



August News

Beyond Belief in Jesus

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2:6-7

“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.” James 2:26

This summer I’ve been spending more time reflecting on this question: What does it truly mean to “believe in Jesus?” Our current sermon series in James has been the Lord’s way of getting me to think this over more critically. I’m learning that there are still deeper waters to swim in my walk with Jesus, but too often I’m choosing to stay in the shallow waters.

The reality is this, believing in Jesus is the *beginning* of the Christian journey, not its destination. True faith goes beyond intellectual agreement or verbal confession—it transforms the heart, renews the mind, and shapes the way we live. Jesus calls His followers not only to believe in Him but also to follow Him, serve Him, and reflect His love in the world.

Going beyond belief also requires commitment. There will be challenges, sacrifices, and moments when following Christ is difficult. Yet Jesus promises to be with His people, strengthening and guiding them through every season. As we remain faithful, our lives become a testimony of God’s grace and transforming power.

As we move into the final weeks of summer, let me ask you the same questions I’ve been asking myself. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Is my faith only something I believe, or is it something I live? Our vision here at Journey is to “Make Much of Jesus.” It’s more than a phrase to toss around, but a true, heart-felt desire for all who call Journey Church “home.”

The next time you find your place in the pew on a Sunday morning, be open to the deeper waters that can be found in

not just believing in Jesus, but also in walking with Him. This is the pathway to becoming “rooted and built up” in Him. For such a time as this, may we move beyond belief into wholehearted discipleship, serving Jesus with joyful hearts and loving others as He first loved us.

You might consider praying this prayer as a first step in going “beyond belief.”

“Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me to more than belief. Transform my heart so that my faith is evident in the way I live and serve. Give me humility to follow Your example, courage to obey Your Word, and compassion to love others as You have loved me. May every part of my life bring honor to You. Help me go beyond belief and become a faithful servant, reflecting Your grace wherever You lead me. In Your name I pray, Amen.”

Make Much of Jesus,
Pastor Michael



Awana Volunteers Needed!

Awana is gearing up for the new school year and we are excited to see what God has in store for this year! Awana is a kids’

Bible club which meets Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45pm September through April. We have programs for kids ages Preschool through 6th Grade, plus teen volunteers.

We are looking for a few new adult volunteers to join the fun this year. If you’re interested and feeling like He is calling you to join us, please text Annette Eslick at 563-212-6416 or contact the church office. We can use helpers for all age levels from preschool to 6th grade. Teen volunteers are encouraged to join us as well.



Journey Church is blessed to have plenty of children in our congregation! What a fantastic opportunity to convey Biblical truths to the future Church and encourage these young ones to love Jesus and grow their faith in Him. Is God calling you to take a role in leading and ministering to children?

We have needs in the Nursery both during Life Groups and the Worship Service. Children's Church is during the sermon portion of the Worship Service; we are seeking individuals willing to teach a simple lesson (all materials provided) as well as others to assist with the children and help them with crafts. You can choose to serve once a month or just a couple of times a quarter!

Please pray about how God may be asking you to put your faith into practice through serving and reach out to Joy Lower (joyl@journeyclinton.org) if you have any questions or to volunteer.



Save the Date!
Church Picnic on
September 6
More info to come!

LIFE GROUPS

connecting/caring/community

Life Groups will take a break
from Aug 2 - Sep 6,
resuming on September 13



JOIN US!

- Sunday Mornings
- 10:00 - 10:25am
- Fellowship Hall

Meet & Greet will continue to meet during August!

We invite you to serve as a Meet & Greet host this summer. Please sign up in the kitchen.

Women's Chair Exercise Class

Mondays

4:45p Warm up

5:00p - 5:30p Class

Fellowship Hall

Contact Joanne Tietjens or
the office with questions.

All Ladies Are Welcome

Journey Church App

Download our free app and let us
Journey with you wherever you go!

Getting Started

1. Use your phone or tablet to scan the QR code or visit journeyclinton.org/app
2. Select an app store from the available options
3. Install the app
4. Tap "YES" to get notifications!



Missionary Focus - Awana Missionary Ken Krup



Dear Friends at Journey Church:

Please know that we value and appreciate your support in prayer and finances - thank you! Your partnership allows us to minister to churches and people (described below) and you share in that blessing. We are grateful that you have partnered with us!

