



March News

2026



Standing Strong Together: Men of Journey Church, This Is Our Moment

Every man who follows Jesus is called to live with strength, purpose, and conviction—but none of us were designed to do it alone. In a world that constantly pulls at our attention, drains our energy, and challenges our identity, God has given us two powerful anchors: His Word and His people. When we lean into both, we don't just survive the week - we grow, we lead, and we **Make Much of Jesus** in ways that ripple far beyond our own life.

Start with Scripture - Daily, Intentionally, Expectantly

Strength doesn't appear out of thin air. It's formed in the quiet, consistent moments when we open the Bible and let God speak into our day. Daily engagement with Scripture isn't about checking a box; it's about shaping our heart, sharpening our mind, and aligning our steps with the One who knows us best.

When the men of Journey Church commit to Scripture:

- Our decisions become wiser
- Our character becomes steadier
- Our faith becomes more resilient
- Our families and workplaces feel the difference

God's Word builds men who stand firm when life shakes, who love well when pressure rises, and who reflect Christ in the ordinary moments that matter most.

Walk with Other Men - Because Strength Grows in Community

We weren't meant to fight our battles in isolation. As was mentioned at the MOH Breakfast recently, real strength is forged shoulder-to-shoulder with other men who are pursuing the same goal: to follow Jesus with courage and integrity. When we connect with other men - whether in a group, over coffee, or through serving - we gain brothers who challenge us, encourage us, and remind us of who we are in Christ.

And here's the beautiful part: as we grow, we strengthen others. Our presence, our story, our faithfulness - it lifts the men around us. That's how our church becomes strong. That's how our community changes.

Make Much of Jesus - In Our Life and Through Our Brotherhood

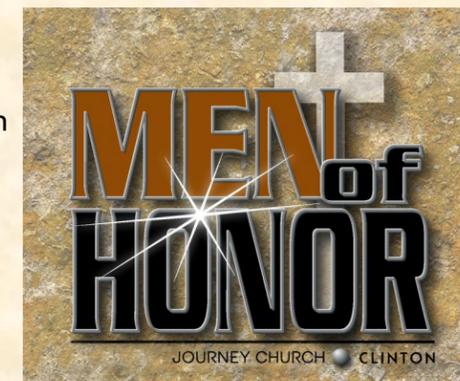
When we root yourself in Scripture and link arms with other men, we naturally begin to Make Much of Jesus. Not by trying harder, but by letting Him shape us from the inside out. Our life becomes a testimony. Our relationships become ministry. Our example becomes an invitation for others to rise.

Men of Journey Church, this is our moment to stand strong.

- Open the Word
- Show up for each other
- Let Christ shine through you

Together, we will build a culture of men who live with purpose, lead with humility, and point the world to Jesus - one day, one conversation, one act of faith at a time.

Make Much of Jesus, Together,
Pastor Michael and the Elders



Don't Lose Heart!

“So, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

I know many of you are dealing with various trials that seek to challenge your trust that God is both good and aware of your situation. When life “hurts” we often ask the Lord “why” and the perceived silence from Him can be deafening. Whether we are grieving the loss of someone dear, or grieving because of a terrible situation, the heaviness of what is happening leaves us weary, worn, and discouraged. How easy it is these days to lose heart.

I recently came across a song called “Don't Lose Heart” by Steven Curtis Chapman. Here's a sample of some of the lyrics:

“Another sleepless night
Praying hope comes with the morning light
Right now you're feeling like you've lost this fight
And fear is screaming out your name

So, you say God help me
You wonder if He's even listening
Truth is, I've wondered the very same thing
So, you don't have to feel the shame”

Can you relate to these words? I know I can. Yet even during the struggle, our Lord is near.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul reveals we are all wasting away in some manner or another, whether we feel like it or not. It's an acknowledgement of our human situation. And when we do feel like it, when it hits us as our real reality, it feels very heavy. We feel the results of our fallen world and

the sin that presses in. It's in these moments that we must go to the Word of God to know what is true, when we are tempted to lose heart.

Jesus told us in the second half of John 16:33 that *“in this world you will have trouble, but to take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* When we focus on Jesus, we can be renewed inside every day, even amid difficulties and grief. I know that's a strange twist, but it's true. As our frail humanity fades away on the outside, it's on the inside that Jesus renews us by His power and presence. Only Jesus can renew our hope, our peace, and our faith in his good outcomes. Therefore, we don't lose heart! Though our situation remains the same, inwardly we are being renewed, day by day.

From an eternal perspective, the Bible describes our current sufferings as “light and momentary affliction” that is preparing us for a future eternal glory that can't compare to the pain and discouragement we face today. Are you tempted to lose heart today? Focus on Jesus to find the strength and encouragement to face the hardship of today. I'd like to include these two questions for your consideration to make space to be with Jesus.

- What circumstances in your life today are causing you to lose heart?
- How can you make space for Jesus to renew you?

