

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.



When you stop and think about it, December is one of the strangest months of the year. It really is. We shop like no other time of the year—often enduring crowds and long lines to purchase a gift for someone else. Some of us even travel to the country where we look for the perfect tree, cut it down, load it on top of our SUV's and promptly place it in some treasured corner of our homes. In my book, all this is rather strange if it wasn't for our familiarity with these "Christmas traditions" that make it seem so normal.

Likewise, the story of Christmas, as told to us in God's Word, is all very strange. It's unexpected, out of this world, and nothing we could ever imagine on our own. Nevertheless, my contention is that we've lost some of the strangeness of the season. We've grown accustomed (dare I say bored) of the story, which often means we miss its uniqueness, and the sheer magic that we should be basking in.

For instance, consider the strangeness of Mary's virgin conception. That sort of thing simply doesn't happen in our world. Relatedly, how about the angelic visitation that both Mary and Joseph have. While there may be accounts of visions, and messages from out of this world, none was as life changing as the angel Gabriel telling this young couple that abstinence was only 99.99 percent effective!

All said, take some time to ponder just how unique, strange, and magical Christmas really is. Beyond its busyness, parties, and wrapping paper is the most incredible story the world has ever known. But it's not just a story that fits alongside all the other stories that we come across on the bookshelf. No, this story is truth, and is meant to be treasured not just in December, but all the year through.

- 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!

November Giving Update

Expected Giving: \$14,758

Actual Received: \$6,425

Year to Date:

Expected Giving: \$79,713

Actual Received: \$68,374

Expected Expenses: \$78,999

Actual Expenses: \$73,587

Christmas Favorites

As the season of Christmas rolls around each year, we're inundated with all sorts of new music, movies, and other forms of entertainment. Nevertheless, how do we decide what to spend our time with? Here are some, old and new, to consider:

1. Sufjan Stevens - *Songs for Christmas*. In 2006, the Michigan native Stevens released this infamous album—a five volume set featuring 42 Christmas tunes. All in all, this is an exceptional listen that includes both old and original compositions.
2. Vince Guaraldi Trio - *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. If Jazz is more your style, this classic released in 1965 to coincide with the TV special, is undoubtedly joy-filled and long considered one of the best Christmas albums of all-time.
3. Amy Grant - *A Christmas Album*. This 1983 classic is a Christmas staple that includes Grant's well-know "Tennessee Christmas" as well as several renditions of popular Christmas classics. A Christmas worship experience that is well-worth a listen.
4. *A Christmas Story Christmas*. In 2022, as a follow up to the much beloved (or hated) original movie *A Christmas Story*, many of the original cast were reunited for this one—a surprisingly good (maybe great) sequel.
5. *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This 2024 release tells the story of the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings who take over the annual Christmas pageant in a hilarious and yet heartwarming tale.
6. *Spirited*. Released in 2022, this Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell film is what you might expect—but even better. As a unique twist of the Charles Dickens classic, it's both a comedy and a musical that is fun from start to finish.
7. John Grisham - *Skipping Christmas*. This is not the lawyer themed novel you might expect from Grisham, but a quick-read novel that inspired the movie "Christmas with the Cranks." So, read the book or watch the movie...both will lighten the load and make you laugh!
8. C.S. Lewis - *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. There's good reason why this 1950 classic is still read, in print, and remains at the top of many lists. It's a magical story and one that points directly at the Christ figure and lion known as Aslan. If you're not a reader, the 2005 movie is also a really good adaptation.