

Explore Membership: October 30 and November 6

Membership Class will be offered on two Sundays, **October 30 and November 6**, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Both sessions are required. Lunch will be served at each session beginning at 12:30 pm.

At LifeJourney Church, we view membership as a *sacred commitment* that should not be entered into lightly. Membership is for those who have taken time to get well acquainted with our church, feel excited about what we're doing together, and are ready to make a deep commitment to our common work and to caring for their souls.

To become familiar with LifeJourney Church before making a membership decision, we encourage (but do not require) you to first take *Discipleship 101* and *102* — two *SoulShift* classes that explore our relationship with God and church. These courses will be offered in January.

When you become a member, we ask you to commit to a **Soul Care Plan** — an *intentional, self-crafted plan for spiritual development*. An overview of the Soul Care Plan is given in membership class,

and it's covered in depth in Discipleship 101/102.

If you feel ready to make that kind of intentional commitment to growing your soul and to supporting the work of this church, we invite you to fill out the registration form. It's perfectly fine to attend the classes, and then make a final decision about whether you feel ready to become a member. If you have questions, please talk to any staff member or email info@lifejourneychurch.cc.

I want to register for Membership Classes.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

The Office Team: Keeping the gears turning

The **Office Team** is an essential part of almost everything that happens at our church. They accomplish a myriad of tasks and assist the staff with projects large and small. Tasks and hours are flexible to accommodate your skills and schedule.

Vivian Wyatt is the head of our Office Team. Fill out the Ministry Opportunities form on page four if you'd like more info about this behind-the-scenes ministry.

Friday Night Praise!

It's back! It's time to get your praise on! On **October 28**, we will focus on the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the holy meal where we remember Christ and the sacrifice of death and the gift of his resurrection. This meal will be offered to everyone in attendance.

There will also be a special time of **prayer for healing**. If there is something that has been bringing you down and you need someone of faith to pray with you, this is your service.

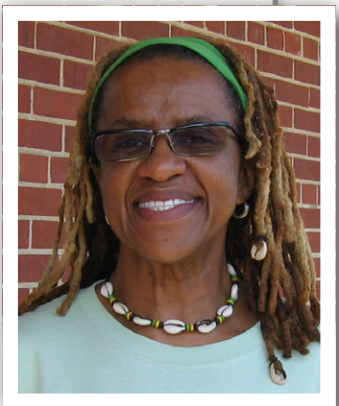
Mark your calendar and invite your friends and family!



Love People and Food?

The **Hospitality Team** serves snacks after worship. This is a great way to meet people and welcome everyone to our church. Team Leader Jan Anderson has a special calling to share her love for food and her warm demeanor with our church family.

Most members of this team serve once a month for a couple of hours; tasks include preparing and serving snacks, and cleaning up. If you like putting a smile on someone's face and tempting their taste buds, you can fill out the form on page four or contact Jan directly at (317) 384-8741 or aquarius19521660@yahoo.com. She will answer any questions you have about being part of the team.



LifeJourney Church T-Shirts are back in stock in the bookstore, including **new toddler sizes**, 2T, 3T, and 4T!

Who Stole Jesus? Bumper sticker magnets, T-shirts, and a *few* yard signs are available in the social hall. See the insert for some of the response to the billboards, and join in the conversation at LifeJourneyChurch.cc/whostolejesus

Order of Service • October 16, 2011

Worship Theme: Reclaiming Jesus for Ordinary People

Key Verse: In Christ Jesus . . . the only thing that counts is faith working through love. *Galatians 5:6*

Our Approach To God

Prelude

Call to Worship

Praise Songs and Prayer

Connection Opportunities

God's Word To Us

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13

Anthem

Sermon: *When Jesus Encountered A Gay Couple*,
by Jeff Miner

Offering our Gifts and Resources

Our Communion With God

Silent Confession

General Confession: God, too often we have fallen prey to the sin of labeling. We get preoccupied with externalities, rather than the content of a person's heart. We judge; we exclude; we hang only with people who are like us. Forgive us. Remind us that "in Christ Jesus the only thing that counts is faith working through love." 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 members.

Ushers will release the rows and direct you to a server. The server will offer you the wafer dipped in juice with a short prayer. After receiving the elements, please 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.

