



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church

THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

I pray you have found time this summer to rest and reconnect with family, friends, and with God. Keeping sabbath time is not only healthy, it is one of the ten commandments God gives us to live in harmony with both God and our neighbor. Sabbath rest is essential for the challenges God calls us to meet in our personal lives, our community, and in our world. In my own experience, I can tell when I've been neglecting sabbath. Your mileage may vary, but when I don't practice Sabbath, I have trouble empathizing with others. I feel some apathy toward the pain of the world. I get focused on the little tasks at hand and I am not able to see where God is at work around me, and where God is inviting me to join in. I've learned over time how to spot those signs early. And I'm grateful to have folks in my life who help me to see those signs in myself so I can reconnect through Sabbath.

Sabbath time can look different for each of us. I find Sabbath in riding my bicycle through the shaded paths around my house. I also find it in reading scripture and in prayer. I find Sabbath through unstructured time with people in our church over dinner. I got to do all three of these things this weekend, and I am already finding myself more centered, hopeful, and ready to follow God's lead.

I pray you, too, can make sabbath a priority. It's the foundation for everything else we are called by God to do: work, serve, live, hope, and love.

In Christ,

Daniel



**PRAYERS
FOR PEACE**

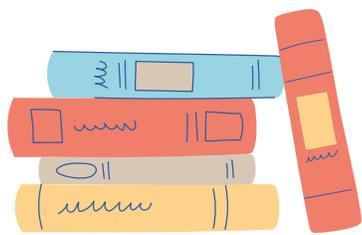
In Palestine, Israel, & the Middle East

Peace Vigil
Saturday, September 6, 6:30PM
Sanctuary & Zoom

24 Hour Fast & Prayer Vigil
Saturday, September 6, 11 AM until
Sunday, September 7, 10:15 AM Communion

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

- 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 SEPTEMBER

Lyceum Book Club will meet via Zoom at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17. The selection for this month is Blood Sisters by Vanessa Lillie. This novel tells the story of a Cherokee archeologist who works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is sent to a rural Oklahoma town (her hometown) to investigate the disappearance of two women. One of these women is her sister.

Alton Pride Festival September 13

In these days of hate and division, it's important that the church show up in support and care for our friends in the LGBTQ+ community. **LoveJoy United will have a table at the 4th Annual Alton Pride Festival on September 13.** If you'd like to help host our table, sign up for a time block in the Narthex!

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.
- The Bible Class: Introduction to the Old Testament with Dr. Ryan Harris. Class will start at 9 AM on Sunday, September 7. 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. 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

September Birthday's

1	Tara Hayes	19	Keelan Crawford
2	James White		Lance Hatcher
	Kate Trudell	20	
3			Rob LaMarsh
	Scott Davis	21	
4			Kolby Carnes
	Adele Lakin	22	
	Liza Mabb		Amanda Cox
	Josh Utnage	23	
5			Derek Kerr
	Michael Mayerhofer	24	
	Randy Biship		Alvie Young
	Winnie Whitaker	25	
7			Judith Sutter
	Emma Carnes		Kyle Duncan
	Heather Ballard	26	
	Joanne Lenhardt		Austin Miller
8			Linda Welch
	Steven Lewis	28	
11			Carol Zakrzewski
	Kennedy Carnes	29	
12			Casey Daniel
	Jack Gould		
18			
	Sydnee Jacquin		
	Courtney Russell		

July 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/2025 \$78,661.74
Savings Account Balance as of 7/31/2025 \$14,323.83
Ending Balance as of 7/31/2025 \$92,985.57
Pledge Income Received:
YTD Pledge total \$124,423.07
Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$127,499.85. The interest rate is holding at 2.11 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

Choir resumes on **Sunday, September 7 at 8:45 AM** in the Sanctuary. New singers are welcome!
Contact Ann French for details or simply show up.



Food Pantry Needs:

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

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

HOPE, HEALTH, & HEALING SERIES

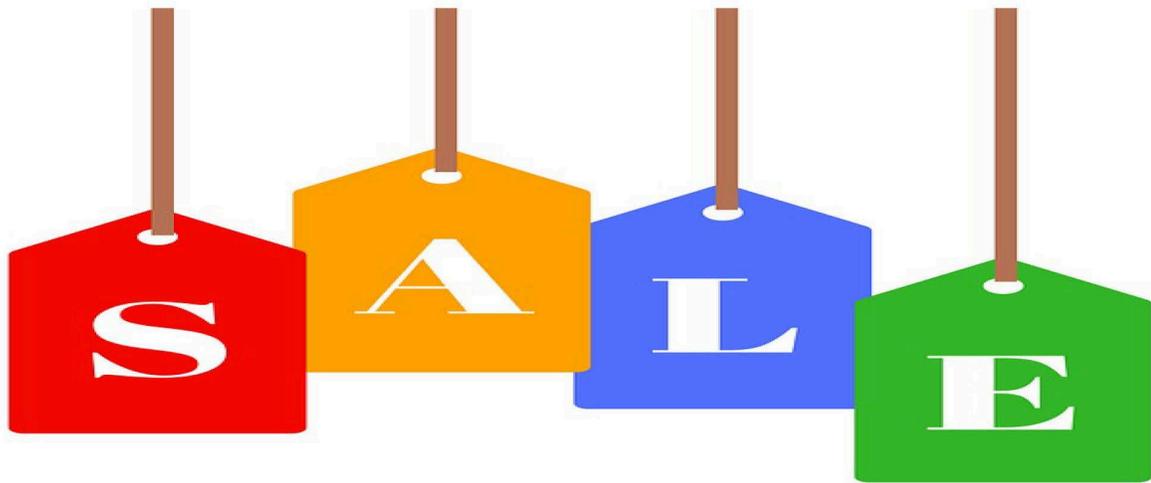


Join us to hear Recovery Coach Jes Banner share her powerful journey from addiction, homelessness, and trauma to five years of sobriety, stability, and hope. Her inspiring story shows how faith, resilience, and small daily steps can transform a life.

14 SEPTEMBER
2025

After Worship
approx 11:20 a.m.
Sanctuary

RUMMAGE



The proceeds from this sale supports Riverbend Ministries.
We thank you for your support.

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

2550 Rock Hill Road
(Across from Wood River Soccer Complex)
Wood River, IL 618-254-5880

Friday & Saturday, October 3rd & 4th

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Presale – Thursday, October 2nd

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. - \$3 entry fee

Rummage Sale

Thursday October 2nd – Saturday, October 4th

After a lot of discussion, we are going to have an Annual Rummage Sale! Proceeds from this sale will support Riverbend Ministries. We will begin accepting donations on Monday, September 29th. We are asking for donations of furniture, appliances, tools, shoes, luggage, handbags, jewelry, kitchen items, seasonal decorations, children's clothing and toys. We do not accept adult clothing but would welcome jeans, coats and jackets.

We will not accept donations after noon on Wednesday, October 1st.

Marking your items in advance of drop off is greatly appreciated to allow our volunteers more time to sort donations. **Please don't price any items under 25¢. This makes it much easier to total when checking out. You can always bundle items so they are valued a quarter.**

The sale begins Thursday, October 2nd (5-7 p.m.) with a Pre-sale and donation of \$3 to enter that evening.

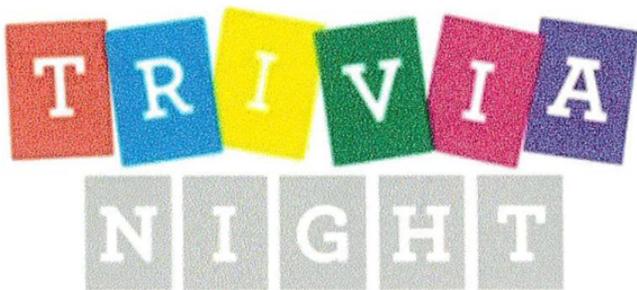
Friday and Saturday (10/3 & 10/4) hours are 8 a.m. - noon. All unsold items will be donated to Savers in Alton which supports Veterans, specifically the Purple Heart Foundation. They will pick up our items, but we must have them boxed for them. If you want any of your donations back, you must pick them up before noon on Saturday or let one of our volunteers know.

Thanks in advance for everyone's support. We also need your help that week pricing and organizing our donations. We usually have crews working both day and evening. And while it's a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun!

If you have questions, contact Brenda Donohoo at 618-254-1539 or Jennifer Wyatt at 618-466-2328.

And as I always say: "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot!"

Brenda Donohoo



For tickets, please contact
Linda Shugert 314-517-1004 or
Chuck Randall 618-623-8781

Trivia Night
Friday, September 5th
Fellowship Hall Doors open at 6:15pm.
Trivia starts at 7:00pm
You can come with your own team of eight, with a smaller group, or even individually. We'll pair you up with a team!

Poem

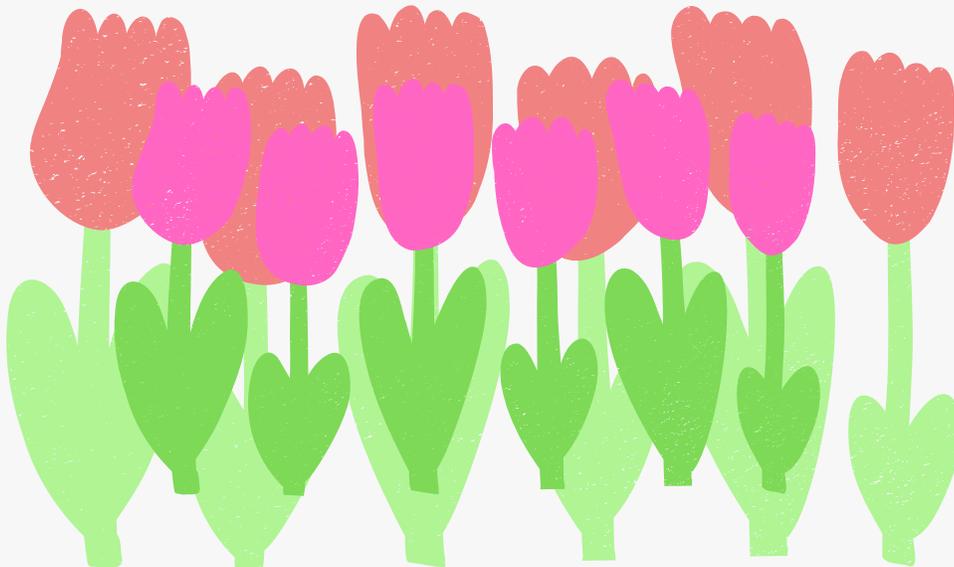
The Little Red Cupcake

*Come my Friends, let us sit
down and have a
beautiful snack.
Let us talk of many things.
We shall have a chat.
We are together.
Drink coffee, drink tea.
For the muffin gods shall
serve The Little Red
Cupcake.
Take a bite, it is delicious.
It is cute.
Come gather together.
Eat the Little Red Cupcake.*

What We Need Is Here

*We shall not worry.
We must not worry.
We are God's children.
God loves us, his children.
He shall provide for us.
He gave us water from the
rock.
He gave us manna in the
desert.
Why must we worry?
God is with us.
We are home.
What we need is here.*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel





A Place of Grace Mission Madness Worship and Wonder Retreat

September 9th 9:30 -11am

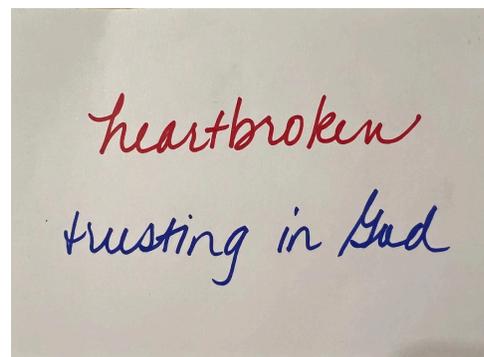
A Time to Remember, A Time to Belong 🌿 As children head back to school, we invite caregivers and their loved ones to a different kind of classroom—one where God’s timeless stories awaken memory and connection.

Worship and Wonder Retreats at Maeva’s Coffee House (1320 Milton Road, Alton, IL, small banquet room) are designed especially for seniors with memory challenges, offering a gentle space to hear scripture told through visuals, to engage in simple art responses, and to share in a joyful “feast.” Just as the words of the Lord’s Prayer or the Words of Institution bring us back to what is deepest and truest, these retreats create sacred moments of recognition, joy, and peace. Caregivers and companions, come share this journey together—you and your loved one have a place in the story. Please RSVP by Friday, September 5th, 2025. Contact Julie Gvillo. [Click here to RSVP](#)

A Place of Grace Selah Retreat

September 9th 1-4pm

Selah Retreat at Maeva’s Coffee House 🌿 1320 Milton Road, Alton, IL – small banquet room. Where is your heart, mind, body, or spirit carrying weight today? What brings you delight, hope, or joy? At A Place of Grace, Selah Retreats offer a safe space to bring your whole self before God. Through psalm-writing, gentle movement, and the rhythms of music, you can express lament, release frustration, and celebrate God’s faithful presence. Come as you are, bring what you carry, and join companions in moments of reflection, prayer, and praise. God is listening—and there is room for every voice and every story here. Please RSVP by Friday, September 5th. Contact Julie Gvillo. [Click here to RSVP](#)



“Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

- Gaza has become one of the most devastating humanitarian crises in recent history.
- We acknowledge that we are called not only to weep but also to act.
- Let us pray for God’s wholeness in a just peace where Palestinians and Israelis, people of all faiths, can flourish. And let us not look away.

Scripture compels us:

“Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute” (Psalm 82:3), and “Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 10:30am Worship Committee Decorates 1am - Staff Meeting 6pm Mission and Outreach</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11 :30am -Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm Trivia Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Saturday Cafe' 6:30pm Peace Vigil for Gaza</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Committee Meeting 9am -Adult Formation: Bible 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am Fellowship Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15pm - PEO Women's Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11 :30am -Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Alton Pride Festival</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30 am - Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11 :30am -Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 5pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2pm- ACE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:15am -Lectionary Bible Study 11 :30am -Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1pm Game Day</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am -Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am -Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am -Worship 11:30am - Christian Formation 11:30am - Stewardship Preps Mailings</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting</p>				



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

