


LoveJoy United
 Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

On June 28 we welcomed nearly 50 humans (and a number of non-humans) to our church for our first Family Fun with Furry Friends Festival. This is an outgrowth of a pet blessing we held in the fall of 2023. From the wildlife around us to the pets who live with us, we are more deeply connected to God's creation than we realize. One of my favorite Psalms, number 104, talks about how God created Leviathan – a massive sea monster – to sport around in the water like God's own giant pet.

In addition to blessing lots of dogs, we blessed a bearded dragon and two mustang horses from a horse sanctuary in Alhambra. The dogs participated in a treat walk and the kiddos played games and did arts and crafts. Despite the hot weather, we had a blast.

Not only did we meet a lot of new critters, we met several new friends from the community. I'm so grateful for the hospitality and welcome of LoveJoy United to all of God's children - and critters.

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel



June Highlights

Tornado Relief

In addition to the \$5,000 the session contributed to Cote Brillante, whose building was destroyed in the tornado, the congregation collected dozens of tarps and gloves and additional \$1,445 to go towards Action STL.

A Record Blood Drive

On June 19, our Red Cross Blood drive collected a record 29 units, far exceeding our goal and more than doubling the average amount we receive. Our next drive will be August 14. Learn more at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

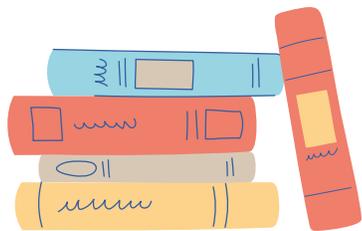
Pet Festival

On June 28, we welcomed nearly 50 people and their pets for a hot, but fun afternoon of games, treats, hot dogs and blessings. Thanks to everyone who helped grow the event this year. It was great to meet several new friends and critters.

Solar Energy Rebates

Our Solar Energy system has been up and running since September, 2024. We have virtually eliminated all electric energy costs. In June, we received the very first of our rebates, which will go to repaying our loan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

- 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

LYCEUM LINKS FOR JULY

Lyceum Book Club will meet via Zoom at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16. The book for this month is James, the 2025 Pulitzer Prize novel written by Percival Everett.

Everett has written a brilliant reimagining of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn that is both harrowing and ferociously funny told from the point of view of Jim, the enslaved character of Twain's novel.

Percival Everett is the Distinguished Professor of English at USC. He has won numerous prizes for his writing. His book Erasure was the basis for the 2023 Oscar winning film American Fiction.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday Morning Live Is an informal, conversational class that seeks to connect scripture, theology, and faith to our lives and world. Each Sunday at 9:00, they meet in the Love Room and on Zoom. They relate current events to Scripture to create thought-provoking discussions via The Wired Word.
- Summer Adult Class on the Gospel of Mark Pastor Daniel will begin leading a class on the Gospel of Mark on June 1 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Using curriculum by Amy-Jill Levine, we'll be exploring what scholars believe was the first Gospel to be written. Please sign up so we can order materials for you. Sign up on the table in the Narthex or at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.
- Lectionary Bible Study meets at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays. Join pastor Daniel either in-person or on Zoom for a discussion of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday's worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Birthday's

1	15
Logan Inlow	Evan Leggett
Aliana Frankford	Ryan Leggett
Jennifer Hooker	Charles Randall
2	18
Beth Mabb	Ann Cook
Neil Huff	19
3	Stephanie Trudell
Aubree Leggett	20
Hanna Carnes	Nanette Cerny
6	23
Kimberlee Belchik	Dee Howe
Sarah Carnes	Mallory Slayden
7	25
James Klette	Reagan Lynn
Donna Crawford	27
9	Karen Cerny
Allyson Klette	28
Larry Abraham	Phyllis Suhre
Karen Wilson	29
Peggy Hagaman	Jeff Frankford
12	30
Linda Duncan	John Shugert
Mark Utnage	
13	
Judith Hazelwonder	

May 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 5/30/2025 \$70,927.98

Savings Account Balance as of 5/30/2025 \$19,323.35

Ending Balance as of 5/30/2025 \$90,251.33

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$86,955.93

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$126,840.40. The interest rate is holding at 2.11 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.



Food Pantry Needs:

Mac & Cheese and Toilet Paper

Your donations allow us to help others and are always appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tornado Relief Drive



A Big Thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our Tornado Relief Drive. LoveJoy donated a large load of supplies and we raised a total of \$1445.

Learn More About LoveJoy

Everyone belongs at LoveJoy United. But if you're interested in learning more about the church or how to become a member, join us for a light luncheon after worship on July 13. We'll share about the ministries of the congregation, how you might get involved, and we'll give you a chance to ask questions. Let pastor Daniel know you're interested or go to lovejoyupc.org and click 'next steps' and choose Learn More About LoveJoy.



'Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.'

As Presbyterians, we reject misuse of religion and affirm the sovereignty of God over all human powers. Public education in the US is under attack.

- Reject any efforts to dismantle or defund the Department of Education.
- Oppose the Educational choice for Children Act (ECCA) and similar voucher schemes that divert public funds into private and religious institutions.
- Support full and equitable funding for public schools, so every child has access to a high-quality education.

Isaiah 1:17

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.

Poem

Peace

*Why must we fight?
Why must there be violence?
Let there be Peace.
If there is a disagreement,
take it out on the football
field.
Take it out on the soccer
field.
Take it out on the chess
board.
Love thy brothers and sisters.
We shall not fight.
Let us love, let us have Peace.*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel



July

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Mission and Outreach</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:15am - NO Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - NO Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p> 	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Fellowship Committee Meeting 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm - Children & Youth CE Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9am - Adult Formation: Bible 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:15 am - Learn about LoveJoy United</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15pm - PEO Women's Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 5pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2pm - ACE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Welcoming New Members 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30 am - Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>31</p>		



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

