL
	LISA KERR		ZACHARY LLEWELYN
5	SHANE LINDQUIST	25	AMANDA OVERSTREET
	SHIRLEY MARTIN		JIM SUERIG
6	JENNIFER WYATT	26	JOHN GREMLI
7	DAN DONOHOO		JOHN RAIN
	ALEX GARDENER		MELODEE MAZUR- PLUMMER
			THOMAS BALLARD
8	BRENDA DONOHOO	27	MIKE PADDOCK
9	LARRY KING	28	JIM HOLT
10	ADAM LAMARSH	29	BEV HAYES
			GAVIN SHELTON
11	ANDREA FRANKFORD	31	SCOTT SHELTON

August 2024 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 8/31/2024 \$41,695.36

Savings Account Balance as of 8/31/2024 \$14,265.53

Ending Balance as of 8/31/2024 \$55,960.89

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$124,069.51

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

Lyceum Book Club's current book:

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.



Poem



Healing Prayer

*Great and most kind Heavenly Father,
will you be with us?
I have fallen down.
I am not feeling well.
You are the great Holy Father.
Be there as we rest.
For you shall pat your and and we shall be better.
We ask this in your sons name,
Amen*



Prayer of the Meal

*Great and most kind Heavenly Father,
We are gathered together here to dine,
to talk, to fellowship, to be brothers and sisters,
to sit at the table and eat.
Bless us, bless this meal, so we may go out
and do thy bidding.
We shall dine sufficiently and happily.
We ash this in your and your sons name.
Amen*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

October 2024

October

November

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		10/1 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Mission and Outreach	2 Red Cross Blood Drive 8a Vallow Puts Floor In 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 12p Vaccine Clinic 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	3	4	5
6 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth	7 11:30a Worship Committee Decorates	8 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Worship Committee	9 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 12p Vaccine Clinic 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	10 6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed	11	12
13 Native American Sunday 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Native American Sunday Lunch	14 Columbus Day - Office Closed Indigenous Peoples' Day 9a Food Pantry	15 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6p Finance Meeting	16 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub	17 2p ACE Committee Meeting	18	19
20 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Committee 7p Movie Night ("We're All Plastic People Now")	21 Tabitha Vacation All Week	22 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting	23 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	24 6:30p Session Meeting	25	26
27 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship	28 9a Food Pantry	29 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting	30 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	31 Halloween		



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

2550 Rock Hill Road
Wood River, IL
62095
Phone: 618-254-5880
Fax: 618-254-1288

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

