

Here we go!



PREACHING CHRIST, BRINGING

Joy

definition

Here [heer]

: in this place; in this spot or locality (opposed to there)

dictionary.com



Have you ever asked yourself the questions, “How did I get “here”? Why am I still “here”? Is there a reason or purpose for what I’m going through right now?”

It seems that we spend a great deal of our life trying to get to “there”. We often imagine a “there” that’s better than our present circumstances. We want bigger, faster and better along with the latest and greatest. We aren’t satisfied with “here” because we want what’s over “there”! Sometimes, it’s the pain of “here”. The dissatisfaction with “here” makes us want to escape our current circumstances to a “there” that we imagine is better.

As we’re learning in the HERE series, maybe “here” is right where God wants us to be, because “here” is where God is. It’s the place of God’s blessing, His presence, and where we seek and “hear” from Him. God isn’t blessing who we pretend to be and He’s not waiting for us to become the better future version of ourselves. He wants to bless us right “here”, so it’s the absolute best place that we can be because God is always “here”.

However, that doesn’t mean we become comfortable “here” because it’s also the place that prepares us for

“there”. I do believe that there is always more with God, because He wants us to grow from “here” to “there”. He wants us to grow individually and collectively as a church, but we can’t do that if we fight to stay “here”. We’ll never reach the destiny that God has for us if we are satisfied “here”, or are afraid to move because we don’t know what might be “there”.

So, let’s make the choice not to fight with God this year. Let’s make a commitment to our assignment “here” and become equipped to go “there”, as we live out being a family church, teaching people, to reach our world.

Joy Christian Center stands today because of God’s grace and the faithfulness of so many of you, back “there”. We believe that God will continue to bless us “here” and bring us to a “there” that will glorify Him.

Shelly and I want to thank you for your love and faithfulness. It is a privilege and an honor to be called the pastor of such a remarkable body of believers. We love and appreciate you more than you could possibly know.

Are you ready...

Here we go!

Pastor Brian and Shelly

5 STONES *update*

And the Lord said to me, "Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others."

Habakkuk 2:2 ^(TLB)



BLESS Every Home

IN 2022, WE BLESSED OTHERS:

- As part of a church-wide event, the people of Joy purchased, assembled and delivered 150 Trauma bags to Central MN Mental Health Center. Bags will be provided to children in crisis by law enforcement agencies across central Minnesota.
- Joy partnered with Kids Fighting Hunger by sending two teams to package meals for food shelves throughout central Minnesota.
- As a church we are offering Financial Peace University at no cost to you. It's our way of Blessing Every JOY Home! As we are individually strong and healthy our church body increases our ability to bless others.



EXPAND Digital Outreach

IN 2022, WE HAD THE FOLLOWING:

- Over **1,906** unique visitors to our website
- **5,890** video/audio replays of messages
- Live viewers from **15** different states and **7** different nations
- Our Facebook and Instagram have **1,188** regular followers and **29,817** interactions.
- **160** active users of our Church Center App
- Our live stream is provided weekly via greatjoy.org, YouTube, and Facebook, which averages **116** in attendance weekly
- **7** people who faithfully serve weekly as online hosts



MENTOR Apprenticeship

THE SECOND MILE

God has a special purpose for you and your life. **The Second Mile** is for young adults who are wondering if ministry might be a "next step" for them. This gives them the opportunity for education and ministry experience necessary to build a foundation for their calling.

TRACKS TO RUN ON

- The Arts
- Kids Ministry



0 DEBT Raise A Million +

RAISE A MILLION+ PROGRESS

Mortgage Beginning of 2022	\$ 745,213
Mortgage End of 2022	\$ 494,672
Debt reduced by	\$ 250,541

5 stones brought in \$182,809

7,321 sq ft purchased
39,679 sq ft available



PRAYER Increased Prayer

Instead of a last resort, prayer will be our first response.

COMING IN 2023

- Week of Prayer April 3-6
- Special Sunday night services with praise, prayer and communion
- Weekend Prayer Conference Fall 2023

Here we go!

TAKE ACTION IN 2023

- Build the First 15 into your life
(5 minutes of prayer, Bible reading, & worship)
- Invest in your Financial Peace by joining
1 of our 5 group options
- Use your gifts & become part of the
Dream Team
- Join a group—we're BETTER TOGETHER
- Invest in the 5 Stones Raise a Million
Sponsorship
- Make a commitment to attend church
every Sunday through Easter
- Invite someone to church Easter Sunday

Joy