

## ✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, come wisdom and knowledge. Let us face East and let us pray...

We are all related.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

From the South comes guidance, the beginning and end of life.

Let us face South and let us pray...

We are all related.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

From the West come purifying waters. Let us face West and pray...

We are all related.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

From the North come purifying winds. O God, you have been called breath and wind of life. Let us face North and let us pray...

pray...

We are all related.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 21

*Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works*

*1 Many and great, O God, are thy works,*

*Maker of earth and sky.*

*Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;*

*thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.*

*Lo, at thy word the waters were formed.*

*Deep seas obey thy voice.*

*2 Grant unto us communion with thee,*

*thou star-abiding One.*

*Come unto us and dwell with us.*

*With thee are found the gifts of life.*

*Bless us with life that has no end,*

*eternal life with thee.*

Prayer of Confession

**God of hope,**

**you send us out into a world of deep pain and need  
so that we might offer the love of Jesus.**

**We confess that we often forget this calling.**

**We get distracted by our daily tasks.**

**We are burdened by our aches and pains.**

**We get weighed down by our own fear, doubt, and  
hopelessness.**

**Sometimes we forget how to hope, let alone share it.**

**Renew in us a joyful sense of our calling.**

**Restore in us the hope that comes from Jesus Christ,  
a hope that has not, and will not die...**

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 66:1-12

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

2 sing the glory of his name;

give to him glorious praise.

3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

4 All the earth worships you;

they sing praises to you,

sing praises to your name."Selah

5 Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

6 He turned the sea into dry land;

they passed through the river on foot.

There we rejoiced in him,  
7 who rules by his might forever,  
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.Selah  
8 Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
9 who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.  
10 For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
11 You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
12 you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Anthem

Second Reading

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7

1 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Sermon

Joy in Exile

Rev. Daniel Ervin

### ✠ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*From Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39*

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, no height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,**

**will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\* Hymn 800

*Sometimes a Light Surprises*

*1 Sometime a light surprises  
the child of God who sings;  
it is the Lord who rises  
with healing in his wings;  
when comforts are declining,  
he grants the soul again  
a season of clear shining  
to cheer it after rain.*

*2 In holy contemplation  
we sweetly then pursue  
the theme of God's salvation  
and find it ever new;  
set free from present sorrow,  
we cheerfully can say,  
"Let the unknown tomorrow  
bring with it what it may."*

*3 It can bring with it nothing  
but he will bear us through;  
who gives the lilies clothing  
will clothe his people, too;  
beneath the spreading heavens  
no creature but is fed;  
and he who feeds the ravens  
will give his children bread.*

*4 Though vine nor fig tree neither  
their longed-for fruit should bear,  
though all the fields should wither,  
nor flocks nor herds be there,  
yet God the same abiding,  
his praise shall tune my voice;  
for while in him confiding,  
I cannot but rejoice.*

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

*Give at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://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.*

Stewardship Stories

Karen Wilson

Hymn 692

*Spirit, Open My Heart, refrain  
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.*

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Concerns

The 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 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

*1 Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us  
through the ages long!*

*Refrain:  
In bold accord,  
come celebrate the journey now  
and praise the Lord!*

*2 Long years have come and gone,  
and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision,  
dream the dream! (Refrain)*

*3 Let courage be our friend;  
let wisdom be our guide,*

as we in mission magnify  
the Crucified! (Refrain)

4 Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er  
the ages long! (Refrain)

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

## ✝️ 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*. The call to worship comes from: *Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, 1992, Marilyn Hofstra, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN.*

## ✝️ 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.

 **Luncheon and program for Indigenous Peoples' Sunday - Today after Worship.** Join us for this free lunch and program.

**Great Rivers Choral Society Concert - Saturday, October 18th at 3pm.** We're excited to welcome the GRCS for a free concert at LoveJoy United as they celebrate their 25th season. A free will offering will be taken.

 **Joy In Giving: Stewardship for 2026** As our church leaders plan for our ministries next year, we invite you to consider how God is calling you to give. Please return a pledge card in the offering basket, church office, or submit your pledge online at [lovejoyupc.org/pledge](http://lovejoyupc.org/pledge).

 **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](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) and click "Nominations."

**LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club Meeting - Wednesday, October 15th at 7:15pm.** This month's book is *Absolution* by Alice McDermott. This historical fiction takes place in 1063 Saigon. The story focuses on the lives and friendships of American wives who were stationed in Vietnam with their husbands.

 **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](http://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 sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

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

**A Place of Grace Upcoming Events - Website:** <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

- Afternoon Selah Retreat October 16, 2025 1:00 AM → 4:00 AM
- Worship and Wonder Morning Retreat - October 14, 2025 9:30 AM → 11:30 AM
- Evening Prayer Art Retreat - October 16, 2025 6:00 PM → 9:00 PM

 **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](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps).

 **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United**

- **Lectionary Bible Study** In-Person or Zoom at 10:15 AM - Join pastor Daniel 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. 3

## PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, John Gremler & the Gremler 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, Eli (The Paddock's grandson).

## 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

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper