



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

In big and small moments of life - like a birthday, or a new year - I often turn to a book of blessings given to me at my ordination called "To Bless the Space Between Us." It's by John O'Donohue, an Irish priest and poet who channels so brilliantly the Celtic tradition of the Christian faith. Here's a blessing for a new year:

Beannacht: A Blessing for the New Year
John O'Donohue

“On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.

And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets in to you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green,
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.”

In Christ,
Pastor Daniel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY

Birthdays

1	17
Justin Manker	Cheri Levan
2	David Norris
Maranda Young	Kathy Steinmann
Nicholas Daily	19
3	Isabella Bauer
Lee McCoy	21
4	Abby Cotter
David Hemphill	23
Doug Workman	Sherry Ulett
Karen Huff	Drew Belchik
10	26
Jeane Slayden	Ryan Harris
11	Rick Buzzard
Mary Ellen Fulkerson	28
13	Linda LaMarsh
Laura Cerny	Karen Gunter
14	Martha Schultz
Ralph Thompson	29
17	Gary Fleming
Cheri Levan	31
David Norris	Zach Friederich
Kathy Steinmann	

**** Free Quilting Frame ****

Linda LaMarsh has an unassembled, like new quilting frame, that she would like to rehome that is free to whomever is interested. Contact Rob or Linda if interested.

November 2024 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 11/30/2024 \$74,418.70
Savings Account Balance as of 11/30/2024 \$14,265.89
Ending Balance as of 11/30/2024 \$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.

Thank You From The Food Pantry

Thank you for your generosity this past year. The Food Pantry was open 24 times during 2024. We served 222 families (up 41) over 2023. We provided food to a total of 516 individuals which was also (up 128) over 2023. There is a definite need in our community.

Due to your generosity, we were also able to provide Aldi gift cards and a nice Christmas basket that included a ham & fruit basket in December.

If you would like to donate in January, we are asking for canned soup.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to Brenda Donohoo or Marilyn King.

Red Cross Blood Drive

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYCEUM LINKS FOR 2025

The Lyceum Book Club meets on Zoom every third Wednesday evening at 7:15 (immediately following Prayer Group).

Here are some things you need to know about this lively and interesting group:

1. You may attend even if you haven't read the selected book for the month (if it is a mystery you may not want to hear the ending, so perhaps choose another month).
2. You don't have to attend the gathering every month. If you see a book listed that you really want to read or have read and you want to discuss it, feel free to join us for that discussion!
3. You don't have to be a church member to be a part of Lyceum. We have two attendees that live in another state and lend their ideas and impressions and thoughts to our discussions (new friends always add a spark to any group!).

We have chosen the list of books for 2025.

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

Note: the August 20 selection includes two titles. You may choose just one of the two or you could read both. We will have a lively discussion that evening!

January 2025

January

February

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 New Year's Eve 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	1/1 New Year's Day Office Closed 10:15a Canceled Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Canceled Lunch Bunch 1p Canceled Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Canceled Evening Prayer	2	3	4 9:30a Called Session Meeting
5 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: SML 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth	6	7 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Mission and Outreach M	8 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	9 6:30p Children & Youth CE	10	11
12 Ordination and Installation of Elders 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: SML 10:15a Worship	13 9a Food Pantry 11a Worship Committee decorates from Christmas 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting	14 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting	15 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer 7:15a LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub	16 2p ACE Committee Meeting 6:30p Boundary Training	17	18
19 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: SML 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Hour	20 Office Closed Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6p Finance Meeting	22 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	23 6:30p Session Meeting	24	25
26 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Formation: Bible Class 9a Adult Formation: SML 10:15a Worship	27 9a Food Pantry	28 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Lent Planning Meeting	29 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 1p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer	30	31	2/1



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

