

LoveJoy  United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

On the very chilly morning of Sunday, January 12, our congregation gathered to celebrate Epiphany—one week late because of the snow. During that service, we were introduced to an old Christian practice of "chalking the doors" during the season of Epiphany. Since the Middle Ages, Christians have blessed the doors of their homes and churches by inscribing the year along with the letters C+M+B, which are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi.

This blessing is a way of dedicating our homes, our church, and our lives to Christ's presence throughout the year. It's also a reminder that just as the holy family welcomed the wise men from afar, we also open up our homes and lives to those in need.

After the service, many of us (like John Rain!) took home a piece of chalk and a simple blessing prayer to mark our own doors, bringing this centuries-old tradition into our own time and space. Whether you participated then or would like to do so now, may this practice remind us all that our lives and homes are places where Christ dwells, guiding us in love, hospitality, and faith.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Daniel



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYCEUM LINKS FOR FEBRUARY



On February 19, The Lyceum Book Group will discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. James McBride's novel is about small-town secrets, the people who keep them and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community.

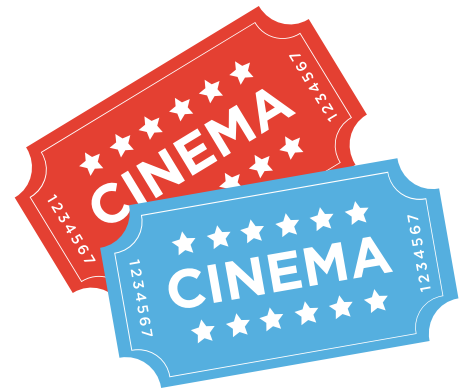
Join our Zoom discussion at 7:15 on Wednesday evening after Evening Prayer.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

On February 23, we will celebrate Black History Month by viewing a film based on the thrilling and inspirational life of the iconic American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman. "*Harriet*" tells the extraordinary tale of this heroine's escape from slavery and her willingness to risk capture and death to guide hundreds of others to safety as one of the most prominent conductors of the Underground Railroad.

Cynthia Erivo was nominated for a best actress Oscar for her role as Harriet. And, by the way, she is nominated for best Actress again this year for playing Elphaba in "*Wicked*."

We will be gathering at 6:00 p.m. this time (rather than 6:30), and we invite attendees to bring something to eat for their own supper (a snack or a pizza or sandwich, etc.). The Shugerts will provide drinks and something sweet to eat (e.g., cookies).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Opportunity: Weaving ground mats!

We are going to be weaving ground mats made out of recycled plastic shopping bags. These will go to our unhoused neighbors. The loom will be set up in the back corner of Fellowship Hall and everyone is welcome to help weave the mats. Please log your time in the notebook. Talk to Alice Buzzard to learn how to weave, read the instructions in the notebook, or check out the videos at midwestmission.org/loom.



For decades, scripture has reminded Presbyterians that God calls us to welcome and provide for immigrants in our midst

The PC(U.S.A.) stands in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers affirming that our collective flourishing depends on the safety and security of everyone, including those newly arriving on our shores.

Write Congress today to urge policymakers to reject the “Laken Riley Act” and invest in our nation’s longstanding tradition of welcoming immigrants.

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

February Birthdays



1	16
Tara Caputo	Carol Bouyea
4	17
Kathleen Chappell	Darvin Bloemker
5	18
Virginia Shelton	Rev. Dr. Mark
7	Russell
Elise Gremler	22
8	Jonathan Carnes
Michael Rust	23
9	Edie Chappell
Bob Hagaman	Eric Langenwalter
Pat Cooper	24
11	Jim Cerny
Nora Bristow	Ken Ringhausen
Cindy Mayhew	Susan Johns
Taylor Pruitt	25
12	Alex Cunningham
Lynn Engelman	Jean Utnage
14	27
Beverly Kowalewhich	Paula Blair
Brenday Creasey	
15	
Alex Hayes	

December 2024 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 12/31/2024 \$85558.65
 Savings Account Balance as of 12/31/2024 \$14,266.25
 Ending Balance as of 12/31/2024 \$99,824.90
 Pledge Income Received:
 YTD Pledge total \$199,983.86
 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.

2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

1/15/25 Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
 2/19/25 The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
 3/19/25 Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks
 4/16/25 Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
 5/23/25 The First Ladies by Marie Benedict, Victoria Christopher
 6/18/25 Clear by Carys Davies
 7/16/25 James by Percival Everett
 8/20/25 The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben and/or Overstory by Richard Powers
 9/17/25 Blood Sisters by Vanessa Lillie
 10/15/25 Absolution by Alice McDermott
 11/19/25 Peace Like a River by Leif Enger
 12/17/25 Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 4
 2 pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall



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 put your hand and we shall be better.
We ask this in your and your son's name,
Amen.

Prayer of the Meal

Great and most kind Heavenly Father,
we are gathered 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 ask this in your and your son's name,
Amen.

Give Thanks to God

We love each other.
We love God our Father.
God loves us.
God sent us his son.
The son taught us many things.
The son showed us many things.
We are born to serve.
We shall and must serve.
For all the things God has done for us, let
us give thanks to God.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

February



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am -LoveJoy Children & Youth	3	4 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am -Staff Meeting 2pm -Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm -Mission and Outreach	5 10:15am -Lectlony Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer	6	7	8 10am -Presbytery Committee MTG
9 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship	10 9am -Food Pantry 12:15pm • PEO Women's Meeting	11 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am -Staff Meeting 6:30pm -Worship Committee	12 10:15am -Lectlony Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer	13 6:30pm -Children & Youth CE	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am -Fellowship Hour	17 President's Day - Office Closed	18 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am -Staff Meeting 6pm -Finance Meeting	19 10:15am -Lectlony Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm -LoveJoy Lyceum	20 2pm -ACE Committee Meeting	21	22
23 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 6pm -Church Movie Night	24 9am -Food Pantry	25 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am -Staff Meeting	26 10:15am -Lectlony Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer	27 6:30pm -Children & Youth CE	28	



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

