

# JOURNEY NEWS

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa

## Live a Life of “Thanks-living!”

BY LEAD PASTOR MICHAEL BELL

It was around 8am when I left my house on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to get some doughnuts for my boys. Typically, this trip would have taken me a total of fifteen minutes. Well, this time around things would be anything but typical.

I came to a stop at a red light and then a few seconds later the light turned green. I looked to my left and saw the cars in the right lane of the one-way street come to a stop. I was almost through the intersection, when I saw the color white and then heard the screeching of tires then bam!! The driver in the left lane ran the red light and I was not able to see the car until it was too late. I was hit on my driver’s side door and was pushed up on the sidewalk. I found myself about twenty feet from a brick house at the corner of the intersection. The moment the accident happened the side airbags deployed instantly, and I was able to exit the vehicle without any injuries! The driver of the other vehicle was also able to walk away from the accident. Both of us were obviously in shock, but so thankful that we were not physically hurt.

In just a few weeks we will celebrate Thanksgiving. A few years ago, I was at a service on the night before Thanksgiving when the pastor used the phrase “thanks-living” in his message. That phrase has stuck with me. Since the day of my accident,

I’ve been trying to be intentional about practicing “thanks-living”. In Psalm 136:1 we read, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His faithful love endures forever.” As I live my life placing my faith in God, I can be confident that God is good and as a result He is deserving of my thanks as I live my life.

Since I learned back in July that I would become the pastor of Journey church my heart was flooded with thanks to the Lord for making this possible! On September 11<sup>th</sup> when I was officially installed as your new pastor, I was again overwhelmed with thankfulness to the Lord. As I gather with you all on Sunday mornings for worship, I’m giving the Lord thanks for His goodness.

Brother and sisters in Christ. My prayer is that we practice 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always. Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” What a blessing to know that one part of being in the will of Jesus is to live being thankful! This must go beyond one day in November and be a way life for us as believers.

Take time today to count your blessings and live a life of “thanks-living” for our God is good!

*Pastor Michael*

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## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please stay for church lunch and our Annual Business Meeting afterward. The primary agenda items will be the voting on new members, affirmation of Elder Candidate and the proposed 2023 budget.

**Members, please make it a priority to attend.**





PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR...

# THANKSGIVING SERVICE & DINNER



Sunday, November 20 • Service: 4:00 pm Dinner: 5:00 pm •  
Adults \$12, Kids 5-12 \$8, Kids 4 & Under Free



Come join us on November 20 for our Thanksgiving Service and Traditional Dinner. Sign up and pay using the envelope found in the Bulletin or at the Connection Point. Envelopes can be placed in the basket in the lobby or turned into the office. Sign up ends November 6 to ensure adequate planning time for the caterer. Please do not let the price stop you from coming; if payment is a burden— sign up and come anyway! If you have been blessed this year and would like to contribute so others can attend, please do so!

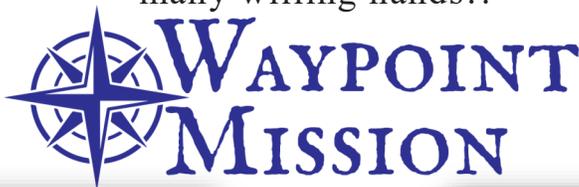
## WAYPOINT MISSION WORKDAY

BY JOY LOWER



Thank you

to everyone who came out for the work day and helped get the Waypoint Home closer to being ready to welcome a family in need! The yard and front walkway look fabulous, the walls are patched and ready to be painted, and much water-damaged material was removed from the basement, among other tasks. Much was accomplished by so many willing hands!!



# Missionary Focus - Kyle and Carrie Eipperle

FROM THE MISSION LEAD TEAM



Kyle and Carrie Eipperle have served with SEND International ministry for 17 years in Ukraine. While there, Kyle taught and mobilized the Ukrainian church into cross cultural missions to become a sending country of their own missionaries. Kyle was involved in research concerning unreached people groups creating prayer booklets and an internet site that features people group profiles in the Russian language.

The family relocated to the United States in 2019 and Kyle, on loan from SEND, joined Operation World (OW) as a research associate to develop and update Russian language OW resources. Currently, Kyle is working on reading and tracking articles, websites and newsletters from mission workers and organizations throughout the world looking for useful information happening in countries in order to update OW resources.

He, also, has begun adding data to OW global database. At this time, he is focusing on Christian denominations. He collects data on every church, denomination, number of members, founding date, etc. on the face of the earth. Operation World has tracked this information for decades. Now there is an online database that mission workers will be able to access to make strategic decisions where to focus missionary efforts. Kyle relates that "this is a unique ministry. You can count on your fingers the small number of

people doing such vital research. It is humbling to think about and an honor that God has given me this important task."

Right now, the prayer event for Hindus is happening throughout the world. Kyle coordinates the translation of the annual Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist prayer guides. He will post the prayer topic and prayer points from the prayer guide onto a Ukrainian language Facebook page during the 15-day event.

A prayer guide, that Kyle and a SEND teammate developed for the Buryat people group, is being updated by Kyle in Russian and English.

On the home front, the Eipperle family has enjoyed a bountiful fall harvest from their garden. Together they have canned lots of pickles and tomato sauce. Following a bumper crop of apples, they were able to prepare homemade applesauce.

According to Kyle, "the kids are growing, learning and just getting cuter by the day. Selah turned one year old this month. She is walking

everywhere and getting into things."

Kyle and the family will be visiting Journey Church to share during the Moments for Missions Sunday, November 20. He will be joining the Logos Life Group as well.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

FROM THE MISSION LEAD TEAM

It's Christmas Child Shoebox time again! The Missions Team is again promoting the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes through Samaritan's Purse. The boxes are available in the church lobby.

**They need to be returned by the week of November 13 - 20.** It is critical that a \$10 donation be included for each box. These donations should be put in the postage paid envelope (attached to the brochure in each box) and dropped in the mail. Do NOT put the envelope in the box. If you prefer, you can pay on-line through *Follow Your Shoebox* and also find out the destination of your box.

The brochures in each box explain in detail what can and cannot be packed in these boxes. Samaritan's Purse suggests you get a medium to large "wow" item, such as a soccer ball with a pump, stuffed animal or a nice doll. Then fill the rest of the box with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Holders for soap and

tooth brushes will help keep the hygiene items clean. If you want, include a personal note and photo. Sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive. After receiving the shoeboxes, the children are invited to participate in a 12 week discipleship program that has resulted in millions of children and their families becoming believers in Jesus.



Additionally, the Awana kids are having a Shoebox Packing Party on Wednesday, November 16. If you prefer to donate items and let the kids pack the boxes, please place items in the collection area in the foyer. We'll pool all the donations and pack the boxes at our packing party. Shipping money can be given to the church office to help cover the shipping costs of the Awana Shoeboxes.



# JOURNEY STUDENTS - Acts of Service

BY JERRY & JOYCE DUEY



Jesus, God the Son, has set us an example to put the desires of others before ourselves, to serve one another, and to care for those in need. To follow Jesus' example the Journey Youth have recently participated in activities that gave them the opportunity to serve others.



Students and leaders went to Sarah Harding home for seniors to visit and play games. Those residents in attendance shared that they had fun and enjoyed the company

of the students. Students and residents learned more about each other's lives, new card games and dominos.

The students also participated in a Treats and Trunk event in DeWitt to benefit adults with special needs through Scott Kaczinski Truth Singers.



James reminds us in 1:17 that "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Our students' faith is demonstrated by what they do.



## UNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CURRENT OPENINGS

- **DRAMA PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**
- **AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR OLDER STUDENTS**
  - **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**
  - **HEAD AND ASSISTANT COOKS**

Our current cooks will be leaving us at the end of 2022. Our hot lunch program is dependent upon finding new cooks before then.

To apply, visit our website at <https://www.unitychristian.com> under "About" and then click "Employment" or contact the school at 815-589-3912 between 7:30 and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for further information.

**Please help us spread the word!**

# FRIENDSHIPS



BY JOYCE DUEY

The 4 X 4 women's fellowship groups have met the past two months with plans to meet again in November and December. That will conclude our initial time of four or five women meeting together once a month to develop better friendships. Some gals have met in a park, on a boat, at a coffee shop, or in each other's home. Some have shared a meal, or played games, or responded to get-to-know-you questions, or prayed together, but no lack of a good time.

