

Journey NEWSLETTER



Community Center

New Fellowship

We are excited to be reinstating a monthly meeting where all of our volunteers have an opportunity to meet one another and share valuable tips and stories. By meeting monthly prior to board meetings we will be able to have grassroots input into the focus of our community donations.

January 2026

you're INVITED Servant Leadership Team

You are invited to this short meeting every month. We will start on January 8, 2026. We hope you will come whenever you are able. We are re-instituting how we governed the thrift store when we first opened in 2009.

The meeting's purposes are three-fold:

- For servants to know one another better
- For servants to share working experiences - good or bad -with one another for the good of our community. Some touch our hearts. Others we need to know how to handle.
- For servants to have input into where we give donations- both money and material goods.

We sincerely hope you will be a part of this. We are better together.

2:30 pm-3:30 pm
Second Thursday Every Month
Banquet Room @Journey Station

Middle Schoolers Visit



Late December the Junior National Honor Society from Amelia County Middle School came to work, dine and learn more about this community outreach in their own backyard.

They sorted clothes in our Clothes Barn, ordered their lunches from our restaurant menu and listened to an address from our director.



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Village Progress



The good news is we see steps forward and our firewalls passed inspection! The sad news is every week we get calls for needed shelter and every week we shake our heads with sadness because the rooms are not yet open. Yet we cling to hope that one day soon we can provide shelter so desperately needed. We are excited to have met with a couple of pastors who believe their churches will be able to help. We need money and labor! Recently we wrote a needs list that we will happily share with any inquiry. Next steps include carpentry, electric and plumbing skills.



Firewalls done. Ceiling out and needs drywall with insulation after each room has access portal installed.

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RESTAURANT NEWS



We completed our Breaking Bread eight-week series of free dinners with The Chosen, season 5 in November. We hosted a free Santa Brunch on the second Saturday of December and the church hosted a Christmas Eve's Eve celebration on December 23. Our church band played live Christmas music for three

consecutive Thursdays in December.

After studying our sales, we changed our hour in both the restaurant and thrift store beginning in December.



THRIFT STORE NEWS

We now have three buildings! A big change in the past year is the addition of a "Furniture Warehouse". When we lost the rental income from our garage, we decided to expand our thrift store yet again. We moved furniture out of our existing building and re-imagined it as a "clothing barn". The new garage space making moving furniture in and out a much easier task and we have seen an increase in furniture sales as well as clothing sales

We are trying a new thing: Stuff a grocery bag of clothes for \$3 for 3rd Saturdays this winter. This is an indoor sale to help families with affordable clothing and to slim out our inventory that just keeps coming. We have a history of outdoor clothing sales during the warmer months.

We collect shoes through the thrift store and donate money for shoes from store and restaurant sales to assist our church in supporting the Amelia Christmas Parent in insuring kids get new or gently used shoes for Christmas.



Brenda Frost and Shoe Ministry chair Kristy Cole and Journey Community Center VP Ken Picardi



Pastor Callie Walker with long-time servant