

Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa



I want to share with you Sue Ann’s and my journey in giving to the Lord. Admittedly, there is a measure of discomfort in doing so. However, since I am preaching about generosity, I believe it is important that you know that Sue Ann and I faithfully give to the work of the Lord. There is always room for growth, but I want you to know how God has worked in our lives in this area, bringing us to where we are today.

I also want to make clear that being generous includes more than material giving. It includes being gracious in how we relate to and speak with others, it includes investing our time in the lives of others, it includes using the spiritual gifts and natural talents God has given us to bless others ... it is an all-encompassing way of living.

So, what I will share with you is just one part of the bigger topic of generosity. It is the matter of giving money.

First, however, I want to remind us of what we have seen from God’s Word thus far in our sermon series, “A Lavish Life.” The kind of lavishness in mind is not a life of luxury and self-indulgence. Rather, it is lavishness toward others, an open-hearted generosity. The Bible reveals to us that God Himself is lavish—He is generously abundant in His works of creation and provision. Most especially, He is lavish in His love toward sinful man: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God gave His beloved Son to die for the sins of the world so that we, undeserving rebels, could be forgiven through faith in Christ.

God the Son, the Lord Jesus, showed lavish open-heartedness and open-handedness: “though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-8). He gave more than we can imagine or understand so that, to the glory of God, sinners could be reconciled to God.

What does that have to do with being generous, with our practice of giving? The generosity of God is at the heart of our becoming generous. The way God has been generous with us motivates us to be generous. The more we see and understand the generosity of God, the more we will be changed to become like Him. (See Philippians 2:1-8; 2 Corinthians 3:18.) And, God says we are to copy Him: “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

... continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Journey in Giving	Page 1
Events Calendar	Page 1
Journey in Giving continued	Page 2
Celebrate	Page 2
Landscaping Day	Page 3
Service Work Day	Page 3
Lawn Care	Page 3
M&Ms: 50’s & Up	Page 3
Missions Month	Page 4-5
Women’s Retreat	Page 6
Vudu’s new filtered movie service leads October’s family-friendly lineup	Page 7

EVENTS CALENDAR

October

Missions Month

- 1 Communion
- 5 Church Wide Landscaping Day
- 19 Men of Honor Hosted: Service Work Day
- 20 Baptism
- 21 Awana Skate Party
- 23-25 Pastor Tom’s Prayer and Planning Retreat
- 26 Women’s Retreat

November Snapshot

- 3 Communion
- GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays
- 7 Parent Night
- 10 Business Meeting and Lunch
- 24 Thanksgiving Dinner
- 28 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 28-29 Office Closed

For a day-to-day calendar go to JourneyClinton.org/calendar

Journey in Giving continued

So how has God led Sue Ann and me in our journey in giving? Our starting point as a couple was this: we believed and practiced giving 10% of our income to the church. This was an “off the top” commitment; that is, we didn’t wait to see what was left at the end of the pay period and then determine what we could give. Rather, our tithe was a set part of our budget. Since this was the way we were each taught growing up, we carried that practice into our marriage, along with the understanding that a Christian’s first priority in giving is to give to his or her church. We are grateful for this biblical training we received in our younger years.



We continue that commitment. And, by a small margin, we have increased that percentage giving to the church over the years. However, where we have experienced greater growth is in giving to other entities outside the church.



First, we began to personally support missionaries and mission efforts on an ongoing monthly basis. I don’t clearly remember when or how that started, but over time friends we knew stepped into missionary work or we were made aware of mission efforts we chose to support. As time has passed, that number has grown and our “missions” budget is now about half again of what our “tithe” budget is.



Practically speaking, how did we do that? Let me give you an example of how that took place with the latest missionary we added. We had been subscribing to the Quad City Times newspaper for years. However, the subscription rate continued to rise, and rather rapidly as digital news outlets became more and more popular. Finally, we decided to cancel our subscription. Right about that same time, friends of ours from many years ago stepped into a “second career” as missionaries and we reallocated that subscription money to missionary support.



In other cases, an increase in pay opened the way to support a missionary or, sometimes, we just reworked our existing budget to take on a missionary.

Second, besides supporting missionary work, somewhere along the way, Sue Ann and I decided to set aside money each month to be available for spontaneous giving. As needs and opportunities arise, we use those funds to give. We have found that a very helpful approach situating us for unplanned opportunities.



Third, there are times when special needs and opportunities arise which are beyond that “spontaneous” giving budget. Sue Ann and I then discuss the situation, make a decision, and then take the money from another area of our budget.

