

JANUARY 25, 2022

# Journey Enews

## Journey Community Christian Church

Service Times:  
Saturday @ 6 PM  
Sunday @ 10:30 AM

Our services will be streaming  
to our Facebook Page AND  
our website:

[journeychurchsite.org](http://journeychurchsite.org)

Join us this weekend in-  
person or online!

Journey Church

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Facebook:

Journey Church Cynthiana

Like us on Facebook to be  
notified when we go LIVE!

Instagram:

@journeychynthiana

## Holding Our Cards

“Kenneth Ray Rogers (August 21, 1938 - March 20, 2020) was a singer, songwriter, musician, actor, record producer, and entrepreneur. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Kenny Rogers still has quite a following even after his death. His signature song in 1978, ‘The Gambler,’ was a crossover hit that won him a Grammy Award in 1980.” His fame and career spanned multiple genres, over six decades.



Kenny Rogers, the actor, developed the Gambler persona into a well-known character for numerous successful TV shows and movies from the '80s to the '00s. Rogers played the starring role in the Emmy-nominated television film, “The Gambler.” You’ve probably heard the line, “You’ve got to know when to hold ‘em, Know when to fold ‘em, Know when to walk away, And know when to run.”

The professional gambler must hold his cards close, keeping his poker face, never revealing what his cards might be until all bets are down on the table. If you were the star in a movie and God was the director, what character might you play? The longer I work with people, helping them develop new and better habits, the more it becomes clear that we are just people. We like to “hold our cards, close to our chest,” for as long as possible. No one tells you everything, until they have to. We keep our “poker face.”

What if we become professional gamblers of sorts in our relationships with God and people? It is not wise to keep our “poker faces” until the last possible minute; waiting for all the cards to be on the table before showing our cards. I’m already reading through the Bible again in 2022. I just started January with my daily habit using the Bible App to keep track.

It’s funny, after several years of annually reading through the Bible, the characters seem so familiar to me now. Something I have begun to notice is that people in the Bible were a lot like people today. Many of them also kept their cards hidden, so to speak.

Since Adam and Eve in the Garden Paradise (Genesis 3:8-10), people have always been risk averse. Fearful of getting caught, we are reluctant to “show all our cards,” afraid we may lose it all. This may help to keep us safe during a pandemic but it is not necessary or helpful when dealing with God in the Bible. He already knows the “hand we are holding.”

The entire human race (not just Adam & Eve) has made mistakes and committed sins (Romans 3:23). Yet, God promises to love us (John 3:16) and rescue us (Romans 7:24-25), through Jesus.

If you and I were characters in a movie and God was the director, it might be called *Amazing Grace*. Tell everyone, everywhere, the One true God of the Bible is never a risk or a gamble. You will never “lose it all” with God; instead we win the only prize which matters: eternal life.

He loves you. *Amazing Grace just might work.*

*Bobby D.*