

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Song of the Morning

Hughes

* Call to Worship

The kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed;
it grows into a great plant with many branches.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

Lindell Blackford

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

¹ Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

² Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

³ O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Litany of Core Values

All: Faith

High Voices: We trust in Jesus Christ, our living and loving Lord.

All: Love

Low Voices: We love because God first loved us.

All: Welcome

Pulpit Side: We extend God's open arms to one another and our neighbors.

All: Justice

Road Side: We seek shalom for all people and for all creation.

All: Generosity

All: We offer our lives in gratitude for God's gift of grace.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

* 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

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked
 or take the path that sinners tread
 or sit in the seat of scoffers,
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
 In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Anthem

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Pote

Second Reading

Mark 4:26–32

²⁶ He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Sermon

Rooted & Reaching

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from Romans 8
**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**

*Tree of Wisdom, fruitful, green,
flourishing beside the stream;
spread your knowledge day and night;
make your law our true delight.
Fashion us, O Lord, to be
strong and splendid as a tree.*

*Tree of Justice, ever bless;
shade me with your righteousness.
Teach me how to live your ways,
and my lips shall sing your praise.
Fashion us, O Lord, to be
ever branching as a tree.*

*Tree of Plenty, feed my soul;
nurture me, and make me whole.
Give me strength, cast fear aside.
Let me in your love abide.
Fashion us, O Lord, to be
firmly planted as a tree.*

*Tree of Promise, keep your vow:
with me then, and with me now.
Springtime blossoms, winter tears,
mark the seasons of my years.
Fashion us, O Lord, to be
always changing as a tree.*

*Like a forest all around,
so the gifts of grace abound:
flowing waters, fertile sod,
sunlit dawn, the Word of God.
Fashion us, O Lord, to be
living, giving as a tree.*

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

**Merciful and gracious God,
We give you thanks for your presence in your church and in our lives.
Use the gifts we share - our time, money, energy, and love - to reach out
in blessing to your world. Sustain us as we reach toward more
intentional relationships, a deeper sense of justice, and a broader
welcome to young people. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

*¹ Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.*

*Refrain:
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*² Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.*

³ *Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

March in D Major

Handel/Blake

❖ Worship Notes

Parts of today's worship are adapted from the *Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship*.

The hymn, "Trees," is by Michael Morgan, adapted.

Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins for running our media system.

❖ Land Acknowledgement

The LoveJoy United community gathers on the traditional land of the Tamaroa People, who have been its faithful stewards for generations. We acknowledge and honor the past, present, and future of the Tamaroa and other Indigenous peoples who have been displaced from their ancestral homelands.

✦ 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.



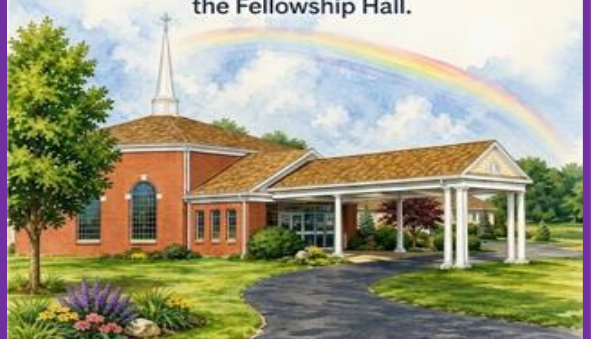
Food Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter (16oz)

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 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!!!

Monday, September 21

- 10 am Mat Weaving (Hope Room)

Tuesday, September 22

- 9 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
1 pm Nominating Committee (Love Rm)
6 pm Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
6:30 pm Christian Formation Committee for Youth (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

- 6:30 pm Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)

NEXT Sunday, September 27

- 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)



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

❖ 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
Friends and Family of Winnie Whittaker
Gremi Family
Trans Folks
Chris Allen (Stepson of Linda Allen)
James Bradley (Son of Cindy Mayhew)
Beth Mabb
Scott Thompson
Jessica Rigler

Nursing and Retirement Home Residents

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

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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

Hollie Brandstatter, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper