



THE OBSERVER

Dear friends,

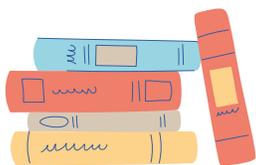
Happy New Year to you! You've no doubt noticed - or bumped into - the tall cocktail tables (as they're called) upon entering or leaving the sanctuary. These were purchased last year by our Worship Committee to help cultivate an environment of fellowship and community before and after our worship gatherings. Worship on Sundays is when most of us are here together at any given time, so it's an opportune moment to grow more deeply in relationship with one another.

In addition to our third-Sunday-of-the-month fellowship gathering, our Fellowship Committee is working on providing coffee and snacks after worship every Sunday in the Narthex/Entryway. Hospitality is one of our congregation's deepest core values, so I am grateful for the work of the Worship and Fellowship Committees in helping make this a place of deep encounter with Christ's body—which is present among us when we are together.

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2026 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

- JANUARY 21: The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer
- FEBRUARY (TBA): Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- MARCH 18: Absolution by Alice McDermott
- APRIL 15: The Women by Kristin Hannah
- MAY 20: The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
- JUNE 17: The Last American Road Trip by Sarah Kendzior
- JULY 15: Empire of the Summer Moon by S.C. Gwynne
- AUGUST 19: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray
- SEPTEMBER 16: All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker
- OCTOBER 21: Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott
- NOVEMBER 18: The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
- DECEMBER 16: The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

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. Feasting on the Word is the Curriculum—which is centered on the weekly passages from the Revised Common Lectionary.
- The Bible Class: Beginning November 30 at 9AM, The Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert lead us as we begin a series called "Through the Wilderness: Healing for a Weary World." Join us as we hear the prophet Isaiah speak into our own weary world.
- 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 January

UPC (aka the Lyceum readers) have just finished a twelvemonth list of thought-provoking and entertaining books. The new titles for 2026 are listed below. The January selection is: The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu (and, yes, that really is the title!). This book by author Joshua Hammer tells the remarkable true tale of how one mild-mannered young archivist became one of the world's most prolific smugglers, organizing a heroic heist in the 1980's to sneak 350,000 ancient manuscripts to the safety of Mali. The Lyceum Book Discussion Group meets at 7:15 p.m. after Prayer Group on the third Wednesday of the month. The January date is the 21st.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, February 5th
1pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Register at
LoveJoyupc.org/nextsteps

Game Day



Join us for Game Day
Saturday, January 24th
from 2-4pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Birthday's

1	19
Justin Manker	Isabella Bauer
2	23
Maranda Young	Sherry Ulett
Nicholas Daily	Drew Belchik
3	26
Lee McCoy	Rick Buzzard
4	Ryan Harris
David Hemphill	28
Doug Workman	Linda LaMarsh
Karen Huff	Karen Gunter
10	Martha Schultz
Jeane Slayden	29
11	Gary Fleming
Mary Ellen Fulkerson	31
13	Zach Friederich
Laura Cerny	
14	
Ralph Thomposn	
17	
Cheri Levan	
David Norris	
Kathy Steinmann	

Food Pantry Needs:

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



November 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 11/31/2025 \$80,076.78
Savings Account Balance as of 11/31/2025 \$9,324.17
Ending Balance as of 11/31/2025 \$80,076.78

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$184,833.46

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$128,169.33 The interest rate is holding at 2.11 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.

Congregational Meeting, January 25 after worship

The annual meeting of the congregation will be January 25. The purpose of the meeting will be for the congregation to vote on the Session's recommended changes to the pastor's terms of call. They will also present the 2026 budget to the congregation. Annual Reports from church committees and ministries should be given to Tabitha by January 18 so they can be printed.

A Place of Grace

My deepest gratitude to my amazing church family for your support for A Place of Grace. You are AMAZING, and I am grateful for the partnership with LoveJoy United and for the love and encouragement of my friends here. <3
With love, Julie

To keep up with A Place of Grace Events

go to <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

Poem

Look Up to Heaven

On a summer's day,
I shall walk
on the earth.
It is a beautiful day.
I see many things.
The Sun shines down it's light.
The Children shall play.
The People shall
help each other.
The Flowers blow in the wind.
Many things are happening.
For I shall look up to
heaven and say,
"Father, I thank you for what you
have done. Thy will be done."

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel

JANUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 9:30am - Called Session Meeting
4 Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am Fellowship Committee	5 10am - Mat Weaving Group	6 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship Committee	7 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer	8	9	10
11 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Deacons' Meeting	12 9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15am - PEO Women's Group	13 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting	14 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 6pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7pm - Evening Prayer	15	16 2pm - ACE Committee Meeting	17
18 Annual Reports Due 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10am - Mat Weaving Group	20 9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting	21 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club	22 6:30pm - Session Meeting	23	24 2-4pm Game Day
25 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Annual Meeting of the Congregation 11:30am - Christian Formation	26 9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group	27	28 10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer	29	30	31



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