PRAISES:

- I underwent a heart ablation in early June to restore regular heart rhythm. All went well and that operation corrected the A-fib condition that existed since Nov-25 and four cardioversion procedures. I've been feeling well since and the one month follow-up visit confirmed that.
- Financial support for the previous 12 months has been strong.
- Vision (right eye) is still good, April's semi-annual checkup I was able to read 20/20 (17+ years post surgery).

PRAYER:

- Pursuing churches to consider the Awana ministry in areas (seven counties in North and Central IL) where there is no current Awana presence. Have identified about 100 churches in those seven counties, have made contact with about 75 so far and trust to complete by the end of August.
- Reached out multiple times (phone and email) to Awana churches, desired to have a voice contact. Had voice conversations with about 60 of 166 churches in April thru June.
- Planning for fall training sessions is underway.

SINCERE AND GRATEFUL THANKS

Each year our ministry is blessed by the generosity of faithful, thankful and kind friends in ministry. You are part of a select group that we thank the Lord for. Thank you for considering us during the year and sharing your financial provisions with our family.

Karissa (daughter) is still at South Elgin High School, assisting teaching in six different contents the past school year – a rewarding but tiring position. She is the usual cook in the evening and we have recently been enjoying watching older TV series when we are both home.

We are thankful for:

- Friends like you that demonstrate Christ's love in meaningful ways
- Special ministry blessings
- His love for us, our family and friends

Have a great summer of ministry!

Ken Krup

Adoption Celebration!

Come celebrate with
the McDonough family,
food and fellowship,
Sunday, August 2nd
from 1-4 pm at their
home, 603 9th Ave,
Camanche.

WE ARE HIRING



UNITY CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS

- Secondary Math/Science Teacher (Part-time)
- Secondary Resource Teacher (Part-time)
 - above positions could be combine for full-time
- Cook/Assistant Cook (Part-time)
- Choir Accompanist (Part-time)

Send your application and resume to:

Head of School - Dr. Hollewell
jhollewell@unitychristian.com

Applications can be found at unitychristian.com/careers



A Big Thank You To all of the Volunteers at Journey Church!

God has blessed Journey Church with so many hard working volunteers who quietly serve with beautiful humility throughout each week. We are truly one body of Christ needing all of our precious parts to make the whole work for God's glory. Thank you. Thank you for doing your wonderful part at Journey Church and for helping us to continue to 'Make Much of Jesus' in all that we do!

It's all about JESUS

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox distribution has existed since 1993 to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children around the world. 244 million children in more than 175 countries have experienced God's love through the power of shoebox gifts since then. After receiving a shoebox gift, children are invited to a 12-lesson discipleship class to learn more. Since 2009, 27 million children have made a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior following completion of the program, *The Greatest Journey*.



More than 12 million shoeboxes filled with personal care items, school supplies, fun items and a WOW item (such as a doll, stuffed animal or soccer ball and pump) were sent from Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and the US in 2025. Journey Church contributed 94 boxes last year.

With a goal of over 100 boxes from Journey Church, there are 3 ways to participate:

1. Donate items from a suggested list to a drop off box in the church foyer starting in August and AWANA children will pack the shoeboxes in early November.
2. Take an empty Operation Christmas Child shoebox, provided by the mission team in October, fill the box from the suggested list provided by Samaritan's Purse, and return by early November.
3. Build a shoebox online
<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/#checkout/>

Follow the prompts and choose items that Samaritan's Purse offers and donate \$30. Shoeboxes donated online are sent to areas in remote regions as a creative way to share the Good News in a culturally sensitive manner.

It's not too early to begin to think about shopping for items for the shoeboxes. School supplies are already being displayed at reduced prices. Watch for sales or clearance, and marketing give aways often are suitable for the shoebox items. Be aware, there are prohibited items including: soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, chocolate or food, seeds, fruit snacks, drink mixes, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, and aerosol cans.

Learn lots of information by going to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/frequently-asked-questions/>

Christian Community Events!

FRIDAY SEPT 4

JON MICAH SUMRALL
FROM KUTLESS

OLIVIA LANE

AMANDA NOLAN
GRACE HEYAERT

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

ARTIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM

SATURDAY SEPT 5

RYAN STEVENSON

CONSUMED BY FIRE

MADISON WATKINS
JOSH/SARAH FURROW