Don't lose heart - **Make Much of Jesus!**

Pastor Michael



MEN of HONOR

Saturday, March 14 | 8:00am - 4:00pm

Rock Island, IL

Sign up at the Sign Up Counter or see Daryl Yoder.

10 or more group discount ends Wednesday, March 4.

Contact Mike Ketelsen or Daryl Yoder if you have questions.

Missionary Focus - Brook of Hope by Wendy Yoder

On Sunday, March 8th, Pastor James Mumo from Maai Mahiu, Kenya will be visiting our Church. He and his wife Susan founded Brook of Hope Home there in 2013. Our Church has been supporting this home for several years. This place houses twenty-eight vulnerable girls and boys who have been rescued from living on the streets and now call



Brook of Hope home. There is also a Christian academy on the Brook of Hope property where children from both the home and surrounding community attend classes and play. Susan is the social worker and staff person for this academy. There are over seventy students in all.

I was blessed to go to Brook of Hope with the Missions team from Journey Church in June 2025. I will attempt to give you a glimpse of the children's regular schedule from my observations. The children showed up for their breakfast around 8:00am. There was always a short time for them to play after breakfast before going to their classes. They would then be in class from around 9:00am - 2:00pm. We played ball and games with them when they had breaks. I think they normally attended class until around 3:30pm but were let out early while our team was there. We would then do a Bible lesson and some singing with all of the kids from 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Then the community kids went home and we did a craft with the kids from the home. They would then have some free time so we would play ball or blow bubbles with them. They always had a time to do homework and then supper.



On Saturdays the children had to go around the Brook of Hope grounds and pick up trash before they were allowed to do any playing. They are being taught the value of work. We had an Awana fair with them the Saturday afternoon we were there and played all kinds of games with them. Most of the children liked tossing balloons the best. They got pretty wild doing that!



On the Sunday morning we were there, we had a service with the children in one of the buildings. They sang songs in various groups and our group presented a play (headed by Annette, Eli and Jake). Susan always did an excellent job of translating for us. The children normally attend a church in the local community, just a short walk away.

Sunday afternoon they had Awana. This is a weekly event for them. Many children from the surrounding community came and joined. The group games were lots of fun to watch. These children are pretty competitive and can get pretty loud! Such fun!

While these children are in a sad situation away from their parents and family, they are well taken care of at this home. The environment is warm and loving. The staff there really love on all of these children. It was such a privilege to go there and observe their everyday lives.

Pastor James will be speaking during the Life Group time on March 8. It will be well worth your time to come and listen to him!



Several evenings our group would interact with the children in the large common room located in the boys' dorm. We played games, sang, danced, and even had a snowball fight with crunched up paper. These children are a lot of fun and we all enjoyed this interaction.

BAPTISM Sunday

An outward expression of an internal change. Celebrating a new life in Christ!

Sunday, March 15

If you have questions or desire to be baptized on this special Sunday, contact the church office by **March 1.**

Baptism is an outward and public profession of one's commitment to Jesus. Participating in baptism is NOT how a person receives salvation or is guaranteed eternity in heaven. (See Romans 6:1-4)



Save the Date!

**Summer Camp 2026
June 8-11 | 6:00-8:30 pm**

More info coming soon!

**Mark your calendar and begin
praying about how you can serve!**

The theme this year is Sports and Art! There will be a variety of opportunities for *everyone* to serve, from:

- Kitchen help
- Sports coaches
- Art assistants
- Small group leaders
- Greeters and Singers!

Talk to Joy Lower or email her at joyl@journeyclinton.org for more information.

April Events

The Passion Experience
Good Friday, April 3
Come anytime from 6-8pm

A family friendly walk-through experience of the last days of Jesus!



 Journey Church

This is a family friendly walk-through experience of the last days of Jesus' life.

Plan to come and experience the events that led up to the good news of Easter.

Invite your family and friends to walk through with you.

*No ministries will be meeting during Holy week March 29-April 4.

Joshua 1:7-9 NIV

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 AMP

Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from love of money [shun greed - be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, “I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], NOR WILL I FORSAKE OR LET YOU DOWN OR RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU [assuredly not]!” So we take comfort *and* are encouraged *and* confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER [in time of need], I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”

 Journey Church

JOIN OUR TEAM!

An open position is available:
Administrative Specialist

For job inquiries or to submit your resume, please contact the Church Office or email info@journeyclinton.org



Easter Breakfast

CHILDREN EGG HUNT CHALLENGE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES!

Sunday, April 5 @ 9am - 10am



Register Online!

Thursdays @ 6pm
 April 9 - May 7, 2026

ARCHERY PROGRAM

JourneyClinton.org/Archery



Women's ISI Conference
Saturday, April 18 | Moline, IL

10 or more group discount deadline is Tuesday, March 3. Sign up sheet is in the foyer at the Sign Up counter or contact the office. Contact Annette Eslick with any questions.



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