

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Your giving is changing lives.

# HELPING MORE PEOPLE FIND JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM FULLY

What a year 2023 was!

As we turn the page into 2024, I want to take a moment and say thank you for all the ways you made a difference throughout Journey City last year. You were generous with your time, energy, and resources, and as a result, God continues to work through this community of faith to put a dent in the darkness of our region and our world. This annual report is our way of documenting just some of the life change we've seen during 2023. Our church was started so that more people could find Jesus and follow him fully, and with your help, that's what's happening - week after week. Our Middletown location launched in 2023. Our Hockessin location continues to grow, adding a second gathering this past fall. Our Code Red team continues to meet the real, tangible needs of those around us. Hundreds of people have gone public with their faith in baptism and gotten connected in J-Groups. Thousands of first-time guests have walked through our doors. We've empowered leaders to influence their teams, families, workplaces, and the world. We continue to invest in the next generation through Journey Kids and Journey Students. And all along the way we've coached and supported other life-giving churches in our region and around the country so they can see the kingdom of God come in their communities of faith as well. So, as you take a few minutes to look through this report that documents the ways heaven is coming to earth in this circle we call Journey City, I want you to know how humbled and grateful Susie and I are to be your pastors. It is the honor of our lives to serve you - and as amazing as 2023 has been, I have a feeling 2024 will be even more amazing. Are you ready? Me too.

For the sake of the circle,



Pastor Mark





# GATHER

Jesus has determined that the advancement of his kingdom will happen through his church, and he has given us a role to play and a responsibility to embrace called “Journey City”.



# 2,447

people put their faith  
in Jesus across  
locations and online

# 22%

increase in average  
attendance over 2022

# 1,766

first-time guests  
across locations  
and online







# GATHER

MIDDLETOWN LOCATION

# 221

average attendance  
since launch







# GATHER

## HOCKESSIN LOCATION

# 49%

increase in average  
attendance over 2022





# 380 BAPTISMS

A photograph of a man being baptized in a pool of water. The man, who is Black, has his arms raised in the air and is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "Never the Same" printed on it. He is surrounded by water, and his face shows a joyful expression. A white male officiant stands behind him, also with arms raised. The background is a dimly lit room with blue stage lighting and other people visible in the distance.

“Since my time serving at The Journey, my faith has grown exponentially. I’ve been able to connect with God on a whole different level and see the great things he has in store for me and for others. For the first time ever, I’ve finally felt like I have a church home so I want my baptism to be at this amazing place that God has lead me to.”

**Jalen S.**



# CONNECT

We were never meant to do life on our own. Our J-Groups exist to connect with God, connect with each other, and serve Journey City.



**186** J-Groups offered (fall 2023)



**1,126** Journeymen connected in a J-Group this fall

## DOYLE'S STORY

"After moving from North Carolina, I was desperately needing a Christ-centered community. Whether it was a Friday night bonfire with new friends, or getting my belly full with my new "Abuelas," J-Groups allowed me to build a life with fellow believers to grow deeper in my faith. My life has been made richer by spending time with people that I may not have ever interacted with if not for J-groups."





# SERVE

We believe you're never more like Jesus than when you're serving -- and our J-Team serves week in and week out to make a difference in Journey City.

## 1023

Journeymen serving on the J-Team

## 35

Journeymen completed our Journey Leadership Institute evening program



“Serving on the worship team has been an incredible experience for me. I used to fear singing in front of people and felt like I was sitting on the gift God gave me, but one day, I decided to pray, let go of my fear, step out of my comfort zone, and let God take control. God has been faithful and has helped me overcome fear. He is using me to help people find Jesus and follow him fully. Also, seeing others pour their worship to God increases my faith more and more every day. Whatever gift God has given you, step out of your comfort zone and walk in that gift. It is a life-changing experience!”

- Jordan W. (Hockessin)





# CODE RED

One humble act of serving at a time, we reach those who feel as if they have no voice and no hope.

**500,000+** pounds of food distributed in 2023

**1,391** Journeymen served 4,142+ hours during Love Week and Compassion Weekend in 2023

**6** missions teams served in Puerto Rico and Tanzania, helping with disaster response, food distribution, and clean water initiatives

It has greatly impacted my life seeing how God can use someone like me to help others overcome challenges, connect and grow in their relationship with Him, and literally be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth. Undoubtedly, it has helped me understand my purpose in this world and that life is greater than only my own needs and wants. -Acacio P. (Newark)





# NEXT GEN

Journey Kids exists to create safe & fun environments where kids learn to know God, love God, and live like he says.

**896** first-time guests

**431** kids gathered each weekend, on average

**870** first-time faiths

## JOURNEY KIDS





# NEXT GEN

"As a student and an athlete, I am consistently under pressure from standards set by others, but mostly by myself. I am easily consumed by the weight of this pressure, but now that I have the guidance of Jesus in my life, I am able to power through them with God on either side of me. I come back to Journey Students every Tuesday because of the overwhelming joy that I feel when I'm in the environment. I never had any craving or desire to be in a Church before I found Journey Students." - Silas

**69** first-time faiths

**202** students gathering at Converge each month

## JOURNEY STUDENTS

**141** first-time guests

**97** students attended Rise Summer Camp





**“We Gather, Connect, and Serve**  
**for the *sake of the circle*”**

**1.8 million people.**  
**1.8 million opportunities**  
**to make a difference in 2024.**

