



Good friends,

I had to shovel a good bit of snow after this last snowstorm. I was so sore the next day! I clearly don't use those muscles unique to snow shoveling very often. We (thankfully) only need those muscles for a short time each year, but that does mean they succumb to atrophy pretty quickly once Spring rolls around.

Scripture tells us that the church is like a human body in this way. We are members of the same body, connected to one another by a muscle-like tissue. When we are worshiping, serving, talking, and caring for one another, that muscle grows healthy and strong. And our church body is capable of so much! But there are times when, in the course of our busy lives, we become less connected. And when our connective tissue weakens, our church body loses its coordination, energy, and resilience. Our church body can be sore, too! We can tell we are sore when we find it difficult to disagree in love, when we cease to be curious about how God is working in each other's lives, and when we struggle to share life together.

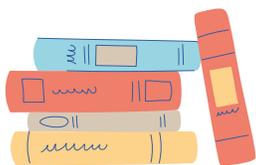
This Lenten season, our Adult Christian Education Committee invites you to consider joining one of several small groups that will be focusing on building up the connective tissue between us through fellowship and conversation. We consistently find that small groups at LoveJoy United build deep, meaningful relationships among those who participate, and they, in turn, help strengthen the connective tissue of the whole congregation.

We'll be sharing more details soon about the times and locations of each group. To sign up, you can do so in the narthex, visit our website at lovejoyupc.org, or call the church office at 618-254-5880.

Blessings!

Pastor Daniel

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2026 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

FEBRUARY 17th: 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

- Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM
Sunday Morning Live (Love Room & Zoom) is an
informal, conversational class that seeks to connect
scripture, theology, and faith to our lives and world.
They relate current events to Scripture to create
thought-provoking discussions via *The Wired Word*.
- The Bible Class (Fellowship Hall & Zoom), led by Rev. Dr.
Linda Shugert, is exploring the lectionary readings using
the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*.
- 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 February

FEBRUARY 17th: Braiding Sweetgrass by
Robin Wall Kimmerer



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18 at 7 PM

Join us as we confess our brokenness
and re-commit again to the way of
Jesus Christ.

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, February 28th

from 2-4pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Birthday's

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 15 |
| Tara Caputo | Alex Hayes |
| 4 | 16 |
| Kathleen Chappell | Carol Bouyea |
| 5 | 17 |
| Virginia Shelton | Darvin Bloemker |
| 7 | 22 |
| Elise Gremler | Jonathan Carnes |
| 8 | 23 |
| Michael Rust | Edie Chappell |
| 9 | Eric Langenwaller |
| Bob Hagaman | 24 |
| Pat Cooper | Jim Cerny |
| 11 | Ken Ringhausen |
| Nora Bristow | Susan Johns |
| Cindy Mayhew | 25 |
| Taylor Pruitt | Alex Cunningham |
| 12 | Jean Utnage |
| Lynn Engelman | 27 |
| 14 | Paula Blair |
| Beverly Kowalewich | |
| Brenda Creasey | |



Food Pantry Needs:
Toilet Tissue

December 2025 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 12/31/2025 \$63,253.55
Savings Account Balance as of 12/31/2025 \$32,430.04
Ending Balance as of 12/31/2025 \$95,683.59

Pledge Income Received:

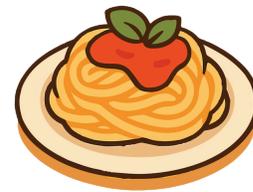
YTD Pledge total \$204,835.08

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund
\$118,805.68 The interest rate is holding at 2.00 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or
Tom Wyatt.

Annual Congregational Meeting February 15 after worship.

Join us in-person or on Zoom as
we receive the 2026 budget from
the session and vote on changes to
the pastor's terms of call.



Italian Luncheon

**Sunday, February 15th after
worship.** Food will be provided.

Please sign up via the signup
sheet in the narthex.

A freewill offering will be collected to
help cover the cost of food.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vintage Voices Players – The Lovejoy Legacy **February 12, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

This powerful program brings history to life through first-person portrayals of individuals connected to the legacy of Elijah P. Lovejoy. Celia Lovejoy, his devoted widow; William “Scotch” Johnston, a free Black man, who secretly buried Lovejoy’s body; Amanda Kitchell Chavers, whose freedom was secured when Alton’s citizens united to purchase it; Thomas Dimmock, who led the effort to build the Lovejoy Monument; and Isaac H. Kelly, the first official Lovejoy Grave Trustee.

Please call 1-800-613-3163 to register for this program

Venue:

Performance Room at Alton Square Mall (Top Floor, near JC Penny)
225 Alton Square Mall
Alton, IL 62002

Join us for dinner at Santino’s in Alton between 4:30 and 5pm
(Santino’s is now serving a wider variety of dishes, not just Italian.)

- ACE Committee

Hope, Health and Healing Series

Sunday, Feb 22, 2026 after worship service



Debbie Dyle, a resident of Moro, Illinois, will recount her recovery after surviving a heart attack and describe how she now lives a "second life" filled with new goals and impressive physical accomplishments. Today, she thrives as an enthusiastic kayaker and has become an instructor. Debbie will also offer advice and resources that could support you or a loved one in reaching your own recovery milestones. Her inspiring story encourages us to recognize our potential beyond health challenges such as a heart attack. A dedicated and empathetic social worker, Debbie Dyle continues serving at Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center in East St. Louis, even after retiring from the State of Illinois Division of Mental Health where she worked for many years.



Poem

Times

We Each are different
We follow the father's star
But the lines we follow are
different

The Paths are different.
Sometimes our lines will cross.

We shall meet

Up, down, left, right

We shall go in circles and
squares

In the end, our lines, our paths,
shall reach the same place that
the Father has destined for us.

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel



A Place of Grace

To keep up with A Place of Grace Events go to
<https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

Artful Expressions of Grief Retreats

Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL

This is a six-retreat series that takes place over three months on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (2/4, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, and 4/22 for the first six-retreat series). Each retreat will feature a different practice in addition to art (no previous art experience required) where companions can receive pastoral care and communal support as they work through grief over any kind of loss. There is a materials fee for this retreat (more info to come). RSVP by 1/27
Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

Grace at the Gallery

You are invited to join us for "Grace at the Gallery" each Tuesday for seven weeks, beginning February 3rd. Same practice all day. Different practice each week! Visit:
<https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>



February

2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am Fellowship Committee 1pm - Worship Class Visits</p> | <p>2</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p> | <p>3</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission and Outreach</p> | <p>4</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p> | <p>5</p> <p>1pm Blood Drive</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship</p> | <p>9</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15am - PEO Women's Group</p> | <p>10</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship Committee</p> | <p>11</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 6pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7pm - Evening Prayer</p> | <p>12</p> <p>6pm - Vintage Voices Players - The Lovejoy Legacy</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day </p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>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 - Fellowship Hour Italian Lunch</p> | <p>16</p> <p>President's Day 10am - Mat Weaving Group</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting</p> | <p>18</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>2pm - ACE Committee Meeting</p> | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Hope, Health and Healing</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group</p> | <p>24</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 11am - Staff Meeting</p> | <p>25</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer</p> | <p>26</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>1pm Game Day</p> |



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