The goal of the 4 X 4 groups is to provide opportunity for women of Journey Church to get together in order to develop relationships. In meeting together over a four months' time, the ladies get to know one

another better, deepen friendships, build community and support one another in life's circumstances.

For those women who would like to participate in the next four months, including those of you who have been participating, you will have opportunity to sign up throughout December on the connection card. A new group of four will begin to meet in January through April.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds and let us not give up meeting together...." Hebrews 10:24, 25b

If you have questions about the 4 X 4 program, please contact Joy Hinrichsen or Joyce Duey.

Dear Church Family,

For more than 22 years, I have called Journey/E-Free Church my church home and you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, my church family. This is where my beloved Dale and I served in so many different capacities, and where we were the recipients of Christ's love. This is where we prayed for so many, and where so many were (and are) being lifted up in prayer. This is where we worshiped our Risen Savior and where we were taught, by so many, the truths of God's Word.

Thus, it is terribly hard to leave; though leave I must. In the short span of a month I have lost my husband, my family, my church family, my puppies, and my home.....a seemingly overwhelming mountain of sorrows. Yet, I feel the true presence and peace of Jesus that I know you have been praying for on my behalf.

I am so grateful for all of you. With tears in my eyes, I bid thee farewell until we all are reunited in our heavenly home! Please continue to pray for strength that I may shine the love of Christ.

phone number (815-589-2269).

In Christ,

*Diane Wilson*



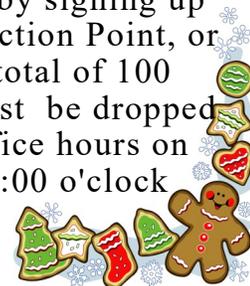
## It's Cookie Time!

Once again we are partnering with a local business to bless our church's missionaries with financial Christmas gifts. We are asking you to share in this worthwhile effort by donating homemade cookies or bars. How sweet is that!?! You make and donate a few dozen of your favorite cookies (any variety and style from **Christmas to gingersnaps**, but please, **no store-bought!**) and in turn, this business will make a generous

financial donation for Journey to distribute to our missionaries.

You have the privilege to bless our missionaries through this worthwhile project by signing up during your life group, at Connection Point, or in the church office. We need a total of 100 dozen cookies. Your cookies must be dropped off at Journey Church during office hours on November 30 or no later than 12:00 o'clock noon on December 1st

*Thank You!*



# FROM THE TRUSTEE BOARD

## TOWER REPAIR

BY MIKE GORDON

Your Trustee board wanted to give some updates on the long awaited Tower Project.

As most of you are aware the Tower has been a source of repair needs almost since it was built. After years of trying different methods of repairing both outside failures and inside damage the decision was made, with consultation from both design and architectural engineering, to remove the tower, fill in the roof, and repair the interior of the sanctuary worship center.

This has been completed along with a deep cleaning of the worship center by a professional service. Attaching the cross on the building and outside landscaping will be finished in the spring. We are also getting some professional ideas and cost estimates for finishing this scope of the work.

The Trustee Board would like to thank everyone involved with making this happen:

- ◆ Volunteers that moved furniture, sound equipment, etc. for the work as well as set up for Sunday worship in fellowship hall for two Sundays
- ◆ Volunteers also came in early to let the contractors in at 7:00 am to be able to start their work day in a timely fashion
- ◆ Staff that kept us informed throughout the day
- ◆ Contractors that were great to work with, professional, and efficient
- ◆ Our custodial staff that did a tremendous job with all the movement and general cleanup
- ◆ The committee that reviewed different color schemes and determined interior paint needs
- ◆ The congregation for their patience and support allowing this to take place

And finally, thanks to our glorious, almighty Savior for allowing this to happen to keep His house in repair.

Respectfully,  
The Trustee Board



## FALL WORK/CLEAN UP DAY

We will have a fall clean up day at church on Saturday November 12 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon. Jim Tietjens will be spearheading the day, so see him if you have any questions.

Please bring hedge trimers (electric & manual), pruners, rakes, and wheelbarrows.

Thank you for serving – The Trustee Board