

VOYAGE NEWS

Pointing the Way Back to God

First Time Here?

First, make yourself at home. You're welcome to grab a cup of coffee, a drink out of our cooler, or any other items we have set out. Then, find a comfortable seat. Our services this summer are at 10 AM. Generally, you can expect this morning's service to last approximately one-hour long.

Have Children?

Nursery - Children age 0 - 3. While younger children are welcome upstairs, you may bring your child to nursery at any time.

Voyage Kids - Children age 3 - 5th grade. Our kids will start out in the upstairs worship service but will be dismissed to their classrooms after two or three worship songs.

Voyage Teens - Grades 6th - 12th. Our teens will start out in the upstairs worship service but will be dismissed to their classrooms after two or three worship songs.



For me, the month of August can be bittersweet. Yes, we still have plenty of warm weather to enjoy, but we're also constantly reminded that cooler weather is on the horizon. As a "for instance," Costco is already selling Halloween costumes! Either way, you get my drift. It's still summer, but we know that these long warm days are slowly getting shorter and shorter, and that eventually those leaves will fall.

And yet, we still have time; even this week, we have time. Time to enjoy *The Great Outdoors* (one of my favorite 80's movies). Time to paint the shed. Time to reseed the lawn. Time to play golf. Time to sit on the deck and enjoy our morning coffee. Time to get away for one final weekend.

As we talked about a few weeks ago, there's plenty of things about tomorrow that can upset us, worry us, and keep us up at night. But as Jesus reminds us, let's not worry about that. Instead, as the beautiful movie *Perfect Days* also suggests, let's live in the present, finding simple things (even the cleaning of a toilet) that we can enjoy. So let's make August the month where we will move on from the past, steer clear of the worries of tomorrow, and live life in the present. All because "now is now."

—Pastor Jeff

The Books I Read

Each month, I (Pastor Jeff) attempt to read through five books. In the month of July, and with plenty of other things going on, I barely made it! But here's what I managed to read:

1. *Cannery Row* - John Steinbeck
2. *Till We Have Faces* - C.S. Lewis
3. *A Praying Church: Becoming a People of Hope in a Discouraging World* - Paul E. Miller
4. *Anxious People* - Fredrik Backman
5. *Man's Search for Meaning* - Viktor E. Frankl

Giving Options

You can give onsite by cash or check through our Offering and Connection Box.

You can also give online at visitvoyage.org. It's an easy and secure way to give.

Learn More

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about our church, don't hesitate to reach out. Our staff is open to answering your questions before or after our morning services.

You can also learn more with a short visit to our website: visitvoyage.org

And yes, you can also email us at visitvoyage@gmail.com.

One More Thing

Thanks for visiting with us! We are grateful for the opportunity to worship with you and to get to know you better. If you would like for us to follow up with you, please fill out one of our Connection Cards. Share as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.

These can be placed in the Offering and Connection Box located on our information table near the entrance.

Have a blessed day!

July Giving Summary

General Offering (July)	Budgeted - \$11,996	Received - \$6,815
General Offering (YTD)	Budgeted - \$26,992	Received - \$19,147
Missions (July)	Budgeted - \$800	Received - \$840

Remembering An Olympian

Some would say that the 2004 Chinese athlete Liu Xian, the winner of the 110 meter hurdles, was the first Chinese-born Olympic champion. However, if you were to visit China, and venture into the city of Weifang in Shandong, you'd actually find a monument to another.

The monument marks the burial site of Eric Liddell. Liddell was the son of Scottish missionaries who would go on to compete in the 1924 Paris Olympics for the United Kingdom. But Liddell was actually born in Tianjin, China, and later died in a Japanese internment camp near Weifang during World War II. And it's here, 100 years later, as part of his monument, where we see a picture mounted on a lamppost, along with a granite stone inscribed with Liddell's achievements. As biographer Duncan Hamilton writes: "[Consider this] a Communist homage to a Christian, a man China regards with pride as its first Olympic champion."

So, as you take in the Paris Olympics in 2024, remember that a 100 years ago, in that same magnificent city, Eric Liddell won the gold in the 400 meters. But even more, remember how Liddell would later set aside his athletic career for a higher calling. Not long after returning from Olympic triumph, Liddell would shock everyone when he announced his intention to return to China as a missionary. The rest, we might say, is an incredible story—one that you can catch a small piece of by watching the 1981 film *The Chariots of Fire*.

The Great Alone

Our August Summer Book Club selection is Kristin Hannah's 2018 release "The Great Alone." Here's a brief synopsis of the story.

The book follows the Allbright family as they move to the remote wilderness of Alaska in the 1970's. As the harsh Alaskan environment tests their survival skills, the family's dynamics will become increasingly strained, especially so with their daughter Leni. While she will find solace in her new surroundings, including a budding romance with a local boy, there is also incredible disfunction at home with her father's worsening mental health.

Exploring the themes of love, resilience, and the struggle for belonging in an unforgiving landscape, the book ultimately highlights the power of hope amidst incredibly challenging circumstances.

Grab a copy and start reading today!

"Hannah skillfully situates the emotional family saga in the events and culture of the late seventies....Her tautly drawn characters contribute to Leni's salvation amid her family's tragedy." —Publisher's Weekly