

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Whether we live or die, we belong to God.

Linda Allen

Christ is Lord of the dead and the living.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*¹ There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.*

*There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.*

*There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.*

*² For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.*

*And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.*

Prayer of Confession

God our Judge,

we admit we have double standards.

**We seek forgiveness for ourselves,
but fail to forgive others.**

**We seek relief for ourselves,
but fail to seek relief for others.**

**We seek leniency for ourselves,
but fail to show that mercy to others.
Forgive us, mighty God,
and help us to forgive,
showing others the same grace and mercy
that you have generously shown to us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

* Hymn Response 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

❖ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Romans 14:1–12

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. **2** Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. **4** Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. **6** Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Anthem

Second Reading

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from *The Brief Statement of Faith*

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God’s purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

* Hymn 444

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*¹"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.*

*² How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?*

*³ In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!*

*⁴ Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.*

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Give at lovejoyupc.org/give

*Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors,
particularly through Riverbend Family Ministries*

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer 465, v. 1

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

✦ Sending

* Hymn 383

Dream On, Dream On

¹ *Dream on, Dream on, children of peace,
till on earth God's kingdom come.
Wolf and lamb will feed together;
Lions like oxen will eat straw.
Dust shall be the serpent's food;
No one shall destroy or hurt.
Children of earth in all colors,
Live in peace and harmony.*

² *Hope on, Hope on, Easter People:
Beyond the cross, a dawning sun.
Christ our peace, broke down all barriers:
Nation, culture, tribe and clan.
Reconciling us to God,
Christ made us one human race
Joined in people and liberation,
Led by justice, hope and love.*

³ *Mount up, mount up, like an eagle,
To the heights, beyond the clouds.
Strife and sorrow shall not stop you;
Pain and tears shall lose their power
Even though the young may stumble;
God the Lord renews their strength.
They shall run and not grow weary;
they shall walk and shall not faint.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

✦ Announcements

Announcements marked with  are opportunities that relate to our Matthew 25 commitment.



RUMMAGE Sale!

This sale supports various mission projects of our church and assists our local community.

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Road - Wood River, IL
618-254-5880

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2ND & 3RD
8:00 A.M. - NOON

PRESALE - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
\$3 ENTRY FEE

SHOP DONATE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

a place of

GRACE

transformative. wonder-filled. healing.



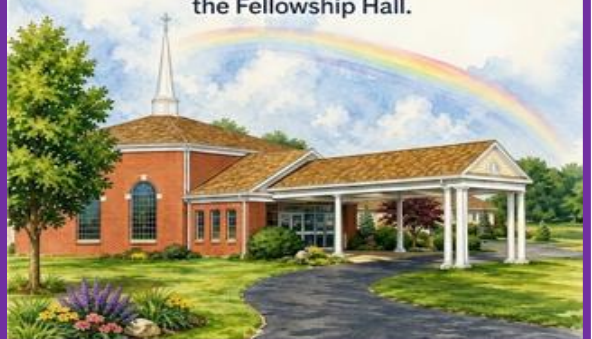
Food Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter (16oz)

We will Celebrate **10th** ANNIVERSARY

We will celebrate our church's 10th anniversary beginning on September 20 during worship!

Join us as we give thanks for the foundation God has laid in these first 10 years, and learn how we will live into the next.

After worship, join us for cake and celebration in the Fellowship Hall.



YOU ARE WELCOME!



The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking your input

as they discern who God is called to serve as elders, deacons, and members of the 2027 nominating committee.

Please submit nominations to
Deb Goskie
or

online at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps and click **Nominations**.



❖ Calendar and Prayer Requests

❖ This Week at LoveJoy United

THIS Sunday, September 13

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
- 9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
- 10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour (Narthex)
- 11:30 am Deacon's Meeting

Monday, September 14

- 9 am Food Pantry
- 10 am Mat Weaving (Hope Room)
- 7 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting (FH)

Tuesday, September 15

- 9 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

- 10:15 am Lectionary Bible Study (FH & Zoom)
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 7 pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)
- 7:15 pm LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub

Friday, September 18

- 2 pm ACE Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 pm *Beyond the Ban: Stories of Survival* with Alton
Beloved Community (Deliverance Temple, Alton)

NEXT Sunday, September 20

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
- 9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
- 10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)
- 11:30 am 10th Anniversary Celebration Reception!!!



❖ In our Prayers

Amy Camie
Barb (Linda Smith's daughter)
Becky Pontieri (Friend of Deb Goskie)
Bill Lester
Brittany
Carol Reed (Hershel Henson's sister)
Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister)
Cindy Chauvin (Mike & Mag Paddock's daughter)
Connie Anderson (College Avenue)
David Hemphill
David Norris
Donna Kay (Family of Carol Hanold)
Forrest
Gary Chappell (Family of Edie Chappell)
Huey (Sandy Franke's Son)
Jane Heppner
Jeane Slayden
Jo Carter
JoAnn Lamar
JoAnn Moss
Joe Phillips
John Kennedy
Joya Freeman (Valerie and Joe Freeman's DIL)
Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's Friend)
Julie Spurgeon
Kenny Slayden
Laurie Chappell (Family of Edie Chappell)
Linda Duncan
Pat Fletcher
Renee Lynn
Sue Harris
Terrye Mock (Joe Freeman's Sister)
Tom Cunningham (Friend of Paula Blair)
Tom and Jupiter
Winnie Whittaker
Gremi Family
Trans Folks
Chris Allen (Stepson of Linda Allen)
James Bradley (Son of Cindy Mayhew)
Beth Mabb

Nursing and Retirement Home Residents

Liberty Village, Maryville – Shirley Martin
Villa Rose, Bethalto – Mary Barnes, Betty Langenwalter
Stearns in Granite City – Beth Forrester
Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Linda Duncan
Liberty Village, Jerseyville – Shirley Burris
Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden
Cedarhurst, Des Peres – Winnie Whittaker



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

www.lovejoyupc.org | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Hollie Brandstatter, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper