


LoveJoy United
 Presbyterian Church

THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

LoveJoy United was privileged to host two exciting events in October that drew many community members into our church.

On October 10, we hosted a screening of the new documentary *Evicting the American Dream*, produced by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. This documentary, now available to rent and buy on Amazon, explores the root causes and systemic issues that perpetuate the epidemic of eviction and homelessness. Following the film, participants engaged in a lively Q&A session with two community leaders. Peter Hough, pastor of the Alton Mission and organizer of the Overnight Warming Locations, spoke about the dire need for both shelters and affordable housing in our community. Mary Mullins, who works at Amare, shared how substance use among the unhoused is often a way people cope with the pain of homelessness, not always something that leads them to homelessness. Both were tremendous advocates of treating our unhoused neighbors with dignity and compassion. We are so grateful to be a forum where these important conversations can take place.

On October 18, the Great Rivers Choral Society performed at LoveJoy United as part of the kickoff to their 25th anniversary season. Conducted by Raynard Brown, they treated us to a powerful program of both sacred and secular music. During the intermission, a church member told me that's the best he's ever heard our sound system working. I responded that our sound system wasn't even on! They were simply that powerful. Several LoveJoy United members and friends are in the society. Mike and Mag Paddock, Mary Cordes, and her husband, Paul, are on the board. John Rain and Paul Cordes also sing with the choir. We hope we get to host this powerful group again soon!

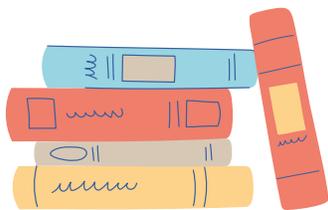


It is a joy to be a congregation that opens up its doors for others in our community.

In Christ,

Daniel

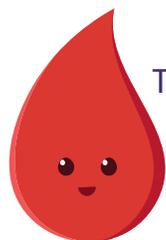
ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

11/19/25 Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

12/17/25 Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 4th 1pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Register at

[LoveJoyupc.org/nextsteps](https://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps)

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.

LYCEUM LINKS FOR NOVEMBER

The Lyceum Book Club's selection for November is Peace Like a River by Leif Enger. The New York Post says of this book: "If ever there was a time for a novel of faith and redemption—a quiet book of old-fashioned verities—this is it."

Join us on Zoom at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, to discuss this bestselling American classic.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

The ACE and Fellowship Committees will sponsor a special holiday movie night and supper on Sunday, November 23. We will enjoy some Italian food and dessert prior to watching "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" We will eat at 6:00 p.m. and start the movie at 7:00.

A Sign-up sheet will be necessary for food preparation, so be sure to get your name on the Party People List—which will be out on the table at church on November 9th and 16th.

Game Day



Join us for Game Day
Saturday, November 29th
at 1pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Birthday's

3	13
Craig Carnes	Cade Freeman
5	17
Trinity Jude Sidwell	Paige Lemasson
Milburn	(Humbert)
Jacqueline Jensen	18
Sandra Franke	Charlotte Mae
6	Bechik
Ethan, Jr. Humbert	Donald Jenkins
7	19
Shawn Thompson	Kelsee Pelot
8	21
Samantha Bauer	Jill Roberts
Spencer Slayden	23
10	Jennifer Andrews
Hendrix Duncan	Noah Mabb
Scott Slayden	24
Trevor Hale	Leslie Ballard
11	Tara Mouser
Cheryl Bishop	25
Charlie Manker	Tacoma Monroe
Lynna Humbert	

Food Pantry Needs:

Personal Care Items. Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc. Your donations allow us to help others and are always appreciated.



September 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 9/30/2025 \$72,575.21
Savings Account Balance as of 9/30/2025 \$11,324.17
Ending Balance as of 9/30/2025 \$ \$83,899.38

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$150,846.30

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.

The Bible Class will begin a new Advent Series Sundays beginning on November 30 at 9 AM in Fellowship Hall or Zoom.

