



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

Advent blessings to you! During this most busy season, we can so easily become overwhelmed by the shopping, the commitments, and the preparation. Every year I wonder how we can possibly have time to prepare our hearts for Jesus. I want to invite you to join your church family in worship and fellowship this season – not as just another date to put on your calendar – but as way to hold fast to God's promises revealed in Jesus Christ. I want to draw your attention to two new events especially. 1) We're going to have our first Christmas Potluck on Dec. 15 after worship. 2) Our deacons will be hosting a special 'Longest Night' service on Dec. 21. This communion service, held on the longest night of the year, is a space of prayer and healing for those who are experiencing grief, illness, or doubt this season. All, however, are welcome to attend.

Christ's peace be with you,
Pastor Daniel



Advent and Christmas at LoveJoy United.

- **Christmas Potluck, Sun, Dec. 15 after worship.** Please bring a dish to share. The Fellowship Committee is providing a ham.
- **Longest Night Service, Saturday Dec. 15 at 6 PM.** This service, held on the winter solstice, is for all those experiencing pain, doubt, or grief this season. We know that the holidays are not cheerful and joyful for everyone. You're not alone.
- **Choir Cantata, Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:15 AM**
- **Christmas Eve Worship, Dec 24 at 6:30 PM (Coffee and Fellowship begins at 5:30 PM).** Join us for this most holy night of communion, candlelight, hymns, and story. This is what Christmas is all about.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Birthdays

1	15
Mason Inlow	Judy Collins
5	Taylor Drew (Donohoo)
Faye Beurk	16
Randy McKee	Holly Rain
8	19
Seth Slayden	Elizabeth Blair
Lucus Bristow	Jordyn Whitten
12	20
Stephen Abraham	Kevin Kerr
Lois Thompson	22
13	Dillan Plummer
Kailey Todd	24
14	Brenda Tester
Chris St. Peters	Don Chapman
Marissa Leggett	27
Melissa Todd	Jason Gould
Tanya Sisk	28
	Bradley Holt

October 2024 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 10/31/2024 \$74,418.70

Savings Account Balance as of 10/31/2024 \$14,265.89

Ending Balance as of 10/31/2024 \$88,684.59

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$155,592.21

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$125,533.51 The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.

Lyceum Book Club's current book:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is THE VASTER WILDS by Lauren Groff. We ZOOM it on 12/18 @ 7:15p. Our next book is THE VASTER WILDS by Lauren Groff. We ZOOM it on 12/18 @ 7:15p.

Sign up now for a new Sunday Morning Study Starting Dec. 1 on the Book of John

We have been delighted in the response to the first session of our new Adult Sunday School class, which has been led by Ryan Harris since September. **Beginning December 1 at 9 AM**, we will transition to a new topic and a new teacher. Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert will be leading us through the book of John with a curriculum by the wonderful Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar of the New Testament. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex or lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps so we can order your materials. See you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bake Sale

Candies, Cookies, Breads & Pies

*Saturday, December 7th
10:00 am – Noon*



*LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Rd., Wood River
618-254-5880*

*Select your favorites from a wonderful
variety of sweet treats that will be sold
by the pound or as priced.*

Proceeds from this sale benefit our Good Samaritan Fund which assists families in our community with food and utilities.



Attention all Bakers and Candy Makers:

Our Annual Bake Sale is Saturday, December 7th.

There will be a sign-up sheet available in the middle of November. We are looking forward to another successful sale with a large variety of pies, cookies, candies and breads.



*Bake Sale
Cookies, Candies, Breads & Pies*



*Saturday, December 7th
10:00 am – Noon*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission and Outreach would like to introduce our Necessi Tree to our congregation.

The Necessi Tree will collect items for the Warming Center. Anything **necessary** to keep warm this winter plus **necessity** items like socks and underwear. We need a variety of sizes for women, men and children.

We also need hats, scarves, gloves, small blankets, etc. that are **necessary** for warmth.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tell Congress to Support Our Immigrant Communities
The General Assembly has consistently supported the rights of immigrants, most recently declaring the PC(USA) a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church, encouraging congregations, mid-councils, and members to support immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their children. Our faith teaches us to welcome the stranger, as Leviticus 19:33-34 commands us not to mistreat the stranger, reminding us that we were once strangers. (11/19/24)

Ask your Senators to Halt Weapons Sales to Israel



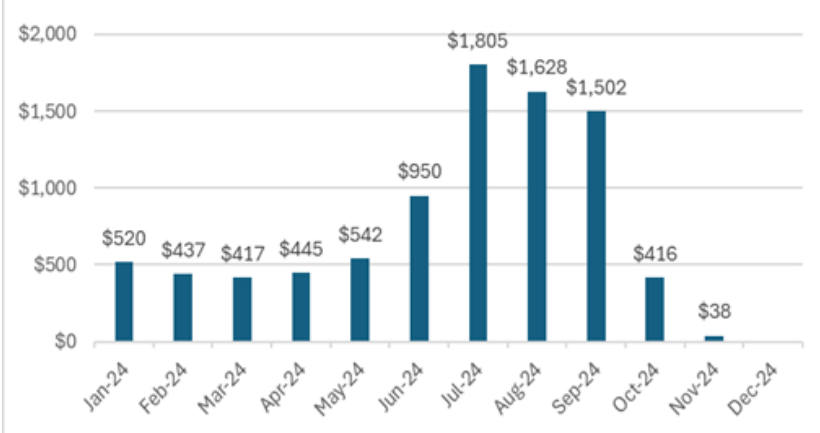
As Christians, we believe that every human being is made in the image of God and that we are called to be peacemakers in a broken world.

Action Alerts are published by the Presbyterian Church's Office of Public Witness, which helps to interpret and advocate the church's social policies in the public square. At the same time, we acknowledge that 'God alone is Lord of the conscience,' and Presbyterians can faithfully disagree on matters of faith and policy.

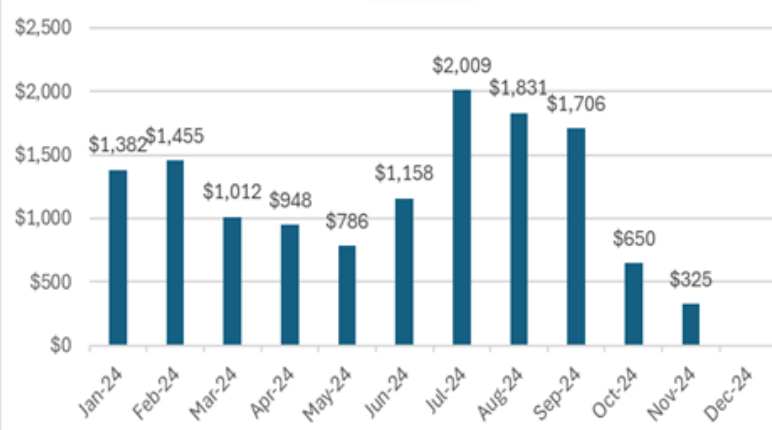
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow Finance & Administration

AMEREN BILL - ELECTRICITY ONLY
CHART A



AMEREN BILL - ELECTRICITY & GAS
CHART B



*Since the installation of our Solar Panels in early October, we have saved \$905.00 on our electricity bill when compared to the same time as last year. Each sunny month, the blue bars will continue to recede. The more sunshine, the more carbon-free kilowatts we reap from Earth, and the greater savings for LoveJoy UPC.

*Chart A tracks our Electricity charges. Chart B tracks our total Ameren charges, which include Gas and Electricity. Both are trending downward.



Poem



Hospital Psalm

*Oh heavenly father, my teacher my lord.
I am very sad and broken hearted.
I have fallen down with a stroke, heart attack, I am hurt.
I wish to be healed, to be cured.
You have tasks, and a job that needs to be done.
We praise you.
We thank you.
Now we are in the Hospital.
We asked to be healed.
For God you are the Master and Father.*

Christmas Psalm

*God my Father, my Teacher, my Rock.
We the children, love you.
We thank you for the gifts you have given
to us, and the miracles you you have
performed.
For you have given us the greatest present
of all, your son.
born of the Virgin Mary and lowered down
to us the shepherds and wise men.
He shall grow up to teach us your ways.
We the children, trust in you and the son.
We shall do our best to follow you.
Father, you are the Lord, Teacher and Rock.*

Poet Laureate

Herbert J. Peel

December 2024

December

January

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
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/1 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: Sunday Live 10:15a Worship	2 Christmas Wonderland	3 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 2p Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30p Mission and Outreach	4 Pecan Making in Kitchen 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	5	6 12p Assemble Christmas Boxes	7 Saturday Café 10a Cookie Sale
8 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: Sunday Live 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth	9 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting	10 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Worship Committee	11 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	12 9a Officer Training 5p Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Children & Youth CE	13 Toys for Tots Pick Up	14 12:30p Called Presbytery Meeting
15 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: Sunday Live 10:15a Worship	16	17 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6p Finance Meeting	18 9:30a Piano Tuning 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 6:30p Session Meeting	20	21 6p Longest Night Service
22 Cantata 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: Sunday Live 10:15a Worship	23 9a Food Pantry Office Closed this week	24 Christmas Eve 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 5:30p Coffee Bar before Christmas Eve 6:30p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: Sunday Live 10:15a Worship	30	31 New Year's Eve 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting	1/1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 9:30a Called Session Meeting



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

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Wood River, IL
62095
Phone: 618-254-5880
Fax: 618-254-1288

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

