



THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

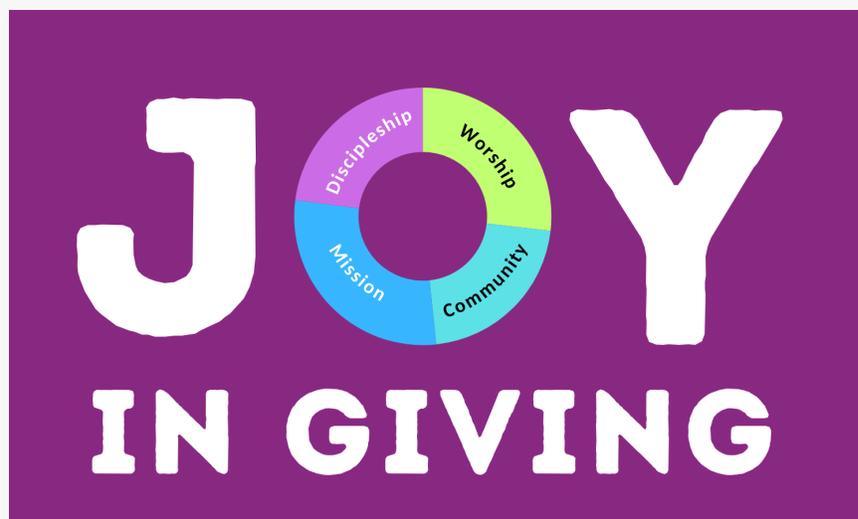
As we enter October, our elders and leaders are beginning to pray and plan for what God is calling us to do together in the coming year. This is also the season when we reflect in worship on the spiritual discipline of stewardship. These two things go hand in hand. Our ministry and life together require resources: we pay staff, support programs and outreach, maintain our building, and care for our neighbors. Your giving helps make all of that possible.

But stewardship is about more than meeting a budget. It's a practice of faith, a way of saying 'thank you' to God for all we have received. When I reflect on my own giving, I'm reminded of how generous God has been: calling me to this wonderful church, surrounding me with friends and loved ones, and calling us to share in Christ's mission together. Giving deepens my gratitude and strengthens my commitment to Jesus and to LoveJoy United's ministry. There's real joy in joining my gifts with yours, trusting that God is at work through all of us.

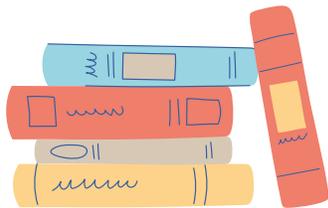
As you pray about your giving for the year ahead, I encourage you to consider God's goodness in your life. Ask how God might be calling you to take a next step in generosity and commitment as we move forward in faith together.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

In Christ,
Pastor Daniel



ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

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

Peace & Global Witness Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Give at lovejoyupc.org/give or put cash/check in one of the Peace & Global Witness Offering Envelopes 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.

LYCEUM LINKS FOR OCTOBER

Lyceum Book Club will meet via Zoom at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15. The selection for this month 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.



Rummage Sale Pack-up

We invite folks to come help pack up the leftovers from the Rummage Sale after worship on 10/5.

Game Day



Join us for Game Day
Saturday, October 25th
at 1pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Birthday's

1	15
Heather Frank	Craig Utnage
2	16
Carl Russell	Carole Abraham
3	20
Dixie Engelman	Barb Pitt
Linda Allen	Sydney Slayden
4	21
Benson Bauer	Eric Utnage
Paxton Andrew Belchik	23
Jack Kleinert	Nikki Russell
Jordan White Blair	Zachary Llewelyn
Lisa Kerr	25
5	Amanda Overstreet
Shane Lindquist	Jim Suerig
Shirley Martin	26
6	John Gremling
Jennifer Wyatt	John Rain
7	Melodee Mazur-
Dan Donohoo	Plummer
Alex gardner	Thomas Ballard
8	27
Brenda Donohoo	Mike Paddock
9	28
Larry King	Jim Holt
20	29
Adam Lamarsh	Bev Hayes
11	Gavin Shelton
Andrea Frankford	31
13	Scott Shelton
Ken Webster	

August 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 8/31/2025 \$71,085.29
Savings Account Balance as of 8/31/2025 \$14,323.83
Ending Balance as of 8/31/2025 \$85,409.12
Pledge Income Received:
YTD Pledge total \$135,566.60
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.



Leaf Peeping & Lunch Bus Trip
Bus leaves the church at 11:30 AM
Sunday November 2nd
Great River Road & Pere Marquette
Lodge
Room for 49 Guests
Door Prizes!!!! Grand Prize!!!!



Food Pantry Needs:

Toilet Paper
Your donations allow us to help others and are always appreciated.

Evicting the American Dream | Movie Screening & Community Panel | October 10th at 7pm in the Sanctuary

The documentary, *Evicting the American Dream*, amplifies the voices and stories of children and families confronting eviction and homelessness. Often when we hear the words 'homelessness' and 'eviction', there is a dominant narrative that says: "There is nothing we can do to prevent this from happening." This film seeks to reframe, humanize, and transform how the wider public understands eviction and homelessness and the ways in which this is preventable. Following the documentary, we'll welcome several community leaders to share in a time of Q&A. This is an important event for church members, community members, and everyone interested in a more just community.

A Place of Grace Events

Afternoon Selah Retreat - October 14, 2025 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Selah Retreats create sacred space for writers and dancers to pause with God, write psalms of faith, and share embodied prayer in community. Come as you are, bring what you carry, and join companions in moments of reflection, prayer, and praise.

Worship and Wonder Morning Retreat - October 14, 2025 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Worship and Wonder Retreats are designed especially for children of God of all ages, offering a gentle space to hear scripture told through visual manipulatives, to engage in simple art responses, and to share in a joyful "feast." Here the young and the old and everyone in between can wonder together about God's story!

Evening Prayer Art Retreat - October 16, 2025 9:30AM - 11:30AM

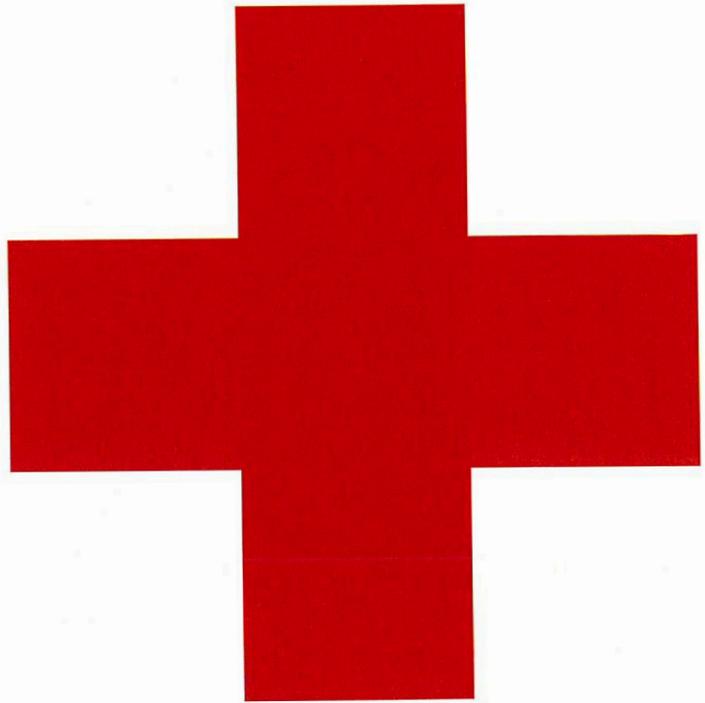
Prayer Art Retreats create quiet space for companions of all ages to respond to prayer and scripture through meditative art. If the noise of the world is causing sensory overload, this lovely retreat is perfect for bringing you back to center. No artistic experience is required!

For More Information got to <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
**Love Joy United Presbyterian
Church**

Fellowship Hall
2550 Rock Hill Rd
Wood River, IL 62095

Thursday, October 9, 2025
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: LOVEJOY to schedule an appointment.

**Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/fall**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Great Rivers Choral Society

GRCS 25: A Choral Flourish

First Concert of the GRCS 25th Anniversary Season



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025- 7 PM:
NEW BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
131 N MAIN ST, GLEN CARBON, IL 62034

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025- 3 PM:
LOVEJOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2550 ROCK HILL RD, WOOD RIVER, IL 62095

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025 - 3 PM:
GODFREY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1100 AIRPORT ROAD, GODFREY, IL 62035



WWW.GRCSSING.ORG

These events are free and open to the public.
A free will offering will be taken.

Programs are partially sponsored by a grant
from the Illinois Arts Council and our
community partners - Boeing and the
Alton Community Service League



Illinois
ARTS
Council



Poem

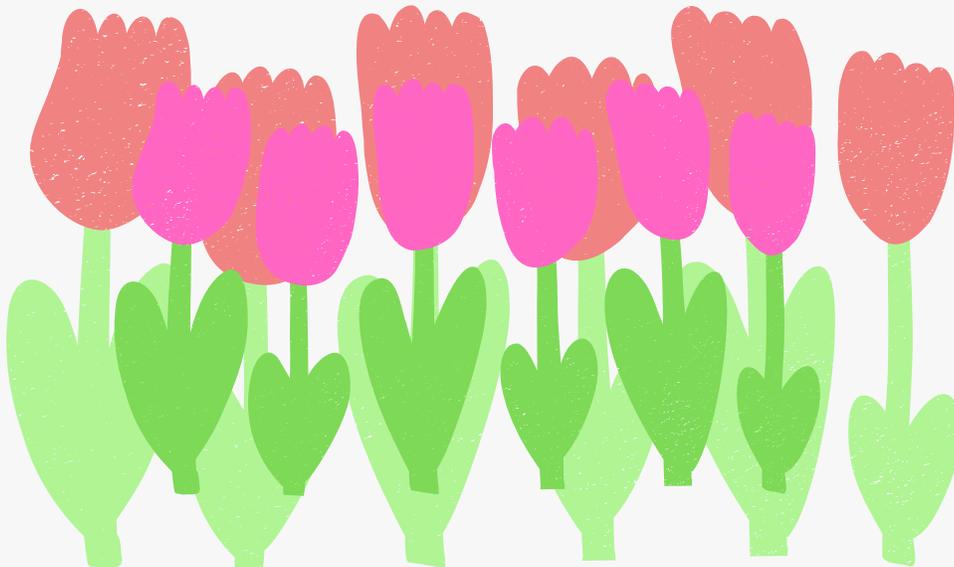
Prayer for the Choir

*Great and Most kind
Heavenly Father,
you are with us.
Listen as we sing hymns of
praise, as we sing the words
of your son.
Watch us as we sing perfect
harmony.
We have gathered in your
house.
We offer you our gifts of
songs.
May this season be glorious
in your eyes.
We ask this in you and your
son's name.
Amen*

Let us Color a Picture

*We have red, we have
green, blue, yellow, brown,
orange, purple.
There is a picture, black
and white.
The picture is dull.
Watch the child bring life
to the picture.
He shall make it Happy.
He is adding color to
dullness.
Let us all be Happy.
For Happiness is full of
color.*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel





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

