

  
**LoveJoy United**  
 Presbyterian Church  
**THE OBSERVER**

Good friends,

Last year, Ryan and I joined my parents on a wonderful trip to Ireland. My family has begun to impose a limit on the number of churches I'm allowed to visit; otherwise, that's all we'd see when we travel. I used one of my church allowances to visit not a church per se, but the site of an early Christian community of monks on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula on Ireland's southwest coast. We drove down a narrow, single-track road, dodging sheep and potholes. In Ireland, you drive on the left, but on these tiny roads that hug the coast, you would do well just to stay on the road at all.

The road terminated on the rugged cliffs overlooking the harsh North Atlantic. There we saw several big, round stone huts that resembled beehives. Built somewhere between the 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, these huts (called Clochán) housed Christian monks who had come out into one of the harshest environments in the world to study, pray, and practice their faith. In Egypt, monks would travel to the inhospitable desert to find God. In Western Europe, the closest to the desert they could find was windswept Ireland.

Those old structures reminded me of the passage we read from 1 Peter on the last Sunday in April: "Come to Jesus, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy



The "Beehive" structures on Dingle Peninsula, Ireland

priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Peter uses the image of a stone house to describe who we are as a community of God's people. In this world that can often be harsh, isolating, and perilous, God has built us into a shelter of peace, love, and hope. Not only do we ourselves receive shelter by being part of this community, we also offer shelter to those who need hope, connection and grace.

I pray you know that you are treasured part of this spiritual house we share together at LoveJoy United. But know too that you are a part of our mission to bring welcome others into God's shelter alongside us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Daniel



# Bobby Jo Valentine Free Concert

Come join us for an evening of  
Award-Winning, Modern Folk music.  
that deeply resonates with people  
from all walks of life.



[lovejoyupc.org/concert](https://lovejoyupc.org/concert)

**Join us for a wonderful evening with  
Bobby Jo Valentine**

**May 15, 2026, 7pm, (Reception to follow)  
LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church  
2550 Rock Hill Road, Wood River, IL  
[lovejoyupc.org](https://lovejoyupc.org)**

***A free will offering will be collected in support of the  
Overnight Warming Locations (OWLs)***

# Creation Care



## LUPC EARTH DAY

APRIL 26

The after-worship celebration on April 26 left no doubt of what our Earth Care Congregation wanted to observe. The Hall décor emphasized the day with banners, table decoration and a fantastic luncheon meal.



**Laura Lyons** from the Heartlands Conservancy explained to us how the mostly volunteer participants in that organization works to restore natural habitats from land and wetlands into bountiful ecosystems.

## HAPPY 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO US

2026 MARKS THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LOVEJOY UNITED AS A NEW CHURCH. ONE OF THE FIRST DECISIONS TO EXPAND OUR MINISTRY WAS TO WORK TOWARD BECOMING AN OFFICIAL EARTH CARE CONGREGATION, SO WE HAVE ACHIEVED A NEW MILESTONE OF 10 YRS.

# Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament For Sandra Monroe Sunday, June 14 at 3pm

It is rare for a congregation to have as many people in the ordination process as LoveJoy United. We have three at this moment. It is even rarer for that same church to host the ordination service itself. We are beyond delighted to host the ordination of our own Sandra Monroe at LoveJoy United on June 14 at 3pm. Sandy's gifts and skills as a teacher, leader, preacher, theologian, and spiritual caregiver have been a blessing to our congregation for decades. We are excited that Sandy's gifts will now be recognized by the larger church in this new way. Sandy will be ordained and continue her current call as a chaplain at St. Louis University Hospital.



The Rev. Dale Jackson, former pastor, will preach. Following worship, please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate this new phase of Sandy's ministry.



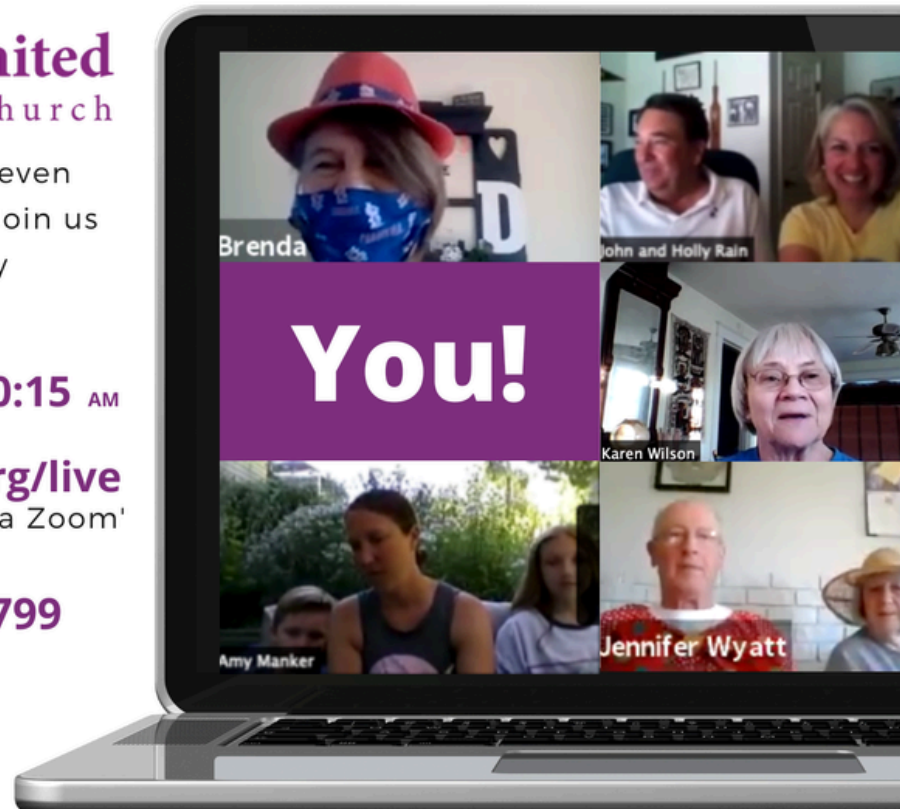
We can be together even when we are apart. Join us for online worship by computer or phone.