Led by the Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert, we invite you into a season of sacred reflection and prophetic imagination centered on the four visions of Isaiah. Each of these visions arises from the pain and longing of God's people – realities that echo our own struggles with fear, division, and injustice today.



Giving Tree

We will have our Warm & Fuzzy Tree again this year that will collect items for the Warming Centers in our area. We will collect hats, gloves, socks, scarves, blankets, etc.

In addition to these items, we have a family with 3 children that we would like to assist. We will provide details when they become available. Look for the Tree for more details.

Thank You Letter from Riverbend Family Ministries for the \$3000 donation from our Rummage Sale Proceeds.

Thank You, LoveJoy United! 🧡

From Rachael Craddick <rachaelc@my-rfm.org>

Date Thu 10/23/2025 12:04 PM

To admin@lovejoyupc.org <admin@lovejoyupc.org>

Hi friends at LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church,

We just wanted to say a big **thank you** for your generous gift from the proceeds of your October Rummage Sale! Your kindness and ongoing support mean so much to everyone here at Riverbend Family Ministries.

Because of faithful partners like you, we're able to walk alongside children, youth, and families in crisis—and help them find hope and stability when they need it most.

We're truly grateful for your continued partnership and the love you share with our community. Please feel free to reach out anytime if you'd like more information or would like to stop by for a visit—we'd love to show you the impact you're making!

With heartfelt thanks,

Rachael Craddick, CFRE
Fund Development Director



Riverbend Family
Ministries

Providing strength and support to those in crisis

144 E Ferguson Ave. | Wood River, IL 62095

☎ (618)251-9790 ext. 225



Christmas Food Boxes

Supporting families in need this season

Our Food Pantry plans to provide a Christmas box to our patrons again this year. In addition to a ham (which we will purchase), we would like to collect these five extra items for their box. We have approximately 25 families. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome.

Stuffing Mix
#5 Bag of Potatoes
Dinner Rolls
Dessert {Brownie/Cake}
Canned Fruit

These will be distributed on Monday, December 8th and 22nd.
We thank you for your generous donations throughout the year!
If you have any questions, you may contact
Brenda Donohoo or Marilyn King.





