

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 service is currently being held 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.



Just days ago, I was on the hunt for some last minute Halloween gear for my daughter. It was Halloween Eve, and there I was at Target, looking expectantly and hopefully for some pumpkin themed socks. This seemed like a simple task, an easy find, and yet it was anything but. You see, all the Halloween gear was gone. Why you might wonder? Because someone “higher up” apparently told all the employees to quickly flip everything to Christmas. Did I mention that it wasn't even Halloween yet?

All this reminds me of how fast things come and go in so many areas of our lives. That party we've been planning for weeks, and all the time invested into it, will be here and gone before we know it. Those kids that we've invested blood, sweat and tears in raising, will all of a sudden (it seems), be all grown up and out on their own. That vacation we spent months planning, never does seem quite long enough, and ends far too soon.

All to say, I know how busy these next two months will be for many of us. We're all tempted to get on to the next thing, to flip the calendar from one month to the next, and press onward. It's as if we have someone “higher up” telling us to get on to the the next thing. Still, I'm inviting you (myself included) to slow down, and linger a little longer right where you are.

In particular, let's slow things down, and let's linger a little longer over that time in the month when we practice gratitude: Thanksgiving. Even though the retailers tell us otherwise, we really don't have to rush out on Black Friday to get the best deals. Most, if not all of those supposed “deals” will be there the next day, and likely for days afterwards.

Instead, let's block out time in our planners, and set aside time on the weekends, in which we really will spend valuable time with our family and our friends. I need this. You need this. And someone “higher up” (The Highest Someone) is telling us that if we do this, it really will be worth it! — Pastor Jeff

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!

October Giving Summary

General Offering (Oct.)	Budgeted - \$11,996	Received - \$7,191
General Offering (YTD)	Budgeted - \$65,380	Received - \$47,867
Missions (Oct.)	Budgeted - \$800	Received - \$800

December Teaching Series

During the season of Advent, tradition has it that we should teach about the four Advent themes of joy, hope, peace, and love. However, during Advent 2024, Voyage will be singling out one of these, and perhaps the very one that we all need to work on the most, in our series we're simply calling *Joy: Our Elusive Hope*.

Joy is one of those things we know should mark our lives as a Christian. And yet, it seems so hard for us to find at times—most notably in the season we call Christmas. We'll talk about why this is. But ultimately, we'll look to God's Word, and uncover strategies that will guide us, and serve to help make joy a much larger part of our lives.

What Are You Studying?

When we hear the word "study," some of us shudder. Others of us turn in the opposite direction. But study doesn't have to be the study of material for a test we're taking, or in preparation for a paper we're writing. Rather, as Richard Foster highlights in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, what we learn is that study (as a spiritual practice) can be far more than we might imagine. One such example is Foster's admonishment to study "nonverbal books." What does Foster mean? Here, he challenges us to study of things like "nature." How many of us really take the time to examine a bird building their nest, or the constellations in the night sky? To do this, Foster calls for a "reverent examination (p.73)" of nature in which we observe these things prayerfully and carefully. All said, take some time to "study" the flowers in the field, the clouds in the sky, or even the sort of creatures that we normally ignore altogether. As Foster writes: "Study produces joy. Like any novice, we will find it hard work in the beginning. But the greater our proficiency, the greater our joy...Study is well worth our most serious effort (p. 76)." For more on study as a spiritual practice, see chapter 5 in Foster's *Celebration*.

An Early Christmas Gift

One of the world's most popular comedians of late is undoubtedly Nate Bargatze. As a guest host, his two recent stints on Saturday Night Live proved incredibly popular. For instance, go check out his "Washington's Dream" bit on Youtube. Then, watch him reprise this role in "Washington's Dream 2" from his most recent appearance. Some have called these the funniest sketches on SNL ever! Known for his "clean comedy," which is surprising by itself, even more surprising is to learn that Bargatze is dropping not one, but two new stand-up specials on Netflix. The first is titled *Your Friend, Nate Bargatze*, and will premiere on December 24th. The second, still untitled, will drop at some point in early 2025.