 **Sundays at 10:15 AM**

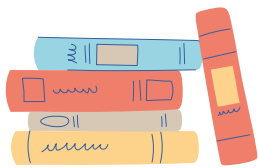
 **[lovejoyupc.org/live](https://lovejoyupc.org/live)**  
Click 'Connect Via Zoom'  
or YouTube

 **+1-312-626-6799**

Meeting ID:  
611 784 858#



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2026 LoveJoy Lyceum Book List

- 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.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 24th  
1pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Register at  
[LoveJoyupc.org/nextsteps](https://LoveJoyupc.org/nextsteps)

It's that time again. We will be hosting our next Red Cross blood drive on **Wednesday, June 24th**. If you are able, please donate to improve the quality of life for the donor, or potentially saving a life following an accident or surgery.

## Memorial Service for Dixie Engelman Sunday June 14 after morning worship at 11:45 am.

Join us as we give thanks for Dixie's life, offer comfort to her family, and proclaim the good news of the Resurrection.

## Game Day



Join us for Game Day  
**Saturday, May 30th**  
**from 2-4pm** in the  
Fellowship Hall

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## May Birthday's

1	21
Candis Jacquin	Amber Holt
Jake Friederich	13
2	Kelly Slayden
Marilyn Holt	14
3	Debra Goskie
Jaclyn Lindquist	15
Rue Foe	Lynn Boston
4	17
Tim Cerny	Waylon Duncan
5	Michael Carnes
Kaleb Klette	19
Kaylynn St. Peters	Glenda McDonald
6	21
Linda Frizzell	Julie Gvillo
Robert Vandalia	22
8	Emilia Huff
Karissa Joi	24
Chapman	Ashley Cox
Scott Thompson	25
9	Viktoria Monroe
Beth Forrester	30
10	Alice Carter
Katie LaMarsh	31
Stella Lemasson	Heather Carnes

## March 2026 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 3/31/2026 \$38,247.48  
Savings Account Balance as of 2/28/2026 \$32,842.05  
Ending Balance as of 2/28/2026 \$71,089.53

Pledge Income Received:

YTD Pledge total \$52,129.81

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$119,387.11 The interest rate is holding at 2.00 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.

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## Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church

LoveJoy United will pay \$40 per member in 2026 to fund the work of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, which the many churches under its care. A portion also goes to the PC(USA), which serves the church's mission around the country and the world. To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. You can send a check or pay online at [lovejoyupc.org/give](https://lovejoyupc.org/give).



**Food Pantry Needs:**  
Canned Vegetables

# Poem

## *The Day We Were Saved*

*Let us quiet our minds for we shall hear a story.*

*It was after a great supper that a teacher was telling his  
students that one was going to betray him.*

*He also said that another was going to deny him 3 times.*

*It all happened just as the teacher said.*

*He was taken from the garden and brought before the  
Governor.*

*He wanted to release the teacher but all were saying  
"CRUCIFY CRUCIFY HIM".*

*A crown of thrones was put on his head.*

*He took his cross to the hill where he was put on the cross  
where he died.*

*No need to worry my brothers and sisters for it was the day  
we were saved.*

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>

## Grace Camp: Mission Madness - May 26th at 8AM

### LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

May 26-29 is our annual Grace Camp: Mission Madness Week! During that week, we work with all five of the agencies we work with through the year, plus we engage in a number of additional Mission Madness activities including the assembly of Good Samaritan bags and Random Acts of Kindness and Mission Madness Workshop crafting. Contact Julie for more information and to register by May 20th.

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

## Intergenerational Spiritual Formation Retreats - June 9th at 9AM

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

Parents and Grandparents, this is for you! The two-hour retreat times during June Grace at the Gallery Tuesdays will focus on intergenerational spiritual formation retreats. Come and engage in creative spiritual practices with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren) June 9, 16, 23, and 30, during the morning and afternoon retreats (9-11 a.m. and 1:15-3:15 p.m.).

Register with Julie or at: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events>



## Grace Camp: Mission Madness

Opportunities abound!  
Join us, won't you?



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
<b>3</b> 9am Adult Formation (Bible) 9am Adult Formation (Live) 10:15am Worship & Communion 11:30am Christian Formation Mtg 11:30am Building & Grounds Mtg	<b>4</b> 11:30am Fellowship Committee	<b>5</b> 6pm Mission & Outreach Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:15am Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>10</b> 9am Adult Formation (Bible) 9am Adult Formation (Live) 10:15am Worship	<b>11</b> 9am Food Pantry 6pm Discussion Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:15am Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5pm A Place of Grace: Mission Madness 7pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2pm ACE Committee Meeting 7pm Bobby Jo Valentine Concert	<b>16</b>		
<b>17</b> 9am Adult Formation (Bible) 9am Adult Formation (Live) 10:15am Worship Graduation Celebration 11:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6pm Finance Meeting	<b>20</b> 10:15am Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7:15pm LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club 7pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>		
<b>24</b> 9am Adult Formation (Bible) 9am Adult Formation (Live) 10:15am Worship Offering of Letters: Bread for the World 11:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>25</b> 9am Food Pantry 6pm Discussion Group	<b>26</b> A Place of Grace Mission Camp			<b>27</b> 10:15am Lectionary Bible Study 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2pm Game Day
<b>31</b> 9am Adult Formation (Bible) 9am Adult Formation (Live) 10:15am Worship								