Let me reiterate my discomfort in sharing our journey of giving. Giving is a private matter. But perhaps it will encourage you to read how God has led us along in our journey of giving. Generosity does not come naturally for me, and I still have a lot of room to grow. However, God has been and continues to be graciously at work in me.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Julie Eggers | 9 Carol Simpson |
| 4 Linda Shockey | 11 Karen Martensen |
| 5 Dondeena Giddings | Roger Rieke |
| 6 Nora Brown | 12 Marilee Mueller |
| 7 Jeremy Overberg | 15 Annette Eslick |
| John McClung | Jenna Martin |
| Nathan Johnson | 19 Nathaniel (Lower) |
| 8 Al Robinson | Pat Parsons |
| Britain Haas | 21 Vickie Williams |
| Daryl Yoder | 24 Alice Peters |
| | 26 Marybeth Giddings |

- 28 Becky Pluister
- 29 Gary Fuller
- 30 Amber Eslick

Happy Anniversary!

- 10 Kathleen (Kate) & John Foster
- 15 Ed & Jenny Green
- 16 Tom & Norma Jones

Church Wide Landscaping Day

Saturday, October 5 • 8:00 am • Lunch Provided

If rain day, October 12

Question, see Jim Tietjens or Gary Fier

MEN of **HONOR** Hosted Service Work Day

Saturday, October 19 • 8:00 am-Noon

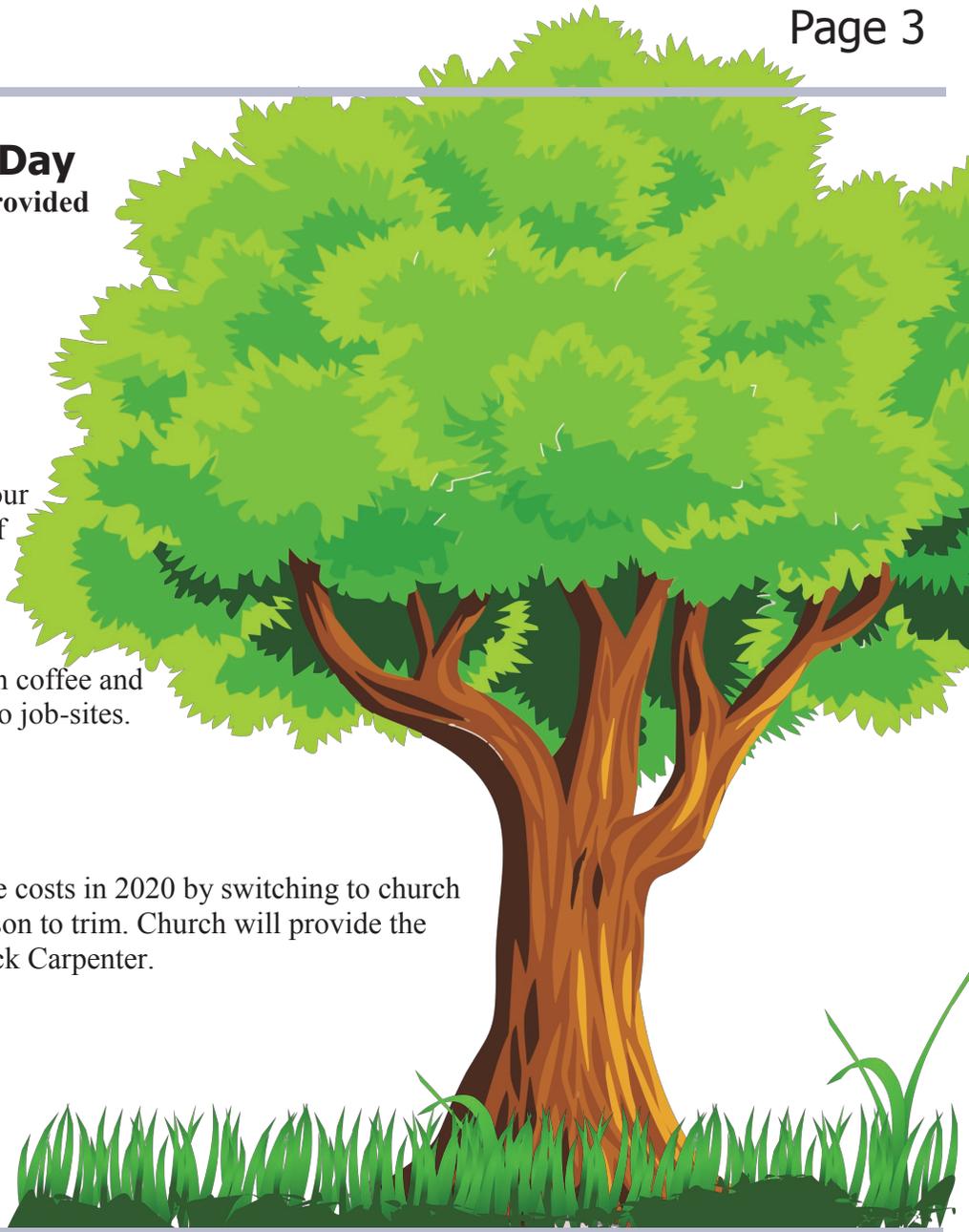
This service day is for helping members of our church who are in need. If you are in need of some help with small chores, please contact Daryl Yoder at 563-259-2090.

