

✚ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

We lift up our eyes to the hills—  
from where will our help come?  
**Our help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

*From Psalm 121*

The Lord is our keeper;  
The Lord is our shade at our right hand.

**The sun shall not strike us by day  
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep our going out  
and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

**Let us worship God.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 623

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

*1 I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.*

*I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.*

*2 I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.*

*3 I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean;*

*I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.*

Prayer of Confession

**Grace-filled God,  
we confess that we pursue our own needs,  
neglecting the needs of others.  
We pursue our own desires,  
while slowly destroying  
the gifts of your creation.  
We deflect the call to ministry,  
ignoring the cries of those in need.  
We are drawn to proclaim the gospel,  
yet live it out only at our convenience.  
Have mercy on us, O God.  
Open our eyes to the truth of the gospel  
that, whatever the time or wherever we are,  
we may fully embody  
your love and justice for all the world...**

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

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is[a] useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Anthem

Second Reading

Luke 18:1-8

**1** Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. **2** He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. **3** In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ **4** For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’”<sup>[b]</sup> **6** And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? **8** I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Sermon

*Joy in Persistence*

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 379

*We Shall Overcome*

*1 We shall overcome;  
we shall overcome;  
we shall overcome someday.*

*Refrain:  
O, deep in my heart  
I do believe  
we shall overcome someday!*

*2 We'll walk hand in hand;  
we'll walk hand in hand;  
we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)*

*3 We shall live in peace;  
we shall live in peace;  
we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)*

*4 We are not afraid;  
we are not afraid;  
we are not afraid today. (Refrain)*

*5 God will see us through;  
God will see us through;  
God will see us through today. (Refrain)*

## 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

## 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 765

May the God of Hope Go with Us (sung twice)

*May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

### \* 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.

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

Join us for **GAME DAY**: Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

 **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.

 **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 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, Terry 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

[www.lovejoyupc.org](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper