

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.



Traditionally, at least here in Michigan, the month of January is not only the coldest, it's also a long month, and offers many of us little consolation. We simply have to take one day at a time, longingly looking forward to the spring that still feels too far away. All said, I think you get the gist, for me, the month of January is probably my least favorite (sorry to those of you with January birthdays), but that doesn't mean we have to waste these long, hard days.

In fact, these early winter months are good for a number of things. I'll spare you of the traditional fare of "goal-setting" and New Year's resolutions, while still challenging you with some things that we both can and should do.

For one, and probably the most obvious coming from your pastor, is the challenge to dig into God's Word. On page two of this newsletter, I'll offer some approaches that you may find helpful. Whatever you chose to do, this is a great time of the year to do something. So, take up this challenge and read God's Word even if it's only for a two or three minutes. Something is better than nothing, and what often happens is that as we read, God will increase our hunger and desire to read even more.

Secondly, the month of January is a great time to be inspired. One of the ways we can be inspired is by learning about those who came before us, who had to endure significant challenges, and yet were able to press on. In our January teaching series called "Giants," we'll be talking about those "spiritual giants" that inspire and challenge us to be better. So, make some time this month to learn about them via a good documentary, a good book, or a sermon that highlights several of them.

Finally, (I can't believe I'm saying this), read some poetry. Yeah, I know, aside from what we're told to read in school, most of us read poetry like we listen to opera music (not at all). But why not? After all, one third of the Bible is "poetic." So, read more poetry this year, and as you do, take notice how it stirs your imagination and offers you fresh insights into other areas of your life. Who knows? You might actually like 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!

December Giving Update

Expected Giving: \$14,995

Actual Received: \$12,923

Year to Date:

Expected Giving: \$93,372

Actual Received: \$69,141

Expected Expenses: \$92,955

Actual Expenses: \$86,749

Chili Cook-Off

It's that time! Our annual Chili Cook-Off returns this winter on **Friday, February 21st from 6:30-8pm**. As always, this is a great time to enjoy some fellowship with one another, but also an incredible time to partake of some really good chili. So, whether you'll be submitting a chili of your own, or simply there to taste and vote, get this on your calendar today! And of course, this is a great opportunity to invite a friend or two that wouldn't normally show up at church. Stay tuned for more details coming next month.

Reading Plan Suggestions

In reading the Bible, there are hundreds of ways to do so. Aside from the weightier suggestion of reading through the entire Bible in a year (if this is your plan, go for it!), below are 5 lighter but still meaningful ways to enter into God's Word.

1. Read (or chew) on a verse or short passage throughout the day. This can seem trivial, and it could be if you simply read the verse(s) and moved on. However, the idea is to keep the passage close by, memorize it even, and meditate on its meaning throughout the day.
2. Read through all 13 of Paul's Letters. Start with the shortest (Philemon) and work your way up to the longest (Romans). Spread out over the year, in the end you'd have a pretty good grasp of the Apostle Paul and the larger cares and concerns that he wrote about.
3. Read through the Gospels. Here, you could simply read one after the other, or from the shortest to longest (Mark, John, Matthew, Luke). Once completed, you could go back and read them again.
4. Read the biblical books that interest you the most. If you're interested in the OT prophets, start with a shorter prophetic book like Jonah. If you've always wanted to read through Genesis, go for it. If the poetry is your thing (see above), read through the book of Psalms.
5. Read through the entire New Testament. There are several ways to do this, but a simple reading from Matthew through Revelation can be done by reading a chapter per day, five days a week.