

JOURNEY NEWS

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa

GOD'S HAND

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!”
(Psalm 34:3)

I am so grateful to the Lord for what He is doing at Journey Church! Seventeen months ago, at His leading, we launched the Journey Vision. As you recall, the goal of Journey Vision is to help us do better what God has called us to do. The Lord has called us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). From these, and other verses, we get our mission statement: *forming followers of Jesus who impact their world.*

Under Journey Vision, we want to fulfill this God-given mission with greater intentionality and effectiveness. We are on a journey with Jesus and want to invite others to come along! We want lost people to be saved, and saved people to mature in Christ.

Journey Vision helps us do this by focusing our efforts in four areas: worship, outreach, caring, and equipping. I want to share with you what God is doing in these areas so you can “magnify the Lord with me!”

God is at work in our Worship Journey. I am so grateful for the staff and the many volunteers who work together to provide God-honoring services of worship each Sunday. Members of the Creative Worship Team, the Music Team, the Audi-Visual Team, and the staff ... and other volunteers! ... each play a part in planning, supporting, and leading our worship services. We are seeing one of our Worship Journey goals being reached: an increasing number of people participating in the worship ministry of Journey Church!

God is at work in our Outreach Journey. The goal of our Outreach Journey is to use outreach events and existing church ministries to equip and motivate everyone at Journey Church to tell others in their own personal lives the saving message of Jesus. This is the most effective means of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ: through personal, one-on-one connections.

Our big outreach initiative for the beginning of 2020 is designed to mobilize all of us, children through adults, to reach out, one-on-one, to people in our lives to invite them to The Passion Experience. The Passion Experience is our interactive Good Friday event. Each year we continue to develop this event. A new feature this year is a very clear presentation of the good news of salvation. All who come will hear the gospel.

Our assignment for March, after praying for our “invitee,” is to invite him/her to come on April 10. I have a twofold confession to make: I invited two people (not just one) and I already made those invitations in February (I didn’t wait until March). 😊

God is at work in our Caring Journey. Our goal in the Caring Journey is to truly care for one another as brothers and sisters as we journey together with Jesus. There are several ministries at Journey Church through which genuine care is given to those with particular need. However, the primary way in which we want caring to take place in the Body of Christ is through our Life Groups. If you consider Journey Church your home church, you need to be in a Life Group.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Matt Jewell
- 2 Deb Damhoff
- 3 Donna Okland
Ian Boysen
- 4 Gladys McBride
- 5 Caleb Hirl
Dale Wilson
- 7 Lyle Buis
- 13 Monica Clarke
Pat Phipps
- 16 Kaye Wilkins
- 18 Joe Bonnell Sr.
- 22 Jacob Damhoff
Jenny Green
- 23 Russ Damhoff
- 24 Pat Robinson
- 25 Ken Clarke
Alex McClung
Josh Traverse
- 26 Owen VonHolten
- 28 Amy VonHolten
- 30 Harry Wiese

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 3 Bob & Joan Logan
- 20 Rick & Ruth Frantz
- 21 Scott & Tracy Smith
- 23 Ron & Rose Graves
- 25 Keith & Jennifer Boysen

EVENTS CALENDAR

March

- 22 Membership Class
- 28 Men’s Iron Sharpens Iron Conf.

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

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GOD'S HAND continued

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

Early in the implementation of our Life Groups, we envisioned the expansion of Life Groups from our Sunday morning 9:00 meetings to gatherings during the week in homes. And God, working through people here at Journey, has brought this about! We now have Life Groups meeting each weekday evening except Fridays. The ministry of genuine care is spreading!

God is at work in our Equipping Journey. Our desire in our Equipping Journey is to help one another take the next step in our journey with Jesus. Equipping takes place in many ways at Journey: Life Groups, children's Sunday School, youth group, worship services. Pastor John has also provided specific evangelism training in several venues. Pastor John and I also continue with Bible Exposition Training.

What especially excites me with our Equipping Journey, however, is the realization of one of our primary goals for this focal point of the Journey Vision: equipping men for leadership. We began Gear Up! in January for this purpose. It is an opportunity for all men, high school age and older, to be strengthened to lead where God has placed them. The first meeting of Gear Up! was so encouraging: 23 men attended, there were men in every age decade from teens through 70s, there was great interaction, and at the end of the evening men asked if they could invite other men to come next time! Yes, of course!

Well, at our second meeting (February 26), 27 men attended, we expanded the age range in the 80s decade, we had 9 new men attend, and there were three men from outside the Journey Church family! We again enjoyed food, fun, and real fellowship!

Let me add a few other evidences of God's hand at work at Journey: Pie & Trivia Night in January was an evening of great fun for the whole family; the Student Football Party on February 5 was fabulous! ... a well-organized and well-run evening that included students and adults (parents, youth ministry volunteers, and party-crashers [Sue Ann and me!]). There was food, fun, and lots of interaction, even between adults and students. Another note of praise is that several men recently shared with me the practical impact God's Word through my sermons has had in their lives. That's God's hand at work!

Oh, and one last thing: God generously provided for Journey Church's finances in 2019! We ended the year with \$16,500 more in income than in expenses! Praise God!

So, you can see why I am grateful to the Lord for what He is doing at Journey Church! "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!"

SUMMER CAMP



June 15-18 (Monday-Thursday)
Family Meals: 5:15-5:45 pm
Camp Time: 6:00-8:00 pm



What!?! Summer Camp is in JUNE!!

Perhaps you have already heard the news that our Summer Camp dates this year are June 15-18. Not only are we holding Camp in June instead of July, but it will run for four evenings instead of five. Why the changes??

While there are many factors, moving Summer Camp to June will avoid conflicting with some other major area events (county fairs and the RAGBRAI race), make it easier to connect with volunteers before families head off on vacations, and potentially bring better weather. Also, we will *not* conflict with the other "big" Summer Camps/VBS's in our area.

So why are we only having a four-night Summer Camp? In past years, the Friday night of Summer Camp has had the lowest attendance and rarely brought any new children; for many, Friday is the start of the summer weekend or a time to reconnect as a family. Shortening the week will make it less draining on our amazing volunteers and maximize our resources for the most impact.

Summer Camp is one of our largest outreach events of the year and takes the many hands of loving, dedicated volunteers to make it happen! I am praying that even now; you will mark the dates on your calendar and plan to be part of the incredible ministry that happens during Summer Camp at Journey Church!

MISSIONARY NEWS:

Kyle and Carrie Eipperle, SEND International missionaries, currently live in Ohio, Illinois. They have temporarily joined the Operation World team as a research associate. Operation World (OW) researches, compiles, and has published a book described as the definitive prayer guide to every nation. From their website, “The nations are there for the asking. God is calling you and me into the ministry of intercession for them. May we become intercessors with a world vision that prays Satan-defeating, Kingdom-taking, people-reaching, captive-releasing, revival-giving, Christ-glorifying prayers.”

OW, which functions with volunteers and missionaries only, relies on other people’s research and on relational networks to maintain and promote the prayer needs of the world’s nations. Their resources impact the church worldwide to pray strategically for all the nations of the world. In order for the church to complete the task of fulfilling the Great Commission, we must know where the needs are. Kyle’s responsibilities include updating Operation World resources and overseeing translation and distribution of OW materials to the Russian and Ukrainian language speaking world. According to Jason Mandryk, Co-Director OW, Kyle is an invaluable resource as he is able to provide vital information and perspective on Eastern Europe generally and Russian speaking nations in particular. OW anticipates Kyle’s input will significantly improve their material of the Eastern Europe region.

A recent note from Carrie states, “We began our ministry with Operation World (OW) this year and continue some projects in Ukraine with SEND from here. It is so good to have the strong relationships we established so that ministry we began in Ukraine can keep going. I am currently in training and orientation with Operation World team. There is a lot of reading and research that goes into the OW prayer materials. We have to be careful what goes into the prayer guides with information that is accurate and within safety parameters so Christian ministry can flourish throughout the world. We are honored to be a part of such a highly esteemed organization.”

On a personal note, she says, “We so much enjoyed our September visit to Journey Church. You gave us a warm welcome and were so generous to us. We felt loved. We were wowed by the offers to help fill our material needs. I have been putting the tools to hard work. I’m sitting on the cozy couch this very moment. The lawn mower got a workout. You helped make our house a home. Thank you for supporting us.

Please pray for our financial support. We are needing more support in regular monthly gifts as well as one-time gifts toward ministry projects. Please pray for us in this new role. It seems a huge task and great responsibility. We will need a lot of grace and wisdom as we serve.”

Kyle and Carrie Eipperle, 21284 IL Hwy 92, Ohio, IL 61349



M&MS (50's & Up) **March 19 • 11:30 am** **Fellowship Hall**

Come enjoy a potluck lunch and time together! Bring anything that “tickles your fancy”. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Membership **Class March 22** **After the service** **Fellowship Hall** **Includes lunch**

Join us on March 22 after the worship service for our next Membership Class and lunch to learn more about our church. Childcare will be provided. Sign up by March 8.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING **Save the Date for the** **Spring Luncheon: April 18**

Tickets on sale after service starting March 15. Deadline to sign up is April 12. More details to come!

STAY IN THE LOOP!



BY ASSISTANT JOHN MCCLUNG

We desire everyone to know what is happening here at Journey Church and we provide a variety of ways to help you stay connected. We have several avenues of communication for you to be aware of:

- ⇒ Slides before the service include current events and happenings
- ⇒ Sunday verbal announcements from the pulpit
- ⇒ Sunday bulletin
- ⇒ Monthly newsletter: available **digitally** and hard copy
- ⇒ Website (**www.journeyclinton.org**)
- ⇒ Church calendar on our website
- ⇒ Email—4 different avenues:
 - Church-wide events & information
 - Prayer Chain
 - Weekly Journey Updates
 - Word for the Week

You may sign up to receive any of the above emails by contacting the church office or signing up on the **website**. *Church-wide events & information* emails are occasionally sent out as event reminders and other churchwide news. The *Prayer Chain* is emailed out when prayer requests are received so you know who to be praying for within our church family. *Weekly Journey Updates* is delivered to your email inbox every Monday morning and it reflects the weekly bulletin announcements. *Word for the Week* arrives every Wednesday as a recap encouragement of Sunday's sermon, and it tells you which passage to read ahead for the next sermon.

- ⇒ Social media:
 - **Instagram** (**[instagram.com/journeyclinton](https://www.instagram.com/journeyclinton)**)
 - **Facebook** (**[facebook.com/journeyclinton](https://www.facebook.com/journeyclinton)**)
 - **Twitter** (**twitter.com/JourneyClinton**)

We encourage you to share items we post on social media to your own social media platform (Facebook, etc.) in order to spread the word about Journey Church.

Use these methods to stay connected with Journey Church!



The Passion Experience

COME, walk where Jesus walked, follow His footsteps;
LISTEN to the excitement along the palm-laden path of His Triumphal Entry;
OBSERVE our Lord and the disciples at the Last Supper;
FEEL the humility as Christ washes the feet of the disciples;
WANDER through the Garden of Gethsemane;
HEAR Peter's denial;
VIEW the throne of judgment;
AGONIZE with Him carrying His cross;
REPENT where He bore your sins;
REFLECT on His sacrifice;
TREMBLE at the tomb;

EXPERIENCE THE PASSION!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10
COME ANYTIME 6:00-8:00 PM

A family friendly walk-through experience of Christ's final days!

HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday, April 5

Sunday Life Groups and Kids' Meetings at 9:00 am
 Worship Service at 10:30 am

The Passion Experience

Good Friday, April 10
 Anytime between 6:00-8:00 pm

EASTER *Sunday*, April 12

Breakfast from 9:00-10:15 am
 Journey Kids Egg Hunt Challenge 9:15-10:00 am
 Worship Service at 10:30 am



Journey
Church