

## Christmas at LifeJourney Church

### The Giving Tree

The deadline for Dayspring gifts is TODAY! Dayspring Center assists homeless families. Complete instructions are on gift tags at the Giving Tree in the social hall.

### Birthday Party for Jesus!

Today the Children's Ministry will hold a birthday party in Jesus' honor, complete with games, prizes, birthday cake, and a visit by Jesus himself.

### Christmas Eve Helpers Needed!

As things begin to wind down at Jeff and David's house on Christmas Eve, they will need a team of helpers to assist with cleanup. It'll be fun - really! Cleanup will begin around 6:00 pm and probably last a couple hours as the party winds down. If you can be part of the cleanup team, just fill out the form below and we'll contact you with information. This is a great way to serve in the spirit of Christmas.

**I can serve on the cleanup crew.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Christmas Day Worship Services

Join us on Christmas Sunday at our regular worship times for a one-hour service of carols, scriptures, and Holy Communion. We'll have you out in an hour for the rest of your busy day!

### Music Rehearsals Start in 2012!

Sanctuary Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm.

Instrumentalists resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 pm.

Begin your new year on a musical note!

### From Pastors Jeff and David...

*Dear Church Family,*

*You are invited to our house on Christmas Eve anytime between 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm for a traditional Christmas dinner. Our address is 10838 Midnight Drive, Indy 46239.*

*This is an annual tradition at LifeJourney Church. Every year, our house is filled with folks from church. All are welcome, including visitors and newcomers to the church and any of your family and friends.*

*So don't be bashful; stop by on Christmas Eve. Enjoy the fellowship; meet new folks; and see if you can count how many Christmas trees David has put up this year! Please don't bring any food or gifts. There will be more than plenty!*

### Ruth & Naomi: A Test of Faith

Another Sunday morning workshop rotation is set to begin for the children and there are a few more available spots to serve in January and February.

- **Improv Workshop** has an opening for someone to direct children in scenes from the story of Ruth. Script is provided.
- **Moved by the Spirit** has an opening for a game leader. All materials for activities and rules for games are provided.
- **Assisting positions** are available for Kindergarten-first grades, 2nd-3rd grades, and 4th-5th grades.

Check out the display board at the info kiosk for information on the workshops including schedules and registration forms. For more information email Melody at [mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc](mailto:mmerida@lifejourneychurch.cc).



# Order of Service • December 18, 2011

**Worship Theme:** God's Gradually Unfolding Plan

**Key Verse:** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs, and the obedience of the peoples is his. *Genesis 49:10.*

## Our Approach To God

**Prelude** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Praise Songs and Prayer:** *O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Holy Night*

**Connection Opportunities**

## God's Word To Us

**Scripture:** Genesis 49:1-2, and 8-12

**Anthem:** *That's What Christmas Really Means*, Sanctuary Choir

**Sermon:** *When Christmas Really Began*, by Jeff Miner

**Offering our Gifts and Resources:** *Ring the Bells*, Sanctuary Choir

## Our Communion With God

**Silent Confession**

**General Confession:** God, I have often been faithless and impatient in waiting for Your plan to unfold. I want everything now. I want to understand everything now. Forgive me. Grow my

patience and trust. And as I wait, help me to embrace the power of positive words to shape the future. 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 *Joy to the World*.

**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](mailto:info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc).

## Sunday, December 18

- 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, and **Teen Life**, Room 5. Youth and teens are released from the sanctuary before the sermon.  
1:00 pm **Board of Deacons**  
1:00 pm **Financial Peace University**, Room 2.

## Monday, December 19

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

## Tuesday, December 20

- 7:00 pm **Square Dancing**, social hall. Info: Sandra Johnson at [rjohnson1506@comcast.net](mailto:rjohnson1506@comcast.net).  
7:00 pm **[going deeper] Tuesday Evening Oasis**, Room 2. Info: Jim Rednour at (765) 388-0256.

## Thursday, December 22

- 7:00 pm **Jesus Seekers Oasis** meets at the home of Roger Brown. Info: See Chuck Levi or call Roger at (317) 446-5604.

## Friday, December 23

- 9:00 am **[going deeper] Friday Morning Oasis**, Room 4. Info: Beulah Bragg, (317) 924-2488 or [mzbees@att.net](mailto:mzbees@att.net).  
7:30 pm **Women's AA Meeting**, Room 2.

## Saturday, December 24

- 10:30 am **Praise Team Practice**, sanctuary.  
1:00 pm **Christmas Eve Open House**. See page one for info.

## Coming Soon

- Dec 25 **Christmas Reflections**. Regular worship times for Christmas day; a one-hour service of carols, scriptures, and Holy Communion.

## Last Week's Numbers

Early Service Attendance	158
Morning Service Attendance	237
Other Events Attendance	376
General Offering	\$7,146
General Offering: Three Month Average	\$9,315
General Offering Average Goal	\$9,554



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email: [info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc](mailto:info@LifeJourneyChurch.cc)

a congregation of the  
Metropolitan Community Churches

**Jeff Miner**, Pastor

**Melody Merida**, Minister of  
Congregational Life

**Mark C. Brown**, Minister of  
Worship Arts

**Vivian Wyatt**, Minister of Care  
and Business Administration

**David Zier**, Minister of  
Outreach and Development

**David Squire**,  
Communications Director

## Welcome to LifeJourney Church!

*Married, divorced, or single here,  
It's one family that mingles here.*

*Conservative or liberal here,  
We've all gotta give a little here.*

*Big or small here, there's room for us all here.*

*Doubt or believe here, we all can receive here.*

*Gay, trans, or straight here,  
there's no hate here.*

*Woman or man here, everyone can here.*

*Whatever your race here,  
For all of us, grace here.*

## Christmas Concert Thank You!

Thank you to all who were a part of the LifeJourney Christmas concert!

This year was truly amazing. Over 400 came out to see this year's concert. There were 85 people that helped make this year's Christmas concert happen. So thank you everyone involved, from Media, Sound, Lighting, Stage Crew, Cooks, Instrumentalists, Gospel Choir, Children's Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Ushers, Board Members, Narrators and all the wonderful people who were able to come out and join in the celebration!

May God bless this church and community this Christmas with love, joy and peace! Merry Christmas and make it a blessed New Year.

Thank you from LifeJourney Church!

## A Call to Artists

Do you create original, creative art? If so, we invite you to sign up to receive more details and guidelines for the Inaugural LifeJourney Church Visual Art Exhibition and Fundraiser. This event will be held in May 2012 and our theme is: Life's Journey...

We invite artists from all genres (e.g., paintings, photos, stained glass, jewelry, pottery, graphite, drawings) to consider submitting one or two art pieces that exude Christianity or spirituality.

For guidelines, please complete the attached form below.

I am an artist and would like to see the guidelines for the Visual Art Exhibition.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Global Gifts from New Community Project

Support craftspeople from Southern Sudan, Guatemala, and Ecuador by purchasing an item from the display in the social hall. Products are available after services today.

## What's New in the Bookstore

We have some great new stuff in the church bookstore:

- A new CD from Marcus Young: *The Collection* for just \$8.
- *Prayers for Bobby*, the Lifetime movie starring Sigourney Weaver as a mother who struggles to accept her son.
- A new version of *The Beginners Bible* that now includes the complete book on audio CDs.
- Two children's books: *Monday is One Day* and *Donovan's Big Day*. Both books celebrate family diversity. Also in the bookstore:
- A "basic" Bible. It's a hardback *New Revised Standard Version Bible* that sells for just \$12. This is in addition to all the other Bibles: *The Hands-On Bible* for older kids, *The Youth Bible*, *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, and *The Message*.
- *Made in God's Image*, a thoughtful introduction to gender diversity. Also: Justin Tanis' *Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry, and Communities of Faith*.

## LifeJourney Press Sale

Just in time for Christmas gift-giving!

- All versions of *The Children Are Free* (English, Spanish, and audiobook) are just \$10.
- *Quench! refreshing devotionals by gay, trans, and affirming Christians* is \$12.
- *To Have and to Hold* CD resource for couples is just \$25.

See the display in the social hall today, or shop at [www.LifeJourneyPress.cc](http://www.LifeJourneyPress.cc).



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