



# September News

## We Are the Church

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42*

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18*

Ask ten random people what image or phrase comes to mind when they hear the word “church”, and you will probably get a variety of responses.

- “A place where Christians gather to worship God.”
- “Somewhere you go hear a preacher and sing songs.”
- “Well, I don’t go to church, but my grandma is pretty ‘religious’, and she loves her church.”

As we prepare to end the summer months, I’m excited to begin a new teaching series titled “We Are the Church” beginning September 7! In the weeks that follow, we will seek to better understand this important question: “What is the church?”

Let me take a moment and introduce you to a big theological word: *ecclesiology*. This word is used to describe the study of the church. The word itself comes from the Greek words meaning “assembly” and “word.” By putting the two together we have the meaning “the study of the church.” Some important questions in ecclesiology include: What is the church? What is the purpose of the church? What is the importance of The Lord’s Supper/Communion?

The Scripture in Matthew’s gospel reminds us why the church exists in the first place. The word *church* first appears in Matthew 16:18 in a conversation that Jesus had with the apostle Peter. In this moment, Jesus reveals that He is the one who will establish His church and that even the gates of hell won’t be able to defeat it. That truth about Jesus has provided the foundation of the church that has flourished for over two thousand years!

In the book of Acts, not long after the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, we read of the believers gathering in Acts 2:42. These four practices- teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer - provide us insight into the early practices of Christianity and the origin of the church. We would do well to consider these normative for the church today.

As we gain a better understanding of ecclesiology, we will also look at the church that is Journey. We will focus on our vision and mission as the church. We will spend time finding ways to equip believers to live our faith in a culture that is becoming increasingly secular. We will also wrestle with current cultural issues that seek to label the church as “hateful or “out of touch.”

I thank God for His church that we call Journey! I’m looking forward to learning together this fall as we allow the Word of God to remind us that “We Are the Church.”

**Make Much of Jesus,**  
Pastor Michael

## Missionary Focus: Kyle and Carrie Eipperle

Kyle Eipperle and his family moved to Ohio, IL after serving 17 years in Ukraine with SEND International, translating Christian material into Russian and Ukrainian. Since 2019, Kyle has been working with Operation World (OW), involved in research concerning unreached people groups.

An unreached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance (Joshua Project). Less than 2% of the people identify as Evangelical Christians.

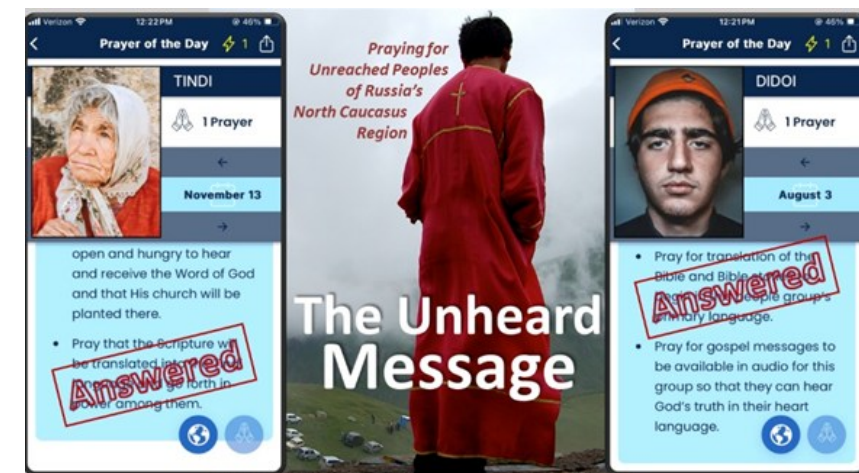
Kyle pursues research and translation for the Operation World prayer book. The prayer book is widely regarded as the definitive volume of prayer information about the nations of the world. Kyle serves as a research associate to develop and update Russian materials to the Russian and Ukrainian language speaking world.

The history of missions is the history of answered prayer, according to a recent update from Kyle. He states, “Ten years ago I began piecing together a prayer guide featuring the people groups of the North Caucasus region of south Russia. Since the prayer guide’s release, countless requests have been prayed for these unreached groups.



“The good news is that we now need to rewrite twelve different prayer points, because God has answered those prayers. Such news reassures us that we labor not in vain. God has clearly and amazingly answered prayers.”

- The OW staff is composing first drafts of countries for the next edition of Operation World. This is an exciting new phase, although, since a lot of countries are out there and some are constantly changing, this phase will take some time.
- Pray for the OW team; though they are few, pray they can accomplish much. Pray that God will supply all their needs.
- While writing first drafts of the 8th edition of Operation World, there are several new and high-tech methods being used. Pray that each member of the team can learn new things and that these new methods will serve them well.
- Personally, there have been several unexpected financial expenses lately. God is the provider. Please pray concerning the Eipperle’s unexpected needs.