All who can lend a hand and assist are appreciated and welcome to help! Starts with coffee and donuts in the Fellowship Hall before going to job-sites.

Lawn Care

2020 Need

The Trustees are looking to reduce lawn care costs in 2020 by switching to church volunteers. One person to mow and one person to trim. Church will provide the equipment. If interested see Gary Fier or Dick Carpenter.



Listen to the Rhythm

BY NATE JOHNSON

This past month, our Parent Night had an emphasis on Rhythms, and our Students spent the month of September in a series on Rhythms. Now typically when we think rhythm we think of music. In this context, we were looking at the flow of life and how our day to day lives have a “rhythm” to them. When a band or orchestra is playing someone is leading the tempo/rhythm, typically that is the Director. So, the question is: In your life, who is the Director?

An easy Sunday School answer would be, God. But how much do we let Him really lead our lives? How much time a day do we give him? How much time do we spend in the Bible? How much time do we spend in Prayer? How. Much. Time. Our days are like a mason jar filled with rocks, each thing we prioritize is a rock. Family, work, friends, hobbies, God. Are some rocks in your jar edging God out, or taking His place?

When you look at the relationships in your life, they didn’t just happen one random day. They grew from the “over and over again” moments. And as relationships strengthened, so did your capacity to care about the person. The same is true with God. Developing an all-in love for Him is simply a by-product of time together. Some days it feels close. Some days it doesn’t. But it’s that time together—over time—that develops a relationship that is close. “Over and over again” is what builds a tight-knit bond. That is rhythm! What’s true of your relationship with others is true of your relationship with God. Your relationship with God grows when you’re in a rhythm with God. Let Him lead!

MONTH

Oct 13 - 31

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

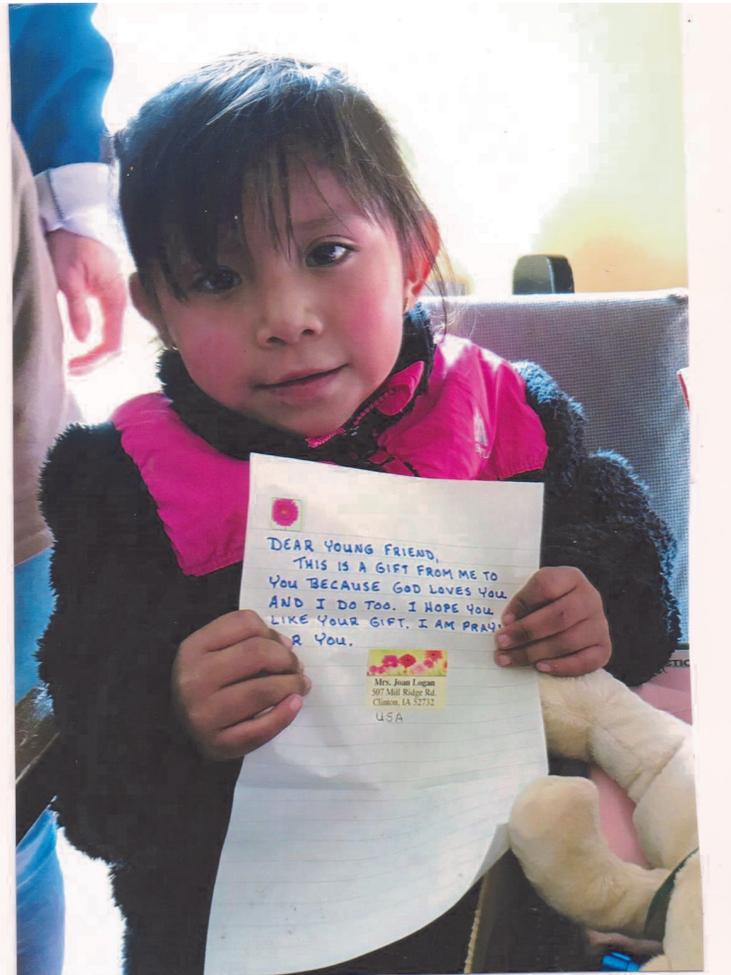
BY JOAN LOGAN FOR THE MISSIONS LEAD TEAM



The Missions Lead Team will once again be promoting the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Boxes will be available beginning Sunday, October 27. We encourage you to use these boxes as they are the same size, pack well and hold up for shipping.

