

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.



Coupled with the month of October, the month of November is what we typically think of when we talk about the season of fall, especially so here in Michigan. The leaves are changing colors, many of them are starting to drop, and soon we'll all be out raking them up before the winter snow sets in.

Just as seasons change outside, things are starting to change on the inside too. We decorate for the fall season. Stores set up whole sections in hopes of getting us to purchase and fill our homes with these seasonal decorations.

But there is also a spiritual change that happens at this time of the year. As the month of November draws to a conclusion, the season of Advent begins. This is our yearly reminder to prepare for the coming of the Lord, both in the past event we know as Christmas (Incarnation) but also with a reminder that Jesus will come again at some point in the future. But are we ready?

Some have tried to predict the day and hour of his return—his second coming. This happened yet again in September when one prophetic group suggested that we Christians should expect to be raptured on September 23 or 24. Well, this did not happen. We Christ-followers are still here and once again we have yet another failed attempt to predict Jesus' immanent return.

Nevertheless, these groups are right in one sense. Jesus is indeed coming again even though we cannot know the day or hour. So, while we don't need to worry about theological weather forecasting, we do need to take seriously the reality that our time in this present world will one day come to an end. A new season will be upon us, but will we be ready?

So, let's spend some time in this season preparing our hearts for meeting Jesus—both in the retelling of the first advent at Christmas while also longing for the second coming of our Lord once and for all. While we can't say for sure when this event will take place, it really could happen in our lifetime. So, let's get ready.

- 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 Update

Expected Giving: \$11,806

Actual Received: \$10,457

Year to Date:

Expected Giving: \$64,954

Actual Received: 61,948

Expected Expenses: \$64,370

Actual Expenses: \$62,833

Best Fall Activities

1. Attend a football game at a local college or high school. West Michigan is blessed with a lot of colleges and high schools and some really good football teams. Take your pick but be sure to dress warm.
2. Visit a local corn maze. Some of them are especially family friendly, while others are of the scarier sort. Either way, there are several options just a short drive away.
3. Take a trip to the library and check out a book, vinyl, or a number of unique items. If you haven't been to the library in awhile, you'll be pleasantly surprised as to what they have to offer.
4. Visit a brand-new coffee shop and make it a locally owned one. Yeah, you can run through the drive-through at Starbucks, but November is a great time to support your locally owned coffeeshop instead.
5. Take a hike. The fall is one of the best times to get outside and take in the fresh air. Grand Rapids has many options for walking/hiking. Some local favorites include the Blandford Nature Center, Aman Park, and the Grand Ravines.

What to Read?

Each fall, there are many good books that we could turn our attention to. One of these, and a rather timely one, is the book that was just released by John Bacon called the *Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Fifty-years ago, on November 10th, 1975, the unthinkable happened. Yes, there were plenty of shipwrecks on the great lakes over the years, but the "Mighty Fitz" would surely not be one of them. After all, their captain, Ernest McSorley, was widely thought to be the greatest captain on the Great Lakes. Nevertheless, we all know what happened. The Might Fitz went down and along with it, the entire crew of 29.

Focusing on those directly affected by the tragedy, Bacon offers up an emotional tribute to the lives lost while also offering a fresh perspective of one of America's most mourned and talked about maritime disasters. Check it out!