



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 7 PM. Lent is a penitential season: a season where we say we're sorry to God and we pledge to be more faithful. That's why we put ashes on our foreheads and remember Christ's own suffering. But Lent is also an instructional season. In the early church, Lent was the period of preparation for those preparing to get baptized on Easter Sunday. LoveJoy United always offers additional opportunities for faith formation during Lent to help us grow more faithful on this journey to the cross and resurrection.

I'm tremendously excited about this year's offerings. Our Worship, Fellowship, and Adult Christian Education Committees have teamed up to plan and organize a weekly Wednesday night Supper Church, which begins on March 12 at 6:30 PM. Through good food, fellowship, and worship, we'll deepen our commitment to celebrate and care for God's creation. Some of the things we'll be doing: 1) planting seeds to get a jumpstart on our garden. 2) Going forest bathing (don't worry, this is a fully clothed activity!), and 3) eating a meal made of local, in-season food.

I hope you'll join us - just show up!

Daniel



PLENTIFUL

TENDING TO THE BOOK OF NATURE

LENTEN SUPPER CHURCH

Join us at **6:30 pm on Wednesdays** during Lent for a shared meal, worship, fellowship, and conversation, as we explore connections between faith, creation, and spiritual renewal. Through Scripture, reflection, and hands-on practices, we will learn how tending to God's earth deepens our faith and invites us into God's abundance.

THE BOOK OF NATURE

From the early church mothers and fathers to the Protestant Reformers, Christians have recognized the many ways God reveals Godself to us. The Book of Scripture is our primary source of God's revelation. But creation also reveals God to us. Psalm 19 begins, "The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." This 'Book of Nature' bears witness to God, too.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

- **March 5, Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 PM.** No dinner provided

DINNER DATES & TOPICS

- **March 12, 6:30 PM,** Planting Seeds
- **March 19, 6:30 PM,** Feasting with Earth's Rhythms
- **March 26, 6:30 PM,** *shinrin-yoku* or 'Forest Bathing'
- **April 2, 6:30 PM,** Bread Baking
- **April 9, 6:30 PM,** Fasting from more than Food

HOLY WEEK GATHERINGS

- **April 17, 6:30PM,** Maundy Thursday Worship & Meal
- **April 18, Time TBD,** Outdoor Good Friday Worship & Work in the Garden
- **April 20, 10:15 AM,** Easter and Earth Sunday

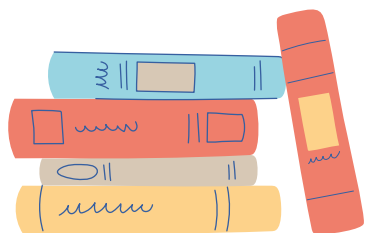
CARE FOR CREATION

As an Earth Care congregation, we acknowledge that we have sinned in our failure to care for God's creation. Our call to discipleship includes a call to care for the Earth, our common home.

LOVEJOY UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYCEUM LINKS FOR MARCH

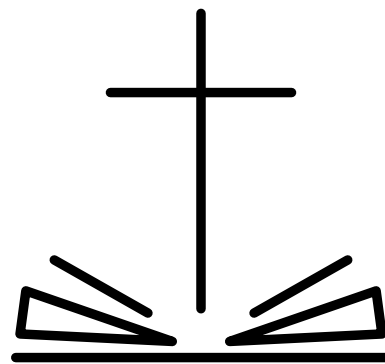


The Lyceum book for March is *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks, the author of *Horse* and other well-known historical novels. Caleb's tribe was a part of the population on Martha's Vineyard in the mid 1600's. He was the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College in 1665.

Note: due to the Wednesday Lenten suppers, the date for the March Lyceum meeting will be Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Adult Bible Class

On Sunday, March 2, the adult Bible class will begin "Embracing Life." The spring quarter will begin with a study of the Beatitudes during Lent, and the theme of Living Water will take us through the Easter Season. The study leader for spring will be Sandy Monroe. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in fellowship hall, and bring your Bible!



