



Journey Church October NEWS

Avoiding the “Status Quo”

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

The phrase “status quo” might be something you’ve heard but haven’t given thought to what it means. The term “status quo” refers to the current and accepted state of affairs, encompassing stability, tradition, and resistance to change. If we’re honest, we prefer the status quo in our lives and often want to avoid change.

Imagine this scenario: What if you were diagnosed with a medical condition that required a big change in your diet, but you chose to maintain the status quo of consuming fast food daily? It’s obvious this is going to be a bad decision!

My challenge to us is to think beyond just our physical well-being and consider the spiritual impacts of a status quo Christianity. What does this look like? It looks like a version of Christianity that preserves familiar routines while losing its urgency, spiritual vitality, or commitment to Christ’s teachings.

Let’s process this in the context of Journey Church. Do we subtly seek to be a church that prefers to “keep doing what we’ve always done” or are we truly open to how the Lord may change that mindset? To help us wrestle with this more, I recently discovered these four symptoms of a status quo church:

- Stagnation in Growth - There is little to no growth in membership, often remaining static for years.
- Resistance to Change - A strong reluctance to adopt new practices or ideas, which can hinder progress and adaptation.
- Lack of Community Engagement - Failing to actively participate in community outreach, missing opportunities to connect with their surroundings.
- Focus on Tradition - A heavy emphasis on maintaining traditional practices can overshadow the need for innovation and relevance.

It’s good and necessary to ask the Lord if we are showing any of these symptoms as a church, and how to respond accordingly. The bottom line is this: the danger of status quo Christianity is not simply that it becomes traditional; it is that comfort can gradually become more important than transformation, obedience, and mission.

In Romans 12:2, Paul states that we should resist being conformed to this world. We should seek for our minds to be renewed so that we live a life that is being transformed. Now more than ever, as believers and as a church, let’s not be comfortable with the status quo!

Make Much of Jesus,
Pastor Michael

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Fall is officially here and we have had a solid month to get back into the “school year” routine. For many of us, this also means that homework, sports, and activities are in full swing and life can feel pretty hectic! Creating small moments to help your kids (and yourself!) connect with God only takes a little intentionality and being willing to keep trying, even if you realize that you have forgotten for the past eight days. Here are some tips to try in your family!

1) Prayer routines. Talking to God can happen any time, any place, about anything, but it can be helpful to establish habits of prayer at certain times. A quick blessing before the kids jump out of the car for school or run to the bus helps them start the day reminded that God made them and loves them. Thanking God for the food we get to eat forces us all to pause and take a breath before chowing down and rushing off to the next thing. Our bedtime prayers always begin with me thanking God for the gift of this child—even when we were arguing about homework earlier in the evening. 😊

2) Choose a time to read Scripture together. Maybe your family sits down together every evening for a family devotional, which all of your children eagerly participate in—and that is fantastic! For most of my family’s history, that hasn’t been our reality. God’s Word is powerful, whether it’s a daily verse calendar or app that you read while the kids eat breakfast, or a kid-friendly book with a short Bible passage and an application, or just reading a Psalm together at bedtime. Figure out what works and don’t stress that it isn’t “more”.

3) Talk about what you see God doing. Notice the beauty in God’s creation—and give Him the credit. The special “coincidence” that was just what you needed. The million little blessings that are so easy to overlook. When your child hears you say, “I love how you’re using the creativity that God gave you!” or “Look at that cool hummingbird! Isn’t it amazing how God made it so unique?”, it serves as a reminder to both of you that God is our Creator and He is the source of all good things.

Every new day is a gift from God and an opportunity to know Him a little more!

- Joy Lower

October

Events and News



**Mark and Jan Olander
will be in the house on October 4th!**

You are invited to listen to them share about their work in Kenya during the Life Group hour that morning. There will also be an opportunity to visit with them at an open house that evening in the Church fellowship hall from 4:30-6:00.

**Chair Exercise and
Nutrition Classes are on
pause until further notice!**

**Ladies 4x4 Reunion
Tuesday, November 10
11:30-2:00**

Sign up at the counter in the foyer.
See Carolyn Livingston for details!

Come celebrate with us!

**BAPTISM
—SUNDAY—
October 18**

Awana™
Because Kids Matter to God

**Grades K - 6th kids are welcome
to join in at any time of the year!
We'd love to have you!**

**Wednesday Nights
6:15-7:45pm**

Contact Annette Eslick





Operation Christmas Child

An Operation Christmas Child shoebox may be a simple gift with a significant message; however, transporting the shoebox to a child is not simple. Once boxes are transported by cargo ship to the receiving country, boxes are taken to the village where about 150 children receive an individual box.



Boxes are delivered by elephants in Zimbabwe and by wagon in Madagascar!



Children in Malawi receive boxes by way of canoe and in Namibia by camel!



Samaritan's Purse reports, "From donkeys elephants, and camels to motorcycles, trucks, and canoes, we'll do whatever it takes to transport Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to a child." 12.2 million shoeboxes are transported and delivered to more than 100 countries. A \$10 donation per box is requested to make it possible to deliver the shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world. If you'd like to donate, make a check out to Journey Church with "OCC shoebox donation" in the memo line and place in the offering plate.

The funds are used by Samaritan's Purse to process the boxes, shipping costs, ministry partner training and publication of the booklets that tell the story of Jesus and His love in the language of the child receiving a gift. Thanks for your help in sending the 100+ shoeboxes we provide so that a child hears that he or she is loved!

BIRTHDAYS

1 Julie Eggers	18 Winifred Paul
4 Linda Schockey	19 Nathaniel Lower
7 Jeremy Overberg	19 Pat Parsons
8 Daryl Yoder	20 Hayven Prince
9 Carol Simpson	22 Tom Otto
11 Karen Martensen	22 Eric Sipes
11 Roger Rieke	26 Marybeth Giddings
12 Marilee Mueller	29 Gary Fuller
15 Annette Eslick	30 Amber Eslick
15 Jenna Martin	



OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - CLOSED

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 9 AM TO 3 PM

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Cooper and Cassie Hoffman
- 9 David and Carolyn Livingston
- 15 Ed and Jenny Green
- 16 Tom and Norma Jones
- 27 Mark and Marilyn Curtis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00p Music Team	2	3
4 Communion 9:00a Life Groups/ Sunday School 10:00a Meet & Greet 10:30a Worship <i>Olanders Visit</i>	5	6 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p Men of Honor 6:45p Home Life Group	7 9:00a Deaconess Bd Mtg 6:15p Awana	8 7:00p Music Team	9	10
11 9:00a Life Groups/ Sunday School 10:00a Meet & Greet 10:30a Worship	12 3:30p MLT Meeting	13 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p Membership Class 6:30p CWT Meeting 6:30p Men of Honor 6:45p Home Life Group	14 5:30p Elder Bd Mtg 6:15p Awana 6:30p Trustee Bd Mtg	15 7:00p Music Team	16	17
18 Baptism Sunday 9:00a Life Groups/ Sunday School 10:00a Meet & Greet 10:30a Worship	19	20 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p Men of Honor 6:45p Home Life Group	21 5:30p Elder Bd Mtg 6:15p Awana	22 7:00p Music Team	23	24
25 9:00a Life Groups/ Sunday School 10:00a Meet & Greet 10:30a Worship	26	27 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p Men of Honor 6:45p Home Life Group	28 5:30p Elder Bd Mtg 6:15p Awana	29 7:00p Music Team	30	31