Christmas Bake Sale

**Saturday, December 13
10 AM to 12 PM**

**LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Rd., Wood River, IL
618-254-5880**

**Select your favorites from a wonderful
variety of sweet treats that will be sold
at \$10 per pound or as priced.**

**Proceeds from this sale benefit
Riverbend Family Ministries.**

www.lovejoyupc.org

Poem

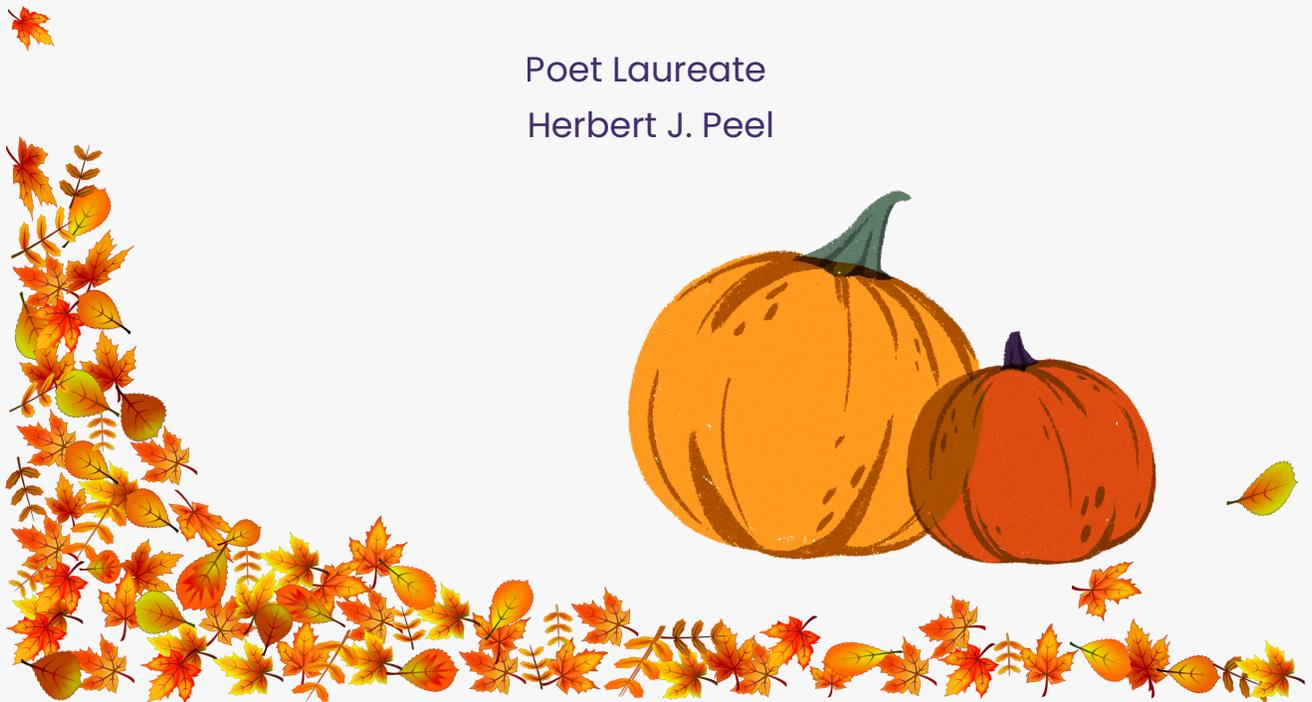
Angels and the Music Maker

*Every Sunday the organist
sits at her organ. For she
makes and plays heavenly
music. She plays with such a
heart and soul that angels
watch her play. Her gift is
special. It is a beauty to
hear the music as she plays.
The angels watch with such
delight. They are pleased.
The lord is pleased to hear
the music of the Music
Maker.*

This Little Stone

*A simple rock, yet his rock
is a stony foundation for
something much bigger.
Jesus himself said "God is
the rock for which I will
build my house." That
house has grown all over
the world. Many have
come, many more will
come. All which come will
be saved. The church is
my rock. The rock is on
hard ground. I am
thanking all from this little
stone I hold in my hand.*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel



A Place of Grace Events



A Place of Grace Card Party Fundraiser - November 7, 2025 9AM - 2PM

Asbury Village, 5201 Asbury Avenue,
Godfrey, IL A Place of Grace will host a table
at the Bazaar selling cards to benefit the
five local agencies with which we work
throughout the year. We will also have
artwork for sale to benefit A Place of Grace.
We hope to see you there! [https://
www.asburyvillagegodfrey.com/events/](https://www.asburyvillagegodfrey.com/events/)

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-juliegvillo.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.



November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Committee Meeting 9am - Adult Formation: Bible 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am Fellowship Committee 12:30pm - Leaf Peeping and Chicken Dinner Tour	3 10am - Mat Weaving Group	4 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Nominating Meeting 6pm - Mission and Outreach Meeting	5 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer	6 1pm - Red Cross Blood Drive	7	8 Presbytery Gathering
9 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship	10 9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15pm - PEO Women's Group	11 Veteran's Day 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Nominating Committee 6pm - Worship Committee	12 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer	13	14	15
16 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Christian Formation Committee 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	17 10am - Mat Weaving Group	18 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting	19 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 5pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club	20 6:30pm - Session Meeting	21 2pm - ACE Committee Meeting	22
23 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Christian Formation 6pm - Movie Night - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever & Party	24 9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 11:30am Worship Committee Decorates	25 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting	26 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Sewing and Craft Circle 7pm - Evening Prayer	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28 Black Friday	29 1pm Game Day
30 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship						



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

2550 Rock Hill Road
Wood River, IL
62095
Phone: 618-254-5880
Fax: 618-254-1288

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

