



JourneyChurch



RELEASED



The Released Initiative

Being trapped is a terrible place to find yourself. We have all felt the difficulty of being stuck, whether it is from a debt, an addiction, a job you didn't enjoy, or the effects on community and isolation from the coronavirus. But, finding freedom is amazing! And when we face difficulties in life and choose to tackle them with God's guidance, we come out on the other side with a beautiful story and appreciation of freedom.

I am excited to share another area where we can experience freedom- financial freedom for our church family. For the last eighteen years, we have included a monthly mortgage in our annual budget and God has faithfully provided. That mortgage includes a balloon payment which will be due in May 2023. We would like to retire this debt rather than take on another mortgage at that time.

To address this financial challenge, we are introducing the Released Initiative. Each aspect of this initiative is utterly focused on God's call for Journey Church to be Released, to symbolize not only escaping a monthly mortgage, but also to be Released to chase the vision that God has given us to Move People on a Simple Journey Toward Jesus. In the next few months, we will challenge our Journey Church family to prayerfully consider how each of us can participate in the Released Initiative. Our primary goal will be to eliminate the debt, but we will also share some ministry opportunities that we believe God is and will continue to lead us to as we are Released.

We will be inviting and challenging everyone, regardless of their level of support, to join us. We hope that you will decide to participate both in prayer and financially. Will you join us in this amazing next chapter of Journey Church's story?

Randy Nation

Randy Nation
Senior Minister

Our Purpose

Our Mission

We exist to “Move People On A Simple Journey Toward Jesus”.

Our Vision

We are motivated to do so by our love for God, our love for ALL people, and our passion to make DISCIPLES who make DISCIPLES.

Our Values

We believe we can help people progress on their personal Journey by engaging them in CONNECTING to the body of Christ, while GROWING in their own faith and SHARING their lives with others in their circles of community. All are welcome to come along as we move together on a simple Journey toward Jesus!

“SINCE YOU EXCEL IN SO MANY WAYS—IN YOUR FAITH, YOUR GIFTED SPEAKERS, YOUR KNOWLEDGE, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND YOUR LOVE FROM US — I WANT YOU TO EXCEL ALSO IN THIS GRACIOUS ACT OF GIVING.” -2 CORINTHIANS 8.7 (NLT)

MY JOURNEY

Our Pathway

We BEGIN
our Journey

BEGIN



We BELIEVE in
Jesus Christ

BELIEVE



We BELONG
to His church
and mission

BELONG



We BECOME
a multiplier
in God's
kingdom

BECOME



Our Story

"HUMBLE BEGINNINGS"

1966

A group from Bluegrass Christian Fellowship gathered to pray and seek God's direction for a church in Woodford County.

"GROWING MINISTRY"

1970s

The congregation moved into a new facility on Paddock Drive and hired the first full-time minister, Joe Bob Grider.

"EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

1980s

Facility expansion and land acquisition helped pave the path for greater ministry opportunities.

"DIVISION AND UNIFICATION"

1990s

A season of turmoil was followed by unity among church members.

"RENEWING FAITH"

1997

Randy Nation was hired as Senior Minister to help restore the divided churches into WCCC.

"NEW LOCATION"

2001

Plans for building a new ministry center began and ground was broken in October 2001. "Building on the Rock" stewardship campaign began.

"LEAVING THE OLD BEHIND"

2003

May 4th was opening day at our facility. Church members walked the Cross from the old building to the new building, in an expression of faithfulness.

"FUTURE STORY"

2016

WCCC rebranded to Journey Church to better align the mission and vision and continue to reach Central Kentucky with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"GREATER OUTREACH"

2017

Journey Provisions opens with a new vision to serve Woodford County and partner with local ministries.

"JOURNEY PROVISIONS RELOCATION"

2018

As a result of rapid growth and meeting the community's needs, Journey Provisions moved to a new facility.

Now – Dedicated ministry continues through missions, Journey Preschool, Journey Hoops, Journey Camp, Celebrate Recovery, and many more to help move people on a simple journey toward Jesus.





A GOAL

**WITHOUT
A PLAN
IS JUST A
WISH**

WHAT IS THE RELEASED INITIATIVE?

Released is a generosity initiative designed specifically to unify our financial stewardship program into One Fund that includes our annual ministry budget, debt reduction, and future ministry opportunities. This initiative enables Journey Church to set our vision and financial goals for the 18-month period of December 2021 through May 2023.

The goal for our Released Initiative over the next 18 months is \$2.5 million which will enable us to live out our mission and vision with greater effectiveness, impact our community and advance the Kingdom by moving people on a simple journey toward Jesus.

“WHATEVER YOU GIVE IS ACCEPTABLE IF YOU GIVE IT EAGERLY. AND GIVE ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU HAVE, NOT WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE.” **2 CORINTHIANS 8.12 (NLT)**

Goals

Our spiritual goal for each person is to deepen their relationship with God.

Our spiritual goal for the congregation is to commit ourselves to the vision God has given us for the Released Initiative and to help each person take steps toward faithful, generous giving.

Our Funding Goals are to

- ▶ Support the ministries of Journey Church
- ▶ Eliminate mortgage debt
- ▶ Deepen impact on our community

Our Ministry Goals are to move people on a simple journey toward Jesus.

The Released Initiative is an invitation for all of us to join in the ministries of Journey Church. As we commit to this 18-month initiative, we become part of the future story of our church and community!

The Released Vision Has 5 Key Areas

1

Continue our current mission, only with more strategy and more efficiency.

2

Make a deeper impact on the lives of our children and adults by providing better environments for worship, community, and service.

3

Make a greater impact on Versailles by partnering with the most effective ministries in our area.

4

Deepen our commitment to making disciples through increasing our support of local, national and global missions work.

5

Create more possibilities for the future through debt freedom.

This One Fund strategy will help us to stay focused on the entire mission that God has given us.

Why PRACTICE GENEROSITY?

God has been generous to us.

Moses told the people of Israel a truth that continues to this very day:

“He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land – your grain, new wine and oil – the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give you. You will be blessed more than any other people...”
Deuteronomy 7:13-14a

We practice generosity because God has generously blessed us in every way. Our generous giving is a response to God’s outrageous goodness.

We give generously to be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of this certain truth:

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

We practice generosity in order to share the blessings of God with those who are in need of every kind. Our generous giving provides spiritual guidance, food, shelter, medicine, clothing, comfort and hope to those in need.

We practice generosity to share God’s kingdom of love.

Jesus himself told us:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” Matthew 6:25a, 33

Our generous gifts empower our ministry of sharing the good news of God’s love for all people as we work for justice, righteousness and peace.

We give generously to discover true and lasting joy.

The Apostle Paul shares this life-changing insight:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one of you should give as you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians. 9:6-7

When we learn the lessons of generosity and practice them in our lives, we discover new joy and cheerfulness. Generosity brings joy!

Generous Giving

HOW MUCH SHOULD I COMMIT?

The decision of how much to commit to the Released Initiative is a personal one. No one can make that decision for you. As you approach the decision, we encourage you to:

Listen To God

Prayerfully seek God's guidance as you make your commitment decision.

Evaluate Your Resources

Truly consider everything God has put under your stewardship.

Nail Down the Specifics

Determine specifically how your resources can become a generous gift.

Educate Yourself

Consider out-of-the-box ways that you can increase your gift.

Walk By Faith

Determine your best commitment and trust God to help you successfully fulfill it.

Extravagant

I give beyond my tithe to God through Journey Church and will continue to look for more opportunities to practice generosity.

Tithing

I faithfully give 10% of my income to God through Journey Church, but I sense God calling me to do more.

Intentional

I consistently give to God through Journey Church, but I want to accept the challenge to become a tither.

Occasional

I give to God through Journey Church, but I could be more consistent.

First Time

I have not yet given to God through Journey Church, but I want to take this step.

Sacrificial Giving

WHAT CHANGES CAN I MAKE?



Practice Priority Budgeting

Many families may choose to rearrange their financial priorities. By identifying unnecessary or less important expenses that are currently in the budget, you can free up funds that become part of the Released Initiative commitment.



Redirect Present Expenditures

Some families have short-term expenditures or loans that will soon be settled. Once these expenses are paid off, the funds, which are already a part of your budget, can be redirected to the Released Initiative.



Increase Giving with Increased Income

Sometimes a family may be aware of an expected bonus or an upcoming increase in income. You could choose to plan on including these increases in income in your total commitment.



Donate Assets

Some families may have stocks, bonds or other securities that have appreciated in value. These assets can be included in your commitment. There are potential tax advantages to this type of transaction, but there are also potential penalties. Therefore, before making a contribution of this type, we encourage you to consult your CPA, tax attorney or financial advisor.



Ways of Giving

Give in person

You can give during worship services each week during the offering time.

Give online

Log on to www.journeyky.church You may schedule a one-time gift, or you can set up a recurring transfer to be made weekly or monthly.

Text to Give

Text a dollar amount to (859) 279-4911 and follow the prompts to give directly via text.

Giving QR Code

Visit our online giving platform directly by using this QR code.



Giving

HOW DO I DETERMINE HOW MUCH TO GIVE?

Many often ask, “What am I expected to give?” Since a major funding initiative is new to many – if not most – people, it’s a great question. Let’s start at the beginning:

- ▶ As you learn more and more about the Released Initiative, continue to ask God how He can use you through the mission of Journey Church. As you pray, read and search the Bible, have faith that God will stir your heart to determine what your gift will be.
- ▶ Take a good look at what you give annually to the church, then determine what gifts “over and above” that amount you might give over a 18-month period.

Personal Commitment Worksheet

Current Monthly Gift (First Fruits gift on December 5):

(Checking or savings account, cash that can be obtained from the sale of jewelry, real estate, collectibles, etc. that you currently have)

Incremental Gifts

x 18 Months

=

(Sacrificial gift weekly, monthly, annually, etc. for 18 months)

Future Single-incident Gifts

(Cash available when a CD matures, expected bonus at the end of the year, etc.)

Securities

(Stocks, bonds, etc. Consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor before making a gift of this type.)

Total Commitment

Picture yourself as a crucial part in the outcome of the Released Initiative – because you are! Pray about what that part might be. Look at the Giving Guide – where do you picture yourself? Circle it. Highlight it. Pray about it. Live with it. God will bring a sense of peace to your

decision of the gift you will make. Even a modest gift multiplied over an 18 month period can make an extraordinary difference.

What Will it Take for us to Get to Our Ultimate Goal of \$2.5 Million Over 18 Months?

Certainly it will take some large gifts made from stored assets (stocks, bonds, land, etc). But it could also happen by each of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something that we value more. That's what the Released Initiative is all about, diving deeper into the calling that God has for Journey Church.

Number of Commitments	18 Month Released Gift	Annual Gift Of	Monthly Gift Of	Gift Level Total
1	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$75,000
1	\$65,000	\$43,333	\$3,611	\$65,000
2	\$55,000	\$36,667	\$3,056	\$110,000
5	\$50,000	\$33,333	\$2,778	\$250,000
8	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$360,000
12	\$35,000	\$23,333	\$1,944	\$420,000
17	\$25,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$425,000
25	\$10,000	\$6,667	\$556	\$250,000
30	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$417	\$225,000
34	\$5,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$170,000
MANY	\$2,500	\$1,667	\$139	\$150,000

TOTAL

\$2,500,000

A Little Goes A Long Way...

Here are just a few examples of how a small change could make a very large difference over the course of 18 months!

Activity	Average Cost	X 78 Weeks 18 Months	X 180 Families
1 Cup of Coffee	\$4	\$312	\$56,160
1 Fast Food Meal	\$20	\$1,560	\$280,800
1 Round of Golf or Mani/Pedi	\$40	\$3,120	\$561,600

Sermon Notes

Week 1

Released from Doubt to Belief

John 20:24-29

Truth

This story from the life of Thomas reminds us that it is human to doubt, but with faith we come to believe that all things are possible with God.

Application

What are the areas of your life that you need to move from doubt to belief?

Week 2

Released From Guilt to Forgiveness

John 8:1-11

Truth

Jesus' enemies brought a woman caught in the act of adultery to Him in order to trap Him. But Jesus, being full of truth and grace, responds with the perfect answer, leading them to back off and leading her to salvation.

Application

Where do you need to offer or receive grace and forgiveness?



What is a One Fund?

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past during which you were invited to give a second gift over and above your usual gift to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible. There was a “General Fund” for ongoing ministries, and a separate “Building Fund” or “Campaign Fund” for capital projects and certain other ministries. While this approach has served churches well, we also recognize the potential for confusion. It required an explanation to make clear which fund did what and not everyone participated. It is time for a change.

Released is a new, simpler way. From now on, everything we do is part of One Fund. Everyone can get involved and participate. It makes sense because we are all on one mission: to move people on a simple journey toward Jesus. Our Released Initiative will last 18 months as we work together to make an impact. In those 18 months, every gift that is given to Journey Church will go into the One Fund. Then after Released is over, we will continue giving to the One Fund as we continue to expand the mission of God here at Journey Church and beyond.



Visit the Released Initiative online
to learn more and watch some
life-change testimonials from our
church members.



Journey  Church

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