


LoveJoy United
 Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

June 2026 Newsletter

Dear friends,

Earlier this year, when the Alton site for the Overnight Warming Locations was unusable due to water damage, LoveJoy United stepped up in a hurry to shelter folks for two cold nights in February. The OWL organization brought in volunteers to move cots, feed folks, and staff the shelter. Madison County Transit bussed folks to and from the church to a daytime warming center. Members of LoveJoy United helped to problem solve and get our space ready to host. The OWL, our guests, and our church leadership were all grateful for the way you all came through for our neighbors in need!

The OWL organization has now asked if LoveJoy United would be interested in hosting a permanent OWL location, which opens when the overnight temperature dips to 20°F or lower. The OWL recruits its own volunteers (though they would welcome us to help), raises its own funds, and carries its own insurance. Our role would primarily be to provide the space.

Recognizing this falls squarely into our Matthew 25 mandate, our Session has been discerning this possibility. Part of that discernment is yours. The Session wants to hear your questions and receive your input before moving forward.



Prepping to host the OWL in Feb 2026

To facilitate these conversations, the Session has asked the Mission and Outreach Committee to host a discernment conversation after worship on June 28 in the Fellowship Hall. Together, we'll remember our Matthew 25 commitment, hear from a representative from the OWLs, and have an opportunity to ask questions and give input as the Session continues to discern where Christ is calling us.

In anticipation of this gathering, I also invite you to reach out to either Karen Wilson or me to share your questions and concerns. Please keep our church leaders in your prayers as we discern this opportunity.

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the
Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

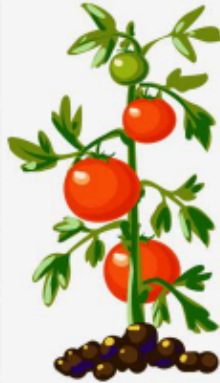
✦ Isaiah 61:11



Have you noticed the raised gardens out back are GROWING, GROWING, GROWING ?

The garden team has been busy as pollinator bees preparing soil, and planting regular plants donated by Amy Manker, who started them by seeds with her Brussels High School horticulture class. Notice the pine needles mulch which was gathered from our own pine trees.

And strawberries are a new feature this year.



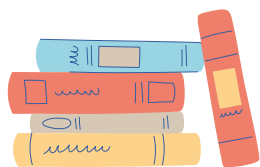
STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

Congratulations to Sandy Monroe, who received her Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Sunday, June 14

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 were beyond delighted to host the ordination of Sandra Monroe here at LoveJoy United on June 14. Sandy's gifts and skills as a teacher, leader, preacher, theologian, and spiritual caregiver have been a blessing to our congregation for decades. We know that Sandy's gifts will now be recognized by the larger church in this new way. Sandy will continue her current call as a chaplain at St. Louis University Hospital.



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

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.

*Kindness is
in your blood*



ANNOUNCEMENTS



01-Jun	JoAnn	Lamar
03-Jun	Joya	Freeman
03-Jun	(Madison	Lynn)
04-Jun	Abel	Bristow
05-Jun	Maximus	Hatcher
05-Jun	Tiffany	Milburn
06-Jun	Amy	Hanold
07-Jun	Preston	King
08-Jun	Aaron	Miller
08-Jun	Michelle	St. Peters
09-Jun	Delilah	Shelton
11-Jun	Kathi	Cooper
13-Jun	Jo	Carter
13-Jun	Lisa	Hemphill
16-Jun	Rev. Dr. Linda	Shugert
18-Jun	Carol	Hanold
19-Jun	Kent	Barry
19-Jun	Karon	Barry
19-Jun	Keely	Rust
21-Jun	Linda	Peel
22-Jun	Ray	Gvillo
23-Jun	Eileen	Miller
24-Jun	Alice	Buzzard
25-Jun	Jean	Day
27-Jun	Jessica	Gardener
27-Jun	James "Tom"	Wyatt
28-Jun	Patty	Miller
29-Jun	Kaitlyn	Lewis
29-Jun	Richard	Sisk
30-Jun	William	Hatcher
30-Jun	Janet	Barringer
30-Jun	Rev. Dr. Aline	Russell

April 2026 Financial Notes:

Checking Account Balance as 4/31/2026
\$47,779.69

Savings Account Balance as of 4/28/2026
\$ 32,842.85

Ending Balance as of 4/28/2026
\$ 80,622.54

Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total
\$ 81,033.20

The current amount in the Mission Market Fund:
\$ 119,387.11

The interest rate is holding at 2.00 %

For questions, please contact Sarah Carnes or Tom Wyatt.



Food Pantry Needs:
Peanut Butter

Poem

You Shall Love

We are called and commanded to Love

“You shall love.” Christ has said

These loved you, and you shall love one another as yourself.

Oour God our Father loves us, and so we must do the same.

We must carry love in our hearts.

For Christ said,

“You shall love.”

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 at the Gallery - June 16th at 7:30AM

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

30 minute and 20 hour retreats throughout the day for individuals, couples, and families. Theme: God With Us. Practices: Worship and Wonder and Audiendo Divina. Please RSVP via the link above

June Prayer Art Retreat - June 18th at 6PM

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

Meditative drawing focuses less on perfection and more on release. Prayer Art Retreats are a time of listening, which is often easier when our hands are occupied. Come listen with us! Register with Julie or at:the link above.

Boomwhacker Choir Retreat - June 24th at 6PM

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

What do the lyrics of the hymns you sing mean to you? Reflect on this and other questions and learn to play them in community with simple plastic tube instruments, all while having fun!



Grace Camp: Mission Madness

Opportunities abound!
Join us, won't you?





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