

LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
THE OBSERVER

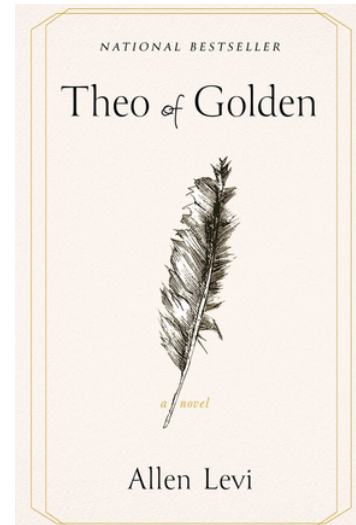
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi: A book recommendation

Dear friends,

One of my personal goals this year has been to read more for pleasure. When I realize I'm endlessly scrolling on my phone (which is too often), I'm trying to put down that awful device and pick up a book. I enjoy historical fiction, murder mysteries, and biographies, but my guilty pleasure is folk horror: novels that feature the scary folklore of a place. The plot usually goes something like this: an unsuspecting outsider happens upon an old English village and then gets caught up in the dreadful folk practices of the place.

If that's not your style, I have good news! Theo of Golden is not like that, which means it is not my typical read. But when three Presbyterian friends – none of whom know each other – all recommended it to me in the span of a couple of weeks, I figured I should give it a try. And I'm grateful I did.

Theo of Golden, authored by Allen Levi, is the tale of a mysterious outsider, Theo, coming to the small Southern town of Golden, Georgia. But no horror here. Theo brings with him an almost magical ability to see the pain, joy, and hope in the faces of other people, and he transforms the town by reconnecting people to one another.



It reminds me of the wonderful quote from Hebrews 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Theo's presence brings tremendous grace to the people of Golden and blessed when they welcome him.

Endlessly quotable, the book is full of snippets of wisdom, faith (but doesn't wear it on its sleeve), and humor. After reading it, I found myself being more curious about strangers, seeking ways to connect with others, and imagining what our own Riverbend community could be like should more of us see things like Theo sees does.

I commend Theo of Golden to you and look forward to hearing what you think about it!

In Christ,
Pastor Daniel

Creation Care + Building & Grounds

WE NEED HELP

Have you noticed the invasion of spurge weeds and other invasive weeds in our rock bed landscaping? The gravel and preventive groundcover were laid a few years ago to help manage the growth of invasive weeds. However, although the groundcover under the gravel has helped with this, some shallow root weeds flourish. We have tried spreading Preen, vinegar solutions, weed killer, etc., but the stubborn weeds keep coming back.

It is overwhelming for just a few people to keep pulling out the weeds, so an idea has been floating around in multiple committees: **“WHY NOT HAVE A WEEDING FELLOWSHIP ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH?”** If enough volunteers get on board, we could divide the beds into small sections, which would allow the beds to be cleaned in a short amount of time – refreshments afterwards.



Pesky Spurge Weed

The picture below shows Lynn Engelman at work removing weeds from landscape areas.

Share your thoughts about having WEEDING FELLOWSHIPS with Lynn Engelman and/or Ken Webster, committee chairpersons, or with any other member of Creation Care or Building & Grounds Committees.





LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF
CONNECTION AND PREPARATION



SUNDAY
AUGUST 16 | 10:15 AM

Shoe Giveaway | Lunch | Worship

2550 Rock Hill Road
Wood River, IL

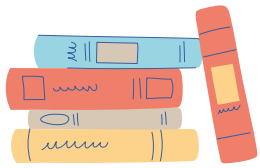
SHOE GIVEAWAY FORM



Shoe Giveaway
will be limited
and shoes will
only be
provided to
those who fill
out form



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.



May 2026 Financial Notes:

**Checking Account Balance as 5/30/2026
\$48,723.69**

**Savings Account Balance as of 5/30/2026
\$ 32,843.67**

**Ending Balance as of 5/30/2026
\$ 81,567.46**

**Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total
\$ 96,574.58**

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



01-Jul	Alaina	Frankford
01-Jul	Jennifer	Hooker
01-Jul	Logan	Inlow
02-Jul	Neil	Huff
02-Jul	Beth	Mabb
03-Jul	Hannah	Cames
03-Jul	Aubree	Leggett
06-Jul	Kimberlee	Belchik
06-Jul	Sarah	Cames
07-Jul	James	Klette
09-Jul	Larry	Abraham
09-Jul	Peggy	Hagaman
09-Jul	Allyson	Klette
09-Jul	Karen	Wilson
12-Jul	Linda	Duncan
12-Jul	Mark	Utnage
13-Jul	Judith	Hazelwonder
15-Jul	Ryan	Leggett
15-Jul	Evan	Leggett
15-Jul	Charles	Randall
18-Jul	Ann	Cook
19-Jul	Stephanie	Trudell
20-Jul	Nanette	Cemy
21-Jul	Lacy Spraggins	McDonald
23-Jul	Dee	Howe
23-Jul	Mallory	Slayden
25-Jul	Reagan	Lynn
27-Jul	Karen	Cemy
28-Jul	Phyllis	Suhre
29-Jul	Jeff	Frankford
30-Jul	John	Shugert

01-Aug	Don	Clapsaddle
01-Aug	Joel	Freeman
01-Aug	Hannah	Klette
02-Aug	Mason	Ballard
02-Aug	Kiara Alexis	Chapman
02-Aug	Derek	Lankford
03-Aug	Marilyn	King
04-Aug	Eva	Huff
05-Aug	Chrissy	Bristow
06-Aug	Crystal	Shelton
07-Aug	Sharon	Jenkins
09-Aug	Delores	Bloemker
09-Aug	Jeffrey	Frankford
09-Aug	Mag	Paddock
11-Aug	Mary	Cordes
13-Aug	Mary	Barnes
14-Aug	Carol	Foraker
14-Aug	Larry	Strohbeck
15-Aug	Gary	Zakrzewski
17-Aug	Sandy	Blackford
19-Aug	Colten	Daily
19-Aug	Kori	Frankford
19-Aug	Diana	Thompson
20-Aug	Anthony	Carmack
20-Aug	Erica	Griggs
21-Aug	Shane, Jr.	Lindquist
22-Aug	Aurora Joellen	Hayes Groman
22-Aug	Cheryl	Panyik
22-Aug	Russ	Thompson
23-Aug	Robert	Musgrave-Perkins
25-Aug	Garrett	Jensen
25-Aug	Jackson	Russell
26-Aug	Elizabeth	Langenwalter
26-Aug	Payton	Todd
26-Aug	Kate	Workman
29-Aug	Sandy	Monroe
30-Aug	Jaynie	Doerr
30-Aug	Brenda	Gremli

**You're invited to the 80th
Birthday Celebration for
Marilyn King
August 2, 1-4 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Let's celebrate this
special day as a family!
In lieu of gifts, please
consider a donation to
the LoveJoy United Food
Pantry**



Food Pantry Needs:
Canned Vegetables

Psalm 103:1-5

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

A Place of Grace

To keep up with A Place of Grace Events go to

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

July Prayer Art Retreat, July 16 | 6:00 PM

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

Need to spend some time in God's lap? Join A Place of Grace for the July Prayer Art Retreat, where we nurture delight, facilitate healing, and inspire prayer through creative spiritual practices. Everyone is welcome!

Grace at the Gallery, Tuesdays in July | 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

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

Schedule Change for Grace at the Gallery Tuesdays! Grace at the Gallery Tuesday retreats are now an Open House format from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come when you can. Stay as long as you want!





2550 Rock Hill Rd.
Wood River, IL 62095
618-254-5880