

## ✝ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*America, the Beautiful*

Ward/Allured  
Bell Choir

\* Call to Worship

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
**Worship the Lord with gladness.**  
**Come into God's presence with singing!**  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 275

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*  
*1 A mighty fortress is our God,*  
*a bulwark never failing.*  
*Our helper he, amid the flood*  
*of mortal ills prevailing.*  
*For still our ancient foe*  
*doth seek to work us woe.*  
*His craft and power are great,*  
*and armed with cruel hate,*  
*on earth is not his equal.*

*2 Did we in our own strength confide,*  
*our striving would be losing,*  
*were not the right man on our side,*  
*the man of God's own choosing.*  
*Dost ask who that may be?*  
*Christ Jesus, it is he.*  
*Lord Sabaoth his name,*  
*from age to age the same,*  
*and he must win the battle.*

*3 And though this world, with devils filled,*  
*should threaten to undo us,*  
*we will not fear, for God hath willed*

*his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him.  
His rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure.  
One little word shall fell him.*

*4 That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also.  
The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still.  
His kingdom is forever.*

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

Isaiah 64:8

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Anthem

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–5, 12–16

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was[a] in Christ Jesus,  
12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmuring and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. 16 It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Sermon

*Joy in being the Church*

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 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

*1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.*

*2 Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.*

*3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.*

*4 Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.*

*5 Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,*

*may live eternally.*

## 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

### Prayer of Dedication

### 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.*

### 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 727

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*1 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?*

*Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant too.*

*2 We are pilgrims on a journey;  
we're together on the road.*

*We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear.*

*I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*4 I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.*

*5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.*

*6 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant too.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Festive March*

Handel/Norris

## ✦ 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.

 **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."

 **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](https://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:** Peanut Butter your donations are always appreciated.

**A Place of Grace Mission Madness Retreat at RFM - November 12, 2025 9AM - 12PM**

We will meet in the parking lot behind RFM at 8:45 for our morning Examen practice. Come help us support the work of this amazing agency in the riverbend community! [RSVP to aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net](https://rsvp.to/aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net) by 11/5 to let us know you are going!

**A Place of Grace Online Faithbooking Retreat - November 12, 2025 6PM - 8PM (Zoom)**

Online Faithbooking Retreats provide sacred space for paper crafters to reflect on God's activity in their lives through junk journaling. Cutting instructions will go out in the November 3rd Grace Grams. Text Julie at 618-410-5060 for a materials list by 11/5.

 **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](https://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, 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**

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper