



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

Good friends,

Around 5pm on Sunday, February 22, Madison County Transit shuttles began arriving at the back door of our Fellowship Hall, carrying around 25 people who would otherwise have nowhere warm to go. This all began when the Overnight Warming Locations (OWLs) reached out to us late the previously week with an urgent need. The Alton location had sustained significant water damage and, without another plan, the warming shelter could not open. Our elders, staff, and other church members worked quickly to make our space available. The Saturday before opening night, a team of OWL volunteers unloaded cots, blankets, and food in our Fellowship Hall.

The OWL is open when temperatures in Alton dip to 20° or below, so we hosted the shelter both Sunday and Monday nights. The OWL's mission is to "get inside, get connected, and get well." Volunteers around the area prepare warm food, launder bedding, and donate clothes and supplies. Other volunteers work in shifts to welcome and feed guests in the evening, tend to them during the night, and serve breakfast and clean in the morning. This morning, the MCT shuttled guests to Riverbend Family Ministries for daytime shelter, where they could connect with other resources. There are currently three OWLs in Madison County: in Alton, Edwardsville, and Granite City.

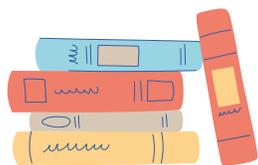


We have said that we are a Matthew 25 congregation for a long time. Time and time again, you all demonstrate that this is not just lip service paid to the Gospel. Presented with this need, you all stepped up to welcome and shelter those Jesus called "the least of these," treating them as neighbors.

I give thanks for the generous hospitality you extend to our community!

Blessings!
Pastor Daniel

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2026 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

MARCH 17: 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 Sandy Monroe, 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.

Lenten Small Groups Underway

More than 30 members and friends of LoveJoy United are participating in small groups this Lent. The focus of these group is to strengthen our shared relationships and to build our capacity to have conversations around important matters of life, faith, and ministry. Even if you are not participating in one of these groups, we encourage you to reach out to others in the congregation to strengthen our bonds in the Body of Christ.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, April 9th

1pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Register at

LoveJoyupc.org/nextsteps

Game Day



Join us for Game Day
Saturday, March 28th
from 2-4pm in the
Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Birthday's

1	21
Ann French	John Rain III
2	Pat Fletcher
Lindell Blackford	22
8	Linda Smith
Gloria Hunt	23
9	Barbara Elledge
Claude Hunter, Jr,	Ethan C. Humbert
Stephanie Lindquist	24
10	Joe Freeman
Miranda Inlow	26
Linda Schiltz	Janice McKee
11	Luke Workman
Nora Frank	Ross Chapman
Glenda Pelot	27
12	Al Goeway
Karen Auston	28
13	Daniel Ervin
Kara Carmack	Doris Miller
16	Doug Bristow
Shawn Huff	Valerie Freeman
18	30
Donny Hayes	Gavin Chapman
Abigail Overstreet	Tiffany Koenig
19	Andrews
Kendelle Pelot	Lisa Randall

January 2026 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 1/31/2025 \$75,668.25
Savings Account Balance as of 1/31/2025 \$32,430.04
Ending Balance as of 1/31/2025 \$108,098.29

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$ 17,862.26

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.

Church Women United Lenten Services & Lunches

Starting Ash Wednesday and continuing through Good Friday, community members are invited to attend 30 minute Lenten Services every Wednesday from 12–12:30pm, followed by a \$5 lunch, at area churches. A free will offering will benefit Oasis Women's Center and Crisis Food Center. Click below dates and locations or go to [Riverbender.com](https://www.riverbender.com) [Dates and Locations](#)



Food Pantry Needs:
Soup and Peanut Butter

MARCH MOVIE NIGHT



On **March 8**, we will gather for **Sunday Night** at the Movies starting at **6:00** with a brown bag supper. The movie for the evening is **Because of Winn Dixie**.

Based on the beloved heartwarming book, this movie is a tale (or “tail”) of a girl and the four-legged friend who changes not only her life but also the life of many eccentric residents of the small town into which she and her preacher father have recently moved.

We are going to try something new in the food department this time: a brown bag supper. Attendees will be asked to bring their own supper (usually something like a sandwich with or without chips—or perhaps a salad). Coffee, iced tea and dessert will be provided.

Come at 6:00 with your supper in hand prepared to share time in conversation with friends and then enjoy the movie at 7:00.

Holy Week and Easter

with A Place of Grace + LoveJoy United

Palm & Passion Sunday
Sunday, March 29 at 10:15am

Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall with the Palm Sunday celebration. We will then process into the Sanctuary for the Liturgy of the Passion.

Good Friday
Friday, April 3 at 7pm

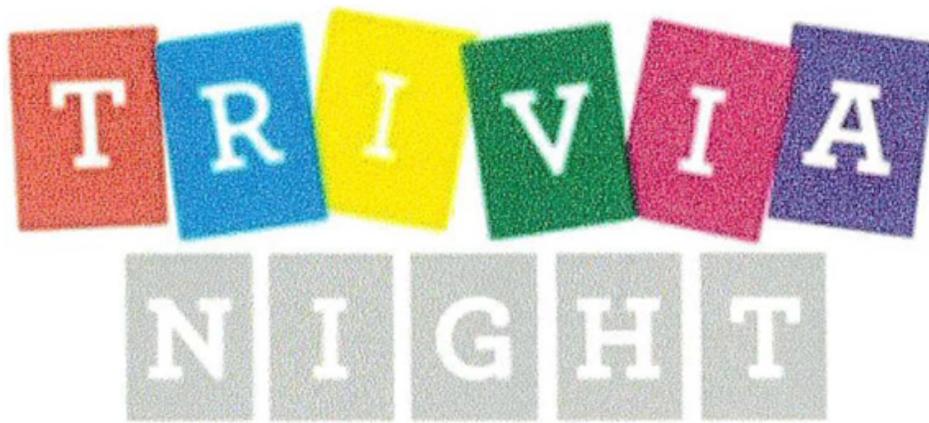
Good Friday worship, held outside under the front portico, marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This service, led by Pastor Julie Gvillo, will help us experience the crucifixion story in a new way.

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 2 at 6pm

This potluck gathering (bring a dish to share, if you can!) will take the form of supper church. We will celebrate the gift of the Lord’s Supper and remember Christ’s commandment to love one another.

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 5 at 10:15am

Join us for the summit of the church year, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The logo for 'TRIVIA NIGHT' features the word 'TRIVIA' in a row of six colorful, slightly tilted rectangular blocks (red, blue, yellow, green, pink, purple) and the word 'NIGHT' in a row of five grey rectangular blocks below it. All letters are white and in a bold, sans-serif font.

Lovejoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Rd.
Wood River. IL
Friday, March 20

Fellowship Hall Doors open at 6:15pm
Trivia starts at 7:00pm

\$15.00 per person - Maximum table of 8
Winning table receives money back.
10 rounds of questions

MULLIGANS - 10 for \$10.00 one allowed per round.
Tea, coffee, water and popcorn will be provided.

Heads or Tails during Intermission
PRESBYTERIAN PIES RAFFLED AT INTERMISSION

For tickets, please contact
John Shugert 314-374-1018 or Chuck Randall 618-623-8781

Poem

A Prayer

*God teaches us many things
To listen to each other
To feed the hungry
To give a drink to a thirsty person
God also teaches us something else
Our heavenly father teaches
us how to pray
A Prayer for the sick
A Prayer for the sinners
A Prayer before breakfast,
lunch, tea, dinner
A Prayer is a way to talk to our father
God wants us to Pray
It can be big
It can be small
It can be silent
It can be simple
And so my friends
Let us say a Prayer*

Poet Laureate
Herbert J. Peel



A Place of Grace

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

Walk to Jerusalem

We're OFF! 30 companions reported 433 miles this week of the 6415 mile trek to Jerusalem. It's not too late to join us!

Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

Grace at the Gallery: Selah Retreats

Lament is a practice we don't often indulge, but with everything happening in the world today, we need to. A Place of Grace Selah Retreats offer an opportunity to express your lament through word, breath, and movement. We'll be offering Selah Retreats ALL DAY on Tuesday, March 3rd; choose your time!

See the schedule at <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/graceatthegallery.html>

RSVP Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

<https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>



March



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 7pm - Lenten Small Group @ Pastor's House</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group 1pm - Lenten Small Group @ Church 7pm Fellowship Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 10am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission and Outreach 7pm - Lenten Small Group - Zoom</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm Lenten Small Group @ Hensons'</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1pm Lenten Small Group @ Shugerts'</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Saturday Cafe'</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 6pm - Dinner and Movie Night (Fellowship Hall) 7pm - Lenten Small Group @ Pastor's House</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group 12:15am - PEO Women's Group 1pm - Lenten Small Group @ Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 10am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship Committee 7pm - Lenten Small Group - Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 6pm - A Place of Grace Mission Madness 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm Lenten Small Group @ Hensons'</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1pm Lenten Small Group @ Shugerts'</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship 7pm - Lenten Small Group @ Pastor's House</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group 1pm - Lenten Small Group @ Church</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 9am Bell Choir 10am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - Lenten Small Group - Zoom 7:15pm - LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm Lenten Small Group @ Hensons'</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1pm Lenten Small Group @ Shugerts' 2pm - ACE Committee Meeting 7pm - Trivia Night</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 - Christian Formation Committee Meeting 7pm - Lenten Small Group @ Pastor's House</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Food Pantry 10am - Mat Weaving Group pm - Lenten Small Group @ Church</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 10am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Lenten Small Group - Zoom</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:15am - Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Evening Prayer 7:15pm Lenten Small Group @ Hensons'</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1pm Lenten Small Group @ Shugerts'</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2pm Game Day</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Palm and Passion Sunday 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 9am - Adult Formation: Bible Class 9am - Adult Formation: Sunday 10:15am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Mat Weaving Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am Bell Choir 10am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Lenten Small Group - Zoom</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

