

Great Start for Capital Campaign!

After just two weeks, we've already received \$29,350 in pledges for our new campaign. **That's 18% of our goal of \$167,601!** Help us keep the momentum going. You'll find a pledge form and full information in today's *Weekly News*.

Great Pioneer 4 Progress



\$29,350 • 18%

Goal: \$167,601

Diversity Assessment Recommendations

In recent years, LifeJourney Church has made enormous progress in racial diversity. We believe this is what God wants! Heaven is going to be a very diverse place, and church communities should strive to look like Heaven. At LifeJourney, we want to make sure we preserve our gains in diversity and continue to make forward progress.

To assist in that effort, a Diversity Assessment Team was assembled to evaluate how we're doing and to make specific recommendations to our Board of Directors and staff. Since the African American portion of our congregation has grown so rapidly in recent years, the Assessment Team was asked to focus special attention on sustaining that momentum. Team Members were Pastor Jeff, Richard Ramsey, Shellye Bradford, Curt Pickard, Robert Ferguson, Todd Cox, Azalia Epps, Tina Johnson, Megan Mitchell Valdes, and Genese Parker.

See **Diversity**, continued on page four. ►

How To Become A Member

Would you like to become a member of LifeJourney Church? Great! We want you! Membership is for those who want to make a deep commitment to the mission and ministry of our Church and to their own personal spiritual development. In addition, members are eligible to vote at congregational meetings and to serve on various boards at LifeJourney Church. Here are your options for membership.

Option 1. Take *Discipleship 101* and *102*, two powerful courses that help us deepen our personal relationship with God, orient ourselves to life in church community, and build close friendships with others in our church.

The next round of *Discipleship 101/102* will begin on **June 30** and run for nine Sunday afternoons. Registration will begin in May.

In the fall, we'll offer another round of *101/102* that will meet on Thursday evenings from October 3 to November 21. This class will also feature two Saturday retreats on September 28 and November 23.

Option 2. If you've already completed *Discipleship 101/102* but aren't yet a member, just email Pastor David Zier at dzier@lifejourneychurch.cc to register to "fast track" completion of your membership requirements. You don't have to repeat 101/102! All you'll need to do is attend two supplemental sessions to orient yourself to our church governance and history. These sessions will be held on Sunday June 2 in the afternoon and on Thursday June 13 in the evening, with membership induction on June 16.

If your schedule prevents you from taking *Discipleship 101/102*, let Pastor David know and we will strive to find an alternative way to get you through the information shared in 101/102, so that you too can become a member.

New to LifeJourney Church? Be our guest!

If you're new to LifeJourney Church within the past six months or so (or even if today is your first Sunday!) we invite you to a **Welcome Reception** at the church on **Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm**. The reception is casual and will include snacks and dessert. We'll get acquainted, share stories and info, and answer any questions you have. **If you've wondered, "Is LifeJourney Church the right place for me? What resources are available? How do I fit in and make friends?" then this reception is for you!**

RSVP with the form at right. **If you have questions**, contact the church office at info@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000.

Newcomer's Welcome Reception: February 26

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.

Order of Service

Worship Theme: Nurturing Our Dreams: Black History Month Celebration

Key Scripture: Whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel. *Zechariah 4:10*

Our Approach To God

Connection Moment

Call to Worship

Congregational Songs and Prayer: *Let It Rise*

Special Music: *The Presence of the Lord Is Here*

God's Word To Us

Scripture: *Zechariah 4:6-10*

Special Music: *Take Me to the King*

Sermon: *The Day of Small Beginnings*, by Justimore Musombi

Special Music: *After This*

Offering our Gifts and Resources

Our Communion With God • 11:00 am service

Silent Confession

General Confession: God, sometimes I have been too quick to get discouraged and give up on dreams You gave me. Forgive me. Remind me that Your power is greater than I could ever imagine. Reawaken within me any dead or dying dreams that You are calling me to nurture. Amen.

Consecration of the Elements

Proclamation of our Faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ is here now, and Christ will come again. Alleluia!

Distribution of the Elements

If this is your first time with us: You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You're also welcome to just observe, if you prefer. You can take Communion alone, or with friends or family.

Ushers will release rows and direct you to a server. The server will offer you the wafer dipped in juice with a prayer. After receiving the elements, return to your seat by the side aisle. If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to come forward, please notify an usher.

Sending Song

Benediction

Postlude

Deacons will be at the front of the sanctuary after service for any who wish to pray.

Notes

Webcast Reminder: The morning services are recorded for our webcast, and crowd shots are included. To improve the quality of those shots, we'd like to fill the center section of seating. *If you don't want to be on camera, just sit in the back half of the east section (near the media booth).*

Decision Form: *If you feel moved to respond in a tangible way.*

- I am making a decision to become a follower of Jesus, or I want to rededicate myself to that decision.
- I have questions about spiritual things and would like to talk to someone.
- Other: _____

One of our pastoral staff would be happy to make an appointment to talk with you about your spiritual life and what steps might come next — *but only if you wish.*

- I would like to schedule a time to talk.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Place this form in the basket at the info kiosk.

About this Calendar

Events are open to all – rare exceptions will be noted.

Questions? Inquire at the info kiosk, see any staff member, or email info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc.

Sunday, February 24

- 9:30 am **Early Worship Service.**
11:00 am **Morning Worship Service.**
11:30 am **The Bridge** (junior high / middle school), Room 7. Youth are released from the sanctuary before the sermon.
12:30 pm **Pitch-In Dinner**, social hall.
1:30 pm **LifeJourney Pastoral Training**, Room 8.
6:30 pm **Anderson Oasis.** Info: Melody Merida, mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 102.

Monday, February 25

- 7:00 pm **Northeast Oasis** meets at the home of Burns Gutzwiller and Nathan Tuttle, 207 W. Staat St., Fortville. Info: Brent Walsh at walsh.brent@yahoo.com.
7:30 pm **AA Meeting**, Room 1.

Tuesday, February 26

- 7:00 pm **Newcomer's Welcome Reception**, Room 2. Pastor Jeff will lead this "introduction to LifeJourney Church" evening. See page one for info and registration.
7:00 pm **Tuesday Evening Oasis**, Room 6. Info: Jim Rednour at (765) 388-0256.
7:00 pm **Westside Oasis** meets at the home of Steve Adams and Dan Allis, 2508 Orlando St. Info: David Zier at (317) 722-0000 × 105 or dzier@lifejourneychurch.cc.

Wednesday, February 27

- 6:30 pm **Children's Choir**, Room 1.
6:30 pm **Family Oasis**, Room 6. Info: Melody Merida, mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 102.
7:00 pm **Choir Rehearsal**, sanctuary. Info: Richard Ramsey, rramsey@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 107.
7:00 pm **Eastside Oasis** meets at the home of Tina Sherrard, 7174 East 13th St. Info: Vivian Wyatt at (317) 722-0000 × 106 or vw Wyatt@lifejourneychurch.cc.
7:00 pm **Young Adults Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Katrina Davis, katrina.davis@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 28

- 7:00 pm **Following Jesus: Discipleship 101**, Room 1.
7:00 pm **Northside Oasis** meets at the home of Jody Brackin, 11249 Woodcreek Drive, Carmel. Info: Jeff Miner at (317) 722-0000 × 103 or pastorjeff@lifejourneychurch.cc.
7:00 pm **Singles Oasis** meets at the home of Robert Ferguson, 3637 Catalpa Ave. Info: Robert at rob1ferg@yahoo.com or co-leader Genese Parker at gp4justice@gmail.com.
7:00 pm **Thursday Evening Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Larry Heavilon at larryheavilon@hotmail.com or (317) 523-4543.
7:15 pm **Southside Oasis** meets at Roger Brown's home, 5457 Walnut Street, Greenwood. Info: See Chuck Levi or call Roger at (317) 446-5604.

Friday, March 1

- 9:00 am **Friday Morning Oasis**, Room 4. Info: Beulah Bragg, (317) 924-2488 or mzbees@att.net.
6:30 pm **Women's AA Meeting**, Room 2.

Saturday, March 2

- 8:00 am **Homeless Ministry** provides breakfast at The Dayspring Center. Contact April Kerulis at kerulis512@hotmail.com or (317) 370-8214 for information.
10:30 am **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.

Coming Soon

- Mar 3 **World Missions Day.**
Mar 10 **Daylight Saving Time Begins.** Spring ahead!

Last Week's Numbers

Early Service Attendance	174
Morning Service Attendance	296
Oasis Attendance	99
General Offering	\$11,668
General Offering: Three Month Average	\$9,554
General Offering Average Goal	\$9,900



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*a congregation of the
Metropolitan Community Churches*

Jeff Miner, Senior Pastor
Melody Merida, Minister of Congregational Life
Vivian Wyatt, Minister of Care and Business Administration
Richard Ramsey, Minister of Worship Arts
David Zier, Minister of Outreach and Development
David Squire, Communications Director

► **Diversity** continued from page 1.

The Team met four times in January and prepared 17 specific recommendations, which have been endorsed by the Board and staff and will be implemented over the next several months. Highlights include:

- We should form a Worship Planning Team to support the Worship Arts Minister when preparing worship, generating creative ideas and ensuring that our diverse traditions, ranging from high church liturgical to mainstream Protestant to more expressive or charismatic traditions, are regularly reflected in worship.
- Gospel Choir should become part of the regular rotation in worship services, rather than participating only on special occasions.
- The planning for Black Pride Sunday and Black History Month should no longer be the sole responsibility of the Gospel Choir, since these events are supported by our church as a whole. Planning should be done by the Worship Arts Minister and Worship Planning Team in consultation with the Gospel Choir.
- We should continue to recruit African Americans in our congregation into leadership positions, including service on Boards, ministry leadership, and participation in high-visibility ministry teams. Our goal is to reach the point where the proportion of our leaders who are African American equals the proportion of our congregation that is African American.
- Many African American congregants are new and not yet members; thus they are not yet eligible to serve on our various Boards. We should identify congregants who regularly attend, but are not yet members, and send a letter encouraging membership.
- We should prepare a four-week discussion series for our Oasis Groups around racial and ethnic diversity in Christian community. Each Oasis should be asked to host the series soon.
- Since our Church has already begun to gain momentum in welcoming more straight people and more young adults, the next step in the ongoing process of expanding our diversity should be to develop specific strategies for enhancing our welcome of straight people and young adults.

This is just a partial summary. Please pick up a copy of the Team's full report at the info kiosk. The Diversity Assessment Team will meet again in six months to assess progress. In the meantime, if you would like to share any thoughts on these recommendations, please email PastorJeff@LifeJourneyChurch.cc or chat with any Team member. We welcome your input!

Please help us minimize disruptions

during worship. If you need to leave during worship, please exit through the back doors, not the front. When you return, please sit near the back until the next congregational song or the offering. *Thanks!*

Hospitality Team Invitation

Each Sunday the members of our Hospitality Team go above and beyond to make sure we have an abundance of snacks and beverages following each service. The folks who serve on this team take such good care of the rest of us!

If you like to care for others in this behind the scenes sort of

way, consider becoming a member of the Hospitality Team. There is an opening for folks to serve on the third Sunday of the month following the 11:00 am service. For more information about becoming a part of this team, please complete the form below.

Ministers on a Riding Mower

When a guest visits LifeJourney Church for the first time, first impressions are made long before she or he hears any music or takes part in a class. When our building and grounds are well-maintained, that conveys that we take our work for God seriously.

The Mowing Team is responsible for part of that essential work, and would welcome additional volunteers. If you are a behind-the-scenes type person, this may be a perfect place for you. Team members serve about once a month for a few hours. Please fill out the form below if you're interested.

Summer Camp News

Summer camp is a place to build life-long friendships with fellow campers and counselors. It's also a place to build confidence on the climbing wall, zip line, and team building course. And there will be plenty of fun with swimming, canoeing, hiking, and archery. We have two camp options:

- **Option 1: Ready, Set, Camp!** A four-day option for younger kids, **grades 1-8**, June 16-20, \$300 with registration and \$75 deposit due by the end of March.
- **Option 2: Adventure Camp!** June 30-July 6, **ages 8-16**, \$385 with registration and \$75 deposit due by the end of March.

Pick up **The Parent/Guardian Handbook** from the info kiosk for more info and the scholarship request form. Both camping options have scholarships available.

Changes Coming to Southside Oasis

Beginning March 7, the Southside Oasis will be changing locations and leaders. Jarod Hancock, Tex Green and Jerry Dowell will co-lead the Southside Oasis, and Tex and Jerry will also serve as hosts. Their home is at 615 East Southern Ave, Indianapolis, across the street from Garfield Park. Please join them at the new location on Thursdays beginning March 7 at 7:00 pm.

Roger Brown, who is the current Southside Oasis leader and host, has served as a leader of this group since its beginning. He has been faithful and steadfast in his commitment, and we're grateful for his outstanding service. The Southside Oasis will continue to meet at Roger's home until the end of February. See the calendar on page 3 for info and address.

Response Form: check your area of interest

Hospitality Team Mowing Team

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return this form in the offering or in the basket at the info kiosk.