



# April News

2026



# April Events

## Jesus, Our Living Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3

When you hear the word “hope,” what comes to mind? We use the word more often than we realize. In our conversations with others we say things like, “I hope I get that raise” or “I hope we can afford to go on vacation this summer” or “I hope the Bears get to the Superbowl next year.” (sorry Packers fans) Do you realize what all those statements imply? Uncertainty. There is no guarantee that what the person is hoping for will happen.

For the believer in Jesus Christ, we have a hope that doesn't imply uncertainty. Instead, the believer's hope is built on the promises and power of God. Our hope is not in something but Someone: Jesus Christ. To believe in Him, to live for Him, is to be a person who possesses this “living hope.”

We are born as sinners, separated from God. This new birth that Peter talks about comes through the Holy Spirit and brings us into relationship with God. Our new birth came at a great cost to Jesus. He paid the penalty that should have been ours. But we know Jesus did not remain in the grave! He was resurrected from the dead on the third day.

Do you know what the resurrection proves? Jesus has all the power - even over death. No enemy, no matter how strong or terrifying - not even death - can defeat Jesus!

What does this mean for us? It means we do not have to give in to the hopelessness that much of the world experiences. Our world is horribly broken by sin. We rightfully mourn sin and death. This is not the way it should be.

In just the last seven months, both Christina and I have had death come into our lives as my father and her sister-in-law passed away. We have grieved and mourned these losses. We also know death is not what God intended for humanity. Praise God that He has intervened and because of Jesus and His resurrection, we have a hope that can overcome death!

Over the past few months, I've often gone back to a book titled: “Remember Death: The Surprising Path to Living Hope.” The author is Pastor Matthew McCullough. This recent section I read stands out.

“If the object of our hope can't stand up to death's onslaught, it can't offer true hope in life either. When you live with honest grief over what death does to life, you recognize that you cannot afford to settle for vague platitudes, for some abstract feel-good hope that things will work out someday. Resurrection as an idea or an aspiration is empty and unsatisfying. For us to know true hope, we need something we can lock onto. We need a living, breathing *resurrected* person. We don't need an ideal. We need a Savior.”

In this upcoming Easter season, may we pause and reflect on all that God has made possible to give us something far greater than an *idea* of resurrection. In Jesus Christ, we have a *person* who has defeated death once and for all. Friends, this broken life is not the end for us. Jesus is preparing an eternal home with no death, sadness, or pain. On Easter and every day, Jesus is our Living Hope!

Easter blessings!  
Pastor Michael

## 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.

## 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

## ASK ME ANYTHING

Debbie McCormick  
Certified Nutritionist

Monday, April 13 at 6:00 pm  
“We Need Fat! Its Effect on Overall Health: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”

the pregnancy center

Walk for Life | Saturday, April 25  
Check in: 8:15 am | Walk Begins: 9:00 am  
MEET @ The Pregnancy Center  
240 N. Bluff Blvd, Clinton IA  
Contact Gary Fier at fiergary@gmail.com if you would like to help financially or if you have questions.

## Women's Chair Exercise Class

Monday's in the Fellowship Hall

4:45p Warm up | 5:00p-5:30p Class

Contact Joanne Tietjens or the office with questions.  
New comers always welcome!

## PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR AND THE ELDERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 @ 12PM

If you are new to Journey Church, Pastor Michael & the Elders would like to connect with you! Stay tuned for more details.

# Mark Your Calendars



## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch

All are invited to attend. **Members, please make it a priority.**

If you have a topic, regarding church business, that you would like the Elders to consider including in the agenda, please let them know no later than **April 27**. Current Elders are Gary Fier, Mike Ketelsen, Jon Balk, and Daryl Yoder.



## Saturday, May 16 - Men's event at Journey Church

More details to come!

# MEN of HONOR

## Summer Camp 2026

**June 8-11 | 6:00-8:30 pm**

# This Year's Theme

# IN YOUR ELEMENT

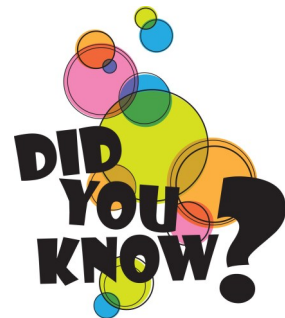
Summer is just around the corner and we are excited to have a Sports and Art themed Summer Camp this year! We will have a typical camp schedule on Monday through Wednesday, and then on Thursday we are hosting a block-party style Family Night open to the community. Each evening will also include a free family meal. It takes many hands to **Make Much of Jesus** to our community through this outreach; begin praying about how God wants to use you and watch for an opportunity in late April to sign up to help!

There will be a variety of opportunities for everyone to serve, from:

- Kitchen help
- Sports coaches
- Art assistants
- Small group leaders
- Greeters
- Song Leaders



Talk to Joy Lower or email her at [joyl@journeyclinton.org](mailto:joyl@journeyclinton.org) for more information.



Did you know the Monthly Newsletter is available in a digital format on our website [www.journeyclinton.org](http://www.journeyclinton.org). The link is also available through the Journey Update which is emailed every Monday. Click on the link and read the Monthly Newsletter anytime, anywhere.

## Missionary Focus - Unity Christian School

by Betty Dierwechter

Our Moment for Missions this month is focused on Unity Christian School (aka UCS Knights). Journey Church has been supporting this school for many years.

As most of you know, at the end of 2025, UCS officially moved into their newly constructed school located in Clinton, Iowa. The new building is an answer to many years of continuous prayer by staff, parents, students, friends, and the School Board.

The building was completed late last year and in December, staff, students, family, and friends gave their time and vehicles to complete the move, setting up classrooms to welcome students after Christmas break.

A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony was held January 4, 2026. Following is a quote by Dr. Jessica Hollewell, Head of School, taken from Unity's publication, The Knight Light: "This building is far more than just walls and rooms; it is a testament to God's faithfulness and a gift that calls us to rejoice (citing scripture, Nehemiah 12:43)." God hears and answers prayers according to HIS plans.

As a Christian school, Unity's staff provides students with a great education and solid Biblical teaching. It is a safe place where God's love for us and our love for each other is lived daily. Unity's students are patiently awaiting areas being completed, such as a weight room and concession area. Please continue to keep Unity Christian School's staff and students in your prayers.

On Wednesday, March 11, Pastor James Mumo from the Brook of Hope Academy (a Christ centered orphanage, school and church) in Kenya visited Unity Christian School. Pastor James gave a presentation about Brook of Hope to the staff and students during two sessions.



Aerial view of the Clinton, IA campus



Ribbon cutting ceremony



Drama Club performed Sherlock Holmes and the case of the Jersey Lily



One of two sessions where students heard from Missionary Pastor James



Everyone enjoying the large space the new gym provides for their various sports