

**Join the Journey to Jerusalem**

There are lots of ways to talk about traveling. We may be going on a trip, setting out on an adventure, taking a car ride, or beginning a journey. Journey, as defined by Merriam Webster means “something suggesting travel or passage from one place to another…a day’s travel.”

Where did this word Journey come from? Well, it came by way of the “Latin diurnus [which] means “pertaining to a day, daily”; …When Latin developed into French, diurnus became a noun, jour, meaning simply “day.” The medieval French derivative journee meant either “day” or “something done during the day,” such as work or travel. Middle English borrowed journee as journey in both senses, but only the sense “a day’s travel” survived into modern usage. In modern English, journey now refers to a trip without regard to the amount of time it takes.” (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/journey)

This year we have a journey planned during Lent, that 40 day period of time leading up to Easter. We, family and friends of Gerrardstown Presbyterian, will be on a journey (although our journey will actually take us 56 days, not 40). We are calling it *Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem* for that is where Jesus ended up that week before Easter that we call Holy Week. We are counting our steps and our time of exercise or good works, adding them all together; trying to see if we can reach Jerusalem which is 5922 miles away from Gerrardstown.

Many are getting on board to walk, run, exercise, worship, read their Bibles, visit the shut-ins or sick, and do other good works to gain miles to get to Jerusalem. We want to invite anyone who might be interested in counting steps or miles and adding to our efforts to reach Jerusalem in our Lenten Journey with Jesus.

If you would like to join in our Journey, please sign-up on the *Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem* by emailing the church gerrardstpc@gmail.com to receive your packet of information, and then start counting minutes and miles. The instructions are in the packet. To turn in your miles you’ve walked or earned, you simply email them back to gerrarstpc@gmail.com.

As in most journeys, we need companions. We need those who support us as we travel. Even if we travel for only a day, we need a place to eat, something to drink, and gas for our car or a seat on a plane or train.

We at GPC need companions too! This is a big undertaking in 2 months’ time – to collect 5922 miles! None of us can do it alone. But then Jesus didn’t travel much by himself, either. He was most often in the company of his companions, the disciples both men and women and the many others who enjoyed being with him, listening to his teaching and discussions as they traveled the roads and paths in and around the Judean countryside.

Who knows what will happen as we begin this journey? I pray we enrich and strengthen our minds, bodies and spirits as we step out in faith with Jesus.