You might be interested in the following statistics from last year: The United States sent 8,801,607 shoeboxes; International (including the US) sent 10,623,776. Over 10 and a half million children heard the Gospel and were invited to respond. Through the work of families, churches and communities, the gifts reach more than 106,000,000 people (each shoebox reaches about 10 people). For every 100 shoeboxes distributed, 16 children report decisions for Christ through The Greatest Journey.

Most of Clinton's shoeboxes were distributed in Mexico. The following note and picture tells the story of one of our shoebox gifts: "My name is Emily and I had the opportunity to hand out Operation Christmas Child boxes this January. We traveled to small churches in and around Juarez, Mexico. One of your boxes was given to a sweet little girl. She was very quiet and I was not able to get her name, but your gift brought her so much joy. I am thankful that through you and the ministry of Operation Christmas Child she was able to be shown the love of God. Thank you!"



Interacting with the Living Word

Women's Retreat

October 26 • 9:00 am till Noon
Childcare is provided • Cost: \$5

Main Sessions will be focused on
hearing, discussing, praying,
taking, and sharing the Word.

HERE AT JOURNEY CHURCH


Daughters
of the King

Vudu's new filtered movie service leads October's family-friendly lineup

BY MICHAEL FOUST



Editor's note: This monthly series, "5 Family-Friendly Things," spotlights five family-friendly entertainment choices on film, DVDs, streaming or television.

What if you could turn a PG-13 movie into a family-friendly film that even a seven-year-old child could watch?

Thanks to a new venture between Vudu, Walmart and Clearplay, you can.

The Walmart-owned Vudu launched in September a new section on its platform called "Family Play," allowing families to filter out the rough language, sexuality and violence in more than 600 streaming movies, including action films like *Avengers: Endgame* and *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, and more family-centric flicks like *Incredibles 2*.

The result: family movie night without uncomfortable moments -- and without the need to dive for the remote. Vudu's Family Play leads this month's list of 5 Family-Friendly Things.

As of now, the service is available on computer browsers, iOS and Android devices, and certain smart TVs, but Vudu says the list is growing.

I tested the new service by watching *Superman Returns* with my young children -- I connected my laptop to my TV with an HDMI cord -- and it worked flawlessly.

Most movies on Vudu can be rented or purchased, although some are available free, with ads.

It's the most exciting development for family entertainment since the launch of VidAngel, which has a similar service but lost a court case, limiting what can be streamed legally. (VidAngel is still in business and remains the better option if you're wanting to filter more mature content from Netflix or Amazon Prime.)

Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council, said Walmart took a "bold stance" in launching the service.

"They're saying, 'We know that parents want this. And we're going to try to find a way to make it happen.' I'm absolutely thrilled," Winter told me. "We hope other streaming platforms beyond just Vudu will seek to adopt something like it."

The new service also incorporates information from Common Sense Media, the popular website with parental reviews.

Also worth watching this month:

'When Hope Calls' -- If you're a fan of Hallmark's series *When Calls The Heart* -- or just Hallmark movies in general -- then you'll love *When Hope Calls*. Set in 1916, it tells the story of sisters Lillian and Grace, who open an orphanage in the Canadian town of Brookfield. The series has the same feel and look of *When Calls The Heart*, but with an entirely different plot. It's streaming now on *Hallmark Movies Now*, Hallmark's on-demand streaming service.



'Toy Story 4'/'The Lion King' -- These Disney films are two of the most family-friendly movies of 2019. In *Toy Story 4*, Sheriff Woody has a new owner and a new hilarious friend: Forky. *The Lion King*, of course, is a live-action remake of the animated classic. (Parents may want to be prepared to discuss the film's "circle of life" worldview.) I gave both films high marks. The Disney/Pixar film *Toy Story 4* is on digital platforms Oct. 1 and on DVD/Blu-ray Oct. 8. *The Lion King* debuts on digital platforms Oct. 11, followed by DVD/Blu-ray Oct. 22.

'One on One with Kirk Cameron' -- The well-known Christian actor interviews celebrities such as Phil Robertson, and ends each show with a game or stunt with his guest. It's enlightening and entertaining. The series airs Thursday nights on TBN, which has undergone a transformation and now features a primetime lineup with the goal of reaching a new generation. The Thursday night lineup also includes *Drive Thru History* and *Jesus the Game Changer*.

'Carol's Second Act' -- This one comes with a caveat, but first, the plot: A middle-aged woman, Carol Kenney (Patricia Heaton), pursues her dream of becoming a doctor at age 50. This means, of course, that she will be training alongside young adults half her age. I only screened the first episode, which included one or two minor coarse words and an implication that one character is a lesbian. So, why is it on the list? Here's why: It's funny. It contained no sexual humor (a rarity). And because Heaton is a favorite among many Christians. Watch with caution. It airs Thursday nights on CBS.

Michael Foust is a father of four small children and has covered the intersection of faith and entertainment more than a decade.