

Quarterly Financial Update



summer update
thejourneycc.com

\$10,000 THANK YOU

Over the last several months we've been communicating about finances at The Journey. We always want to make sure that we are above reproach and fully transparent in how we handle funds as a church. When attendance is up and lots of activity is happening, we can begin to think that everything is good financially, especially if we don't mention otherwise.

In June, after several months of averaging \$8,000 a month in the red, we knew we needed to communicate clearly where things stood and the difficult decisions that our Lead Team were faced with making. So last month we talked about together taking a step in the Giving Process so our church can continue in our mission. In response to that call, a family offered a \$10,000 matching gift, if we could raise \$10,000 over our normal giving from June 22 - July 31. After tallying the numbers, we ended up \$12,000 over our normal giving, meaning that your giving plus the generous matching gift helped us end up \$22,000 over our normal giving. Thank you to everyone who took a step in the giving process and to everyone who gave above their normal giving in the past month. This is making a real difference in the lives of people here along the lakeshore and beyond.

THE #'s

April-July

Finances at The Journey

Income: \$126,355
Expenses: \$142,246
Difference: **-\$15,891**

(The numbers above do not include the first \$10,000 matching grant).

Our Fiscal Year runs from
April 2014-March 2015

ANOTHER

\$10,000

CHALLENGE

We are very thankful & excited for a great month with the \$10,000 challenge in July. It was a great start, but in view of the numbers to the left, we want to keep looking at our finances for the long term. We want to make sure we have a long history as a church with a legacy of significant impact. We have a new challenge from another generous gift to help us move toward longevity. For every person that signs up to do automatic/recurring giving or increases their current auto-giving, this donor will give The Journey a \$200 bonus. If 25 people sign up to do recurring giving, they will give a \$5,000 check to The Journey. If 50 people sign up they will give a \$10,000 check, etc. You can find all the details on the back.

ANOTHER \$10,000 CHALLENGE

For every person that increases or registers for automatic/recurring giving by the end of September, The Journey will get a \$200 bonus, up to \$10,000. So we are encouraging you to take a step in the Giving Process to be intentional and automate your giving.

GIVING PROCESS

FIRST TIME → INTENTIONAL & AUTOMATIC → TITHE → GENEROUS

AUTOMATIC/RECURRING GIVING

We automate a lot of things in our lives: alarms, sprinklers, DVR & more. It's a good idea to automate the important things. Intentional or auto-giving might be your next step. You can set up auto-giving to continue to make investments in the mission at The Journey. It can be helpful to you and The Journey in a number of ways:

1. You don't have to "think" about it, or worry about making up giving that you missed.
2. You have control. You can change your recurring giving as you need.
3. Most people want to give, but fear gets in the way. Automating helps you do what you want to do without having to wrestle with it every time you go to write a check.
4. Automated giving is a lot easier for our counting and recording as a church.
5. Automated giving helps stabilize our budget from month to month, helping us to more accurately predict what we can expect to receive in offerings and helping us to better plan our expenditures.

Would you consider moving to automated giving by the end of September to help us take advantage of this opportunity for extra giving? Each time someone does, The Journey will receive another \$200. This can go a long way in helping us stabilize our finances and help us to continue moving forward together. Being an intentional and automatic giver is part of the process of living generously. This is simply another way to take a step into living with Jesus at the Center as we trust Him as our provider. We are grateful for these generous matching & challenge gifts, but these alone can't sustain our church finances long-term. If we want a rich history for church, our kids, and the impact we make in the community, we all have a part to play. Let's join together and each consider our next step in the giving process.

SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC/RECURRING GIVING

There are 3 auto-give options that are easy to set up and you have complete control in all three options. Pick which one is best for you. If you need assistance, let us know at admin@thejourneycc.com.

1. **YOUR BANK:** Talk with your bank to set up a "bill pay" to The Journey. Our address is 6502 Schamber Drive Muskegon, MI 49444
2. **THE JOURNEY'S BANK:** Fill out an Automatic Giving Form. They are available in the Giving Pack at the Next Step Center or on the Donate Page online. Return it to The Journey by dropping it in the offering box or mailing it to church at the above address. We'll take it from there and if you ever need to change amounts or frequency you can simply contact the office.
3. **DEBIT CARD:** You can donate to The Journey with your card on the Donate Page of our website, at the kiosk at church, or on a mobile app with your card. These are all through our Secure Give system. When you give, there is an option to make it a recurring gift. Click the box and set your options. If you need to change it, you can do so at anytime when you log-in to Secure Give.

ALREADY AUTO-GIVING?

If you are already registered for automatic giving, you can still be part of this \$10,000 challenge if you take a next step in the giving process. So, if you intentionally increase your automatic giving or if you do the tithing challenge, the donor will give \$200 to The Journey because of your next step. You can find details about the tithing challenge on the Donate Page online or at the Next Step Center at church.