After all are Served the Elements

Rise and sing our closing song.

Benediction

Postlude

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

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).*

Notes

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 – the only exceptions are *SoulShift* classes, which require advance registration.

For more info, inquire at the info kiosk, see any staff member or ministry team leader, or contact the office at info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc.

Sunday, October 16

- 9:30 am **Early Worship Service.**
- 11:00 am **Morning Worship Service.**
- 11:30 am **The Bridge 2.0** (junior high / middle school), Room 7.
Youth are released from the sanctuary before the sermon.
- 1:00 pm **Board of Deacons Meeting**, Room 4.
- 1:00 pm **Financial Peace University**, Room 2.
- 1:00 pm **Heartmenders Rehearsal**, sanctuary.

Monday, October 17

- 7:30 pm **AA Meeting**, Room 2.

Tuesday, October 18

- 6:30 pm **Missions Board**, Room 6.
- 7:00 pm **LifeJourney Press**, Room 4. Info: Lynne Kaminski, lynnekaminski@yahoo.com.
- 7:00 pm **Square Dancing**, social hall. Info: Sandra Johnson at rjohnson1506@comcast.net.
- 7:00 pm **[going deeper] Tuesday Evening Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Jim Rednour at (765) 388-0256.

Wednesday, October 19

- 6:30 pm **Children's Choir**, sanctuary.
- 6:30 pm **[going deeper] Family Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Melody Merida, mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 102.
- 7:00 pm **Choir Rehearsal**, Room 1. Info: Mark Brown at mbrown@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 104.
- 7:00 pm **[going deeper] Couples' Oasis**, Room 6. Info: Doug Snow at douglasesnow@yahoo.com.

Thursday, October 20

- 7:00 pm **[going deeper] Close Encounters of the Heart Oasis**, Room 6. Info: Larry Heavilon, larryheavilon@hotmail.com or (317) 523-4543.
- 7:00 pm **Exploring Spiritual Leadership**, Room 1.
- 7:00 pm **Instrumentalists Rehearsal**, sanctuary. Info: Mark Brown at mbrown@lifejourneychurch.cc or (317) 722-0000 × 104.

- 7:00 pm **Jesus Seekers Oasis** meets at the home of Roger Brown. Info: See Chuck Levi or call Roger at (317) 446-5604.
- 7:00 pm **[going deeper] L³: Love Looks Like Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Tommy Chittenden at tommychittenden@gmail.com or (317) 966-0284.

Friday, October 21

- 9:00 am **[going deeper] Friday Morning Oasis**, Room 4. Info: Melissa Bruce at (317) 294-5225 or mmbruce59@hotmail.com.
- 7:30 pm **Women's AA Meeting**, Room 2.

Saturday, October 22

- 10:30 am **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.
- 4:00 pm **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.

Coming Soon

- Oct 26 **Newcomer's Welcome Reception.** If you're new to LifeJourney Church, this time is for you! See below for info.
- Oct 28 **Friday Night Praise!** See page one for info.
- Oct 30 **Membership Classes will be offered October 30 and November 6.** More info on page one.

Last Week's Numbers

Early Service Attendance	135
Morning Service Attendance	203
Other Events Attendance	171
General Offering	\$5,789
General Offering: Three Month Average	\$9,230
General Offering Average <i>Goal</i>	\$9,554



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www.LifeJourneyChurch.cc
facebook.com/LifeJourneyChurch
email: info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc

a congregation of the
Metropolitan Community Churches

Jeff Miner, Pastor

Melody Merida, Minister of
Congregational Life

Mark Brown, Minister of
Worship Arts

Vivian Wyatt, Minister of Care
and Business Administration

David Zier, Minister of
Outreach and Development

David Squire,
Communications Director

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 **Wednesday, October 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, October 26

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

Are you a CPA?

From time-to-time the church needs advice about generally accepted accounting practices and financial matters. It would be helpful to identify the CPAs in our congregation, so we can occasionally draw on your expertise. If you are a CPA, and willing to provide occasional advice, please fill out the form below.

Ministry Opportunities

- **The Ushers/Greeters** are in need of a few more team members for both the 9:30 and 11:00 am services.
- **Are you an aspiring Jim Henson? (Or even Jeff Dunham?)** Ok, so we aren't really looking for Jeff Dunham, just someone who, like him, enjoys puppets. Our children's ministry has a wonderful puppetry workshop on many Sunday mornings and we're looking for a new puppeteer. Here's your chance to work with some real dummies!

I'd like more info about:

- CPA assistance Office Team (from p. 1)
 Ushers/Greeters Puppeteering
 Hospitality Team (from p. 1)

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

Attention All Young Adults

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 we want to hear from you! **Sunday November 6, following the 11:00 am service** we will host a **lunch discussion** for all young adults. After our last meeting we took your suggestions to heart and began a quarterly social gathering, we diversified worship, and we are working to redesign our physical space. But we know there is so much more we could be doing to widen our welcome to young adults in our community. We need your brain power to help us do that.

Please plan to join us November 6 for a free pizza lunch followed by discussion to evaluate what we are currently doing and brainstorm what more we can do together!

I plan to attend the Young Adult lunch.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

New High School Group!

For several months the high school kids in our church have suffered unjustly! They have been asked to join with the junior high kids in their weekly meeting (The Bridge 2.0). But the time has come for them to be freed to their own meeting space!

Beginning **November 6 during the 11:00 am service** the 9th through 12th graders will have their own place to talk, hang out, and share together. This group starts in the sanctuary for music and worship, and will be dismissed to their own room at the start of the sermon. They will then be able to return for communion.

The brave leaders of this new group are **Tiffany Soaper and Sha-Hanna Lewis**. Tiffany graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in Psychology and Human Services Counseling. She has an extensive background in working with youth of all ages. She recently became a mentor and a volunteer at IYG.

Sha-Hanna has been a mentor, volunteer and service advocate since she can remember. At Indiana University and the University of Chicago Charter School she served in various coordinator positions but mainly enjoyed working face-to-face and building relationships to help youth overcome challenges in and out of the classroom. Her most recent youth-centered projects were through AmeriCorps service terms at the Indianapolis Metropolitan High School.

We hope to see you Sunday, November 6 at 11:00 am!

Art Exhibition

As a way of honoring beloved congregants who have transitioned from this life to the next, we're organizing an art exhibition in celebration of their lives and the lasting impression they have left on our congregation.

If you are interested in helping to plan and coordinate the exhibit, or in participating as an artist, please complete the form below. Contact Michelle Dartis for more info: mdartis@att.net.

I want to be part of the Art Exhibit:

- planning/coordinating as an artist

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

What others are saying about *Who Stole Jesus?*

Just Google “Who stole Jesus billboards” and you’ll pick up tons of references to our church’s billboard campaign from across the globe. Here is a sampling.

Indiana Church Uses Billboards to Ask ‘Who Stole Jesus?’ by Jeff Shapiro

LifeJourney Church in Indianapolis has taken its message to the streets through a billboard campaign that is designed to get both Christians and non-Christians to consider whether the Jesus they know is the same Jesus portrayed in the Bible.

“*Who Stole Jesus?*” is the question posed on billboards that will continue to appear throughout the city during the eight-week campaign. Sixteen signs will go up this week, with four more being posted around town each week until there are 32 in all.

The signs also include the address for the church’s website, where it is allowing people to post comments. The church hopes to create dialogue about the questions that have been raised.

“Our congregation is very concerned about how Jesus is being presented in many churches today,” said Jeff Miner, senior pastor of LifeJourney Church, in an interview with *The Christian Post* Thursday.

“The public face of Jesus in American Christianity, we feel, is terribly distorted. It’s almost like the real Jesus has been kidnapped and stowed away in a bunch of church basements, and this mean and judgmental imposter is being brought down in his place.”

Miner said that Jesus commands believers not to judge, but believes that if he asked people on the street who the most judgmental people in the world are, the majority would say Christians.

“We believe that many non-Christians have felt powerfully drawn to Jesus, but [are] really turned off by the followers of Jesus. And so one of our great hopes in this campaign is that people who have been intrigued by Jesus will give him another look and realize that Jesus shouldn’t be confused with institutional Christianity,” he said.

The church hopes that the billboards will lead Christians to ask whether they are accurately representing the Jesus of the Bible to the world.

In many churches, Miner lamented, Christians look down upon people who have been divorced, drink alcohol or

practice homosexuality, among other things.

“You’re not going to be well-received unless you tell them that you’re in the process of trying to become an ex-gay,” he pointed out.

Miner described his church, which has an average weekly attendance of about 400, as “progressive evangelical” and said they support committed, lifetime, monogamous relationships, regardless of whether they are heterosexual or homosexual.

At the time of publication, most people who posted comments on the church’s website support the campaign, though it has only just started.

One post, however, had some strong words of criticism for the church, saying that it needs to emphasize repentance, faith and the way to salvation more on its website.

“Who stole Jesus? I say this as lovingly as possible but you did/are,” the commenter wrote. “All you have done is created a new moral religion that is ‘loving’ sinners straight to hell. Telling the truth is the most loving thing one can do. John 3:16 is God’s ultimate sign of love. I pray your eyes are opened to truth.”

Miner responded to the post by saying that his church believes that sin is a destructive power and that repentance is important.

“In most churches, just because you’re a little different, people judge you. The real Jesus wasn’t like that and churches shouldn’t be,” the pastor remarked.

“You can be a profound follower of Jesus while sporting tattoos, long beards and leather jackets. So, my fellow Christians, let’s lighten up! Let’s stop preaching at people, and start walking alongside them, as Jesus did!”

Miner said that his church is not trying to prove that their way is the best way, but what the church is trying to say is, “We’re concerned.”

*From “The Christian Post,” September 23, 2011
– a national on-line evangelical Christian news service.*

More on the back ►



**From markdjohanson.wordpress.com
(a Baptist Pastor in Lexington, KY)**

A progressive Christian church in Indianapolis is beginning an aggressive marketing campaign asking “Who Stole Jesus?” They point out (rightly in my opinion) how the Jesus of the gospels is unrecognizable by the Jesus who is characterized in the preaching and teaching of many modern day churches.

I appreciate the way they have framed this discussion and believe they have put together some of the freshest and clearest language to explain this distinction. [He then quotes the many bullet points on our web page, then continues by adding some of his own.]

[The LifeJourney] list prompts me to think of a few other examples:

- *The real Jesus rejected earthly shows of power.* Many churches today embrace secular and political means of power.
- *The real Jesus was never into a numbers game to prove his worth.* Many churches today evaluate their authority by their popularity.
- *The real Jesus spent a lot of his ministry in the outdoors.* Many churches today operate exclusively within their own walls.
- *The real Jesus never played it safe and was constantly on the move.* Many churches today are content to do the same thing over and over again.

How about you? What differences and comparisons would you add? In any event, this exercise makes for a great and interesting discussion.

In your opinion, “Who stole Jesus?”

From critical-discipleship.blogspot.com

LifeJourney Church in Indianapolis has launched the “Who stole Jesus?” campaign. Genius! As a pastor who is constantly meeting and sometimes counseling people who are trapped in images of Jesus that are not only harmful, but also false, I think this campaign is incredibly powerful in its ability to help people question. It’s also revolutionary in the way that it takes power away from institutions that expend massive amounts of energy, moral authority, and money branding Jesus in their own images.

From The Liberty Tree, www.peterheck.com

My wife and I were watching TV the other night and [we saw part of] the 11:00 news on a local news station out of Indianapolis.

The lead story of the night was on a church’s billboard campaign in Indiana’s capital city. The giant billboards ask the simple question, “Who Stole Jesus?” Both my wife and I knew what was coming: as soon as the story reached the point where the billboards were explained. . . . [He then goes on to say we’re excusing sin.]

From jesusaddict.net

This billboard is gaining some attention in the state of Indiana with the phrase “Who Stole Jesus?”

The Who Stole Jesus Billboard has about 30 others like it around the Indianapolis area. The LifeJourney Church is trying to spark curiosity enough for the common passerby to get them to go to their website.

The claim of the LifeJourney Church is that some churches have stolen Jesus by their teachings and judgmental attitudes. My question is that doesn’t the Bible teach us to judge rightly? For instance Good fruit and bad fruit, right and wrong, black and white?