# Life Group Kickoff Breakfast!

September 7 at 9:15 am

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast pizza, fruit, donuts, coffee, and juice.

Learn about the Life Groups we offer that will now resume on September 14.

\*This is for all regular and interested Life Group attendees.

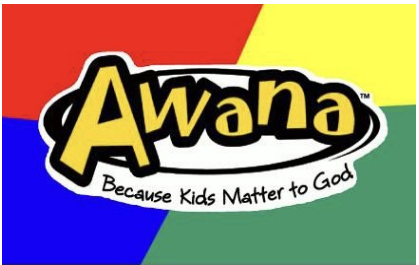
Wednesdays 6:15 pm-7:45 pm  
September 10-April 29  
Preschool-6th Grade

Join us for a year of fun learning about Jesus and the Bible! Every Wednesday evening kids ages preschool through 6th grade get together to learn more about Jesus and play fun games. The next generation of believers are getting their start now and it is exciting to see!

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to come join the fun, too! See Annette Eslick for information.

Benefits of Awana:

- Tangible way to actively **Make Much of Jesus**
- Kids are growing in their relationships with Jesus and their understanding of the Bible
- Kids are getting saved and baptized
- Exhausted parents get a date night
- Everyone gets to see God at work in the kids and adults



Grades 3



**Baptism Sunday** is September 21. If you have any questions or desire to be baptized on this special Sunday, **contact the church office by September 7**. Baptism is an outward and public profession of one's commitment to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It is NOT how a person receives salvation nor does it guarantee eternity in heaven. (See Romans 6:1-4)

Pray over this invitation to make your faith in Jesus Christ known to your Journey family.



3  
Questions  
To Ask...

**Ask yourself today:** What opportunity is right in front of me to bring grace and truth to someone else at Journey by using the gifts I've received?

**Ask someone else:** What do I consistently do here at Journey that blesses you and causes you to focus on Jesus?

**Ask the Holy Spirit:** Will you show me my spiritual gifts and allow me to put them to use to serve Jesus and those around me at Journey?

# Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts



## 3 ways that you can participate in providing for OCC:

- Bring items to the church and drop off at the table in the foyer. In early November the Awana children will pack shoeboxes with your donated items.
- Pack a shoebox at home. Maybe your family would be interested in filling a shoebox together. Following a \$10 shipping donation, an email barcode label will be sent to you. You will be informed where your shoebox is sent. Recently, our shoeboxes have been sent to Mexico or South American country.
- Little time or opportunity to shop? You can fill a shoebox online - <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> For a \$30 donation Samaritan's Purse will offer items for you to choose to pack a shoebox or they will pack one for you. Follow the instructions on their website.

## The Deaconess Board cordially invites you! Ladies' Fall Retreat ~ October 17 & 18

Stoney Creek Hotel, 101 18th St, Moline, Illinois  
Special Guest Speakers | Fun Activities

The retreat starts Friday at 7p. Next day's activities begin at 9am and the retreat ends at 2pm.

Double occupancy rooms are being held at a rate of \$109 per night.

Call Stoney Creek at 309-743-0101 by **September 16** to reserve your room.

Use the sign-up sheet in the foyer, tear-off portion of your bulletin, or call the church office to RSVP.

We are asking \$20 per person to help cover the cost of the retreat.

RSVP and pay (check to Journey Church) by **Sunday, September 7**

## "HELP THE CHURCH" DAY - October 25

As a way to support those in our congregation that need some extra help, Journey Church will hold a special event called "Help the Church Day". This has been a very much appreciated and successful event in the past when it was hosted by our men's ministry, MEN of HONOR.

The idea behind this event is to help individuals complete tasks that they would normally have difficulty completing themselves. These would be small tasks taking no more than 3 or 4 hours total – tasks like window washing, cleaning out eaves, raking leaves, pruning shrubs, small construction, etc.

If the above situations resonate with you, begin thinking about possible needs you might have. In the near future, you will be provided an opportunity to register your needs.

Also, we will need volunteers, so if you would like to help your fellow Journey family, be prepared to sign-up when that opportunity comes around. There is NO workday without workers, so please consider your role in this God-honoring event.

At Journey we believe that we are the hands and feet of Jesus and, as such, we should be willing to reach out to help those who need it. "Help the Church Day" is an ideal opportunity to put our beliefs into action.

For those able to help, save the morning of **Saturday, October 25**. More information to follow.



**...YOU SHALL  
LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR AS  
YOURSELF...**

LEVITICUS 19:18