

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Sarabande

Handel

* Call to Worship

God loves us even when we rebel. God reaches out to us even when we turn away.

We praise the goodness of God, for God's love endures forever.
God does not give up on us or forsake us.

We have come today with thankful hearts to worship our steadfast God.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

*1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

Prayer of Confession

Deliver us, gracious God, from the stress of our unfaithfulness. You

are the Source of all we have and all we are, yet we turn away from you and ignore you as if there were no reality beyond ourselves. We waste all that you have entrusted to us and destroy resources meant for future generations. We have become so enslaved to “our things” that we cannot serve you with integrity and wholeness. Forgive us, O God, and rescue us from this way of death. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

* Hymn 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

*1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*2 World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

✚ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for ever.

Holy and awesome is his name.
10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it[a] have a good understanding.
His praise endures for ever.

Anthem

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Pachelbel/Parks

Second Reading

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” 3 Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” 5 So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” 6 He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” 7 Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth[b] so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 10 ‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert

* Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child.

Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home

God is faithful still. Amen.

* Hymn 720

Jesus Calls Us

*1 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*2 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*3 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*4 Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.*

Announcements

✦ Responding

Offering our Gifts

Give at lovejoyupc.org/give

Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors primarily through our partners at Riverbend Family Ministries. Checks for offering are processed on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

* Hymn 708

We Give Thee but Thine Own

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

✠ Sending

* Hymn 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Praise God

Livingston

✠ Worship Notes

Ann French is our Director of Music. Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins and Alice Buzzard for their technology gifts. Thanks also to our liturgist for the day. Parts of today's service are adapted from *The Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship*.

✦ Land Acknowledgment

The LoveJoy United community gathers on the traditional land of the Tamaroa People, who have been its faithful stewards for generations. We acknowledge and honor the past, present, and future of the Tamaroa and other Indigenous peoples who have been displaced from their ancestral homelands.

✦ Announcements

Announcements marked with  are opportunities that relate to our Matthew 25 commitment.

 **Congregational Meeting after today after worship** to vote on a nomination from the 2025 Nominating Committee for someone to fill an unexpired term on that committee.

 **Seeking Nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee.** Our Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning their work to discern who will next serve in leadership at LoveJoy United. Please submit nominations at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps and click “Nominations.”

Game Day: Saturday, September 27th at 1pm. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of fun and games!

 **Rummage Sale: October 2nd - 4th** Donations accepted **September 29th - October 1st at noon.**
Presale - Thursday, October 2nd 5-7pm. Friday and Saturday (10/3 & 10/4) hours are 8 a.m. - noon.

 **Blood Drive:** Thursday, October 9, 1- 6 pm. Register at lovejoyupc.org and click next steps.

Leaf Peeping & Lunch Bus Trip Hosted by the Fellowship Committee: Sunday, November 2nd at 11:30 AM.
Great River Road & Pere Marquette Lodge - Room for 49 Guests - Door Prizes!!!! Grand Prize!!!! There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.

 **Prayer Buddies:** Come Support a kid for the school year by being their prayer buddy. If you know a kid, a grandkid, anyone in school let us know so we can pair them up with someone not in school so they can have prayer buddy. A sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex and at lovejoyupc.org and click next steps.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Toilet Paper your donations are always appreciated.

A Place of Grace: Audiendo Divina Retreat- September 16, 2025 1:30 PM → 3:30 PM at Maeva’s Coffee, Rm 203, South Hall. Register here <http://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>.

A Place of Grace: Boomwhacker Choir Retreat - September 16, 2025 4:30 PM →6:00 PM at Maeva's Coffee, Rm 203, South Hall. Register here <http://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>.

 **Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM**

- **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](#).
- **The Bible Class: Introduction to the Old Testament with Dr. Ryan Harris**
If you've ever felt like the Old Testament is hard to understand, unapproachable, or just plain confusing, this class is for you. We will be looking at the Old Testament in a variety of ways, with a focus on giving you new methods and tools for understanding the Old Testament and applying it to life. Class starts at 9 AM on Sunday, September 7. lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

 **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United**

- **Lectionary Bible Study** In-Person or Zoom at 10:15 AM - Join pastor Daniel and a number of others as we discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

- **Lunch Bunch** gathers on Wednesdays at 11:30 AM
- **Zoom Evening Prayer** on Wednesday nights at 7 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, John Gremling & the Gremling Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Mark Carter, Tom and Jupiter, Kristi Doering, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), Brittany, Bill Lester, Lanny Harris, John Kennedy, Renee Lynn, Kathie Luke (Julie Spurgeon's Sister), Forrest, David Hemphill, Linda Duncan, JoJo, Terrye Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law), Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Edie Chappell's son and her daughter-in-law), Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister), Barb (Linda Smith's daughter), Paula Blair, Jeane Slayden, Mike Carnes.

NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Integrity Healthcare, Wood River – Herbert Peel
 The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville – Shirley Martin
 Villa Rose, Bethalto – Beth Forrester
 Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Mary Barnes
 Liberty Village, Jerseyville – Shirley Burris
 Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper