

About the Journey Ministries

Here is what the Journey Coffeehouse and the Journey Ministry is all about:

The Journey Coffeehouse is a non-profit coffeehouse started by members of First Church in Madison, WI. The coffeehouse was opened in 2004 and is open to the public. Although the coffeehouse is a non-profit, come in and you'll see it looks like your typical coffeehouse. We offer great coffee drinks, pastries, and smoothies. Because we are a non-profit, the coffeehouse is really here to serve the community. We offer spaces to community groups who would like to meet at the coffeehouse and take suggestions on how to better serve the community. We are currently supporting AIDS education and a homeless ministry in Madison, WI.

The Journey Ministries is part of the Journey Coffeehouse. The Journey Ministries is First Church's youth ministry for students in 6th through 12th grades. The Journey Ministries reaches out to adolescents in the community through a variety of programs and adolescents are always warmly welcomed at the Journey Coffeehouse. They will find a friendly and caring face behind the counter and volunteers and tutors hanging around between 3:30 and 5:30 Monday through Friday ready to help students with their homework or just spend some time together. Most Friday nights the Journey Ministries offers activities for adolescents such as live music, movie nights, or game nights.

The Journey Ministries also offers programs outside of the coffeehouse. There are small group bible studies meeting at the coffeehouse and at nearby homes in the community several nights a week and are open to all adolescents in grades 6th through 12th who are interested. There is a student leadership team that helps run the Journey Ministries and volunteers at the coffeehouse to serve other students. The leadership team meets at First Church and is open to students involved in the ministry who display leadership qualities and a Christ-like character. The Journey Ministries also offers mission trips, camps, fun trips, and retreats throughout the year. Many of these activities are open to any students in the Madison community.

ourMission:

Creating a community that seeks the holistic transformation of adolescents towards Christ-likeness and commitment to building his Kingdom.

ourVision:

At the Journey we want to form genuine community where adolescents can be honest and ask questions, feel safe, be holistically ministered to, welcome in non-Christians and feel comfortable no matter where they are on their faith journey. We want adolescents to discover their gifts and abilities and use them to lead and minister both within the ministry and in their lives. We want to empower adolescents to transform the world and build the Kingdom of God through serving, loving, and sharing their faith journey. Most importantly, we want to move adolescents towards Christ and challenge them to find their identity in Jesus, see the world through a biblical perspective, and follow Him in every aspect of their lives.

ourValues:

Community- The Journey Coffeehouse is committed to building a community of authentic relationships including both Christians and non-Christians. We seek to explore the journey of faith together, learning from each other and ministering to each other along the way. The entire

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ministry of the Journey Coffeehouse happens in the context of community and relationships. We want to invite adolescents into a loving community instead of inviting them to programs.

Authenticity & Honesty- We highly value authenticity and honesty. Leaders are encouraged to be authentic and honest with adolescents, with no hidden agendas in relationships. Adolescents are encouraged to come-as-they-are and be completely honest about where they are in life in faith without the fear of judgment or rejection.

Dialogue & Questioning- Out of the values of community and authenticity come the values of dialogue and questioning. Learning happens at the Journey Coffeehouse through dialogue and discussion of ideas. Leaders are to walk along side adolescents as they search for truth together. Questions are highly encouraged, even of the “unquestionables” of faith. We question with the faith that God’s truths will prove true when questioned. We celebrate that questions often lead to more questions instead of answers, revealing the mystery and awesomeness of God.

Holistic Ministry- We seek to minister to and transform students in every aspect of their lives, spiritually, emotionally, academically, and physically. Because we truly love adolescents and want to share Christ’s love with them, we minister to them both spiritually and holistically. We hope to show adolescents that Jesus cares about all areas of their lives, not just their spirituality. We also hope to transform adolescents in every aspect of their lives, demonstrating how following Jesus affects absolutely everything in us.

Diversity- We acknowledge that all people are created in God’s image and welcome all adolescents to the Journey. Using the image of Revelation 7:9, we welcome people of all races and backgrounds to reflect the image of God’s Kingdom.