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday readings in Worship

A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church

LoveJoy United generally follows the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings that is shared with many branches of the Christian Church. This Lent, we'll be using a lectionary crafted by the Episcopal priest and Biblical scholar, Wilda C. Gafney that highlights stories of women in scripture that are too often overlooked. If you'd like to join us in interpreting these stories, come to our Wednesday Bible Study at 10:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall or Zoom.



“Woe to those who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, to make widows their spoil and to plunder orphans!” Isaiah 10:1-2

- During President Trump’s first week in office, over one hundred executive orders were signed.
- Federal government workers are “shell-shocked” by what appears to be a vengeful spree by the administration toward perceived enemies.
- Career officials at the Justice Department were fired, sixty senior officials from (USAID) have been removed.
- Immigration: Schools, courtrooms, medical facilities, and worshiping communities should remain safe spaces where individuals, families, and children can seek refuge.
- Targeting Federal Agencies: Dismantling FEMA, National Weather Service, Department of Homeland Security, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of Education, and others.
- Elimination of DEI: Eliminate positions, policies, and programs within the federal government with strong encouragement for the private sector to follow suit.

1. Read and familiarize yourself with PCUSA Social Witness Policies.
2. Host a listening session and worship service in your community.
3. Explore ways to offer sanctuary and help immigrant families prepare a care plan.
4. Share stories.
5. Faith communities need to pray for the nation and the global impact which will be felt.

We pray, and then we act.

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

March Birthdays



1	21
Ann French	John Rain III
2	Pat Fletcher
Lindell Blackford	22
8	Linda Smith
Gloria Hunt	23
9	Barbara Elledge
Claude Hunter, Jr,	Ethan C. Humbert
Stephanie Lindquist	24
10	Joe Freeman
Miranda Inlow	26
Linda Schiltz	Janice McKee
11	Luke Workman
Nora Frank	Ross Chapman
Glenda Pelot	27
12	Al Goewayt
Karen Auston	28
13	Daniel Ervin
Kara Carmack	Doris Miller
16	Doug Bristow
Shawn Huff	Valerie Freeman
18	30
Donny Hayes	Gavin Chapman
Abigail Overstreet	Tiffany Koenig
19	Andrews
Kendelle Pelot	Lisa Randall

January 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 1/31/2024 \$89,974.65
Savings Account Balance as of 1/31/2024 \$14,266.25
Ending Balance as of 1/31/2024 \$104,240.90
Pledge Income Received:
YTD Pledge total \$20,847.38
Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$126,191.55. The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.

2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

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



Poem



Goodbye Dear Friend
A poem in memory of the Rev. Dr. Mark
Russell

The time has come for the parting of ways.
Through the years we have had some grand
adventures
Sunday school classes, hanging out.
Sharing a pot of tea.
Sharing knowledge and wisdom.
But alas the time has come for one of us to go home.
It is sad; my heart is broken.
I eat tears.
But I know we shall meet again.
So until then:
Good by dear friend, Mark Russell.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

March



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Saturday Cafe
2 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am -LoveJoy Children & Youth 11:30am - Worship Committee - Lent Preparation	3	4 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Mission and Outreach	5 10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service	6	7	8
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 Group	11 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am - Staff Meeting	12 10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 6:30pm - Lenten Dinner 7pm -NO Evening Prayer	13 6:30pm - Children & Youth CE Meeting	14	15
16 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am -Fellowship Hour	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club	19 10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 6:30pm - Lenten Dinner 7pm - NO Evening Prayer	20 6:30pm - ACE Meeting	21	22
23 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship	24 9am - Food Pantry	25 9am -Bell Choir Rehearsal 11am - Staff Meeting	26 10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 6:30pm - Lenten Dinner 7pm - NO Evening Prayer	27 6:30pm - Session Meeting	28	29
30 8:45am -Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship	31					



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

