



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

APRIL 2024
VOLUME 36 • ISSUE 4

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Easter is a celebration of Jesus' victory over death: a victory we can all share in through his resurrection! Not only are his followers promised to rise to spend eternity with him, but we are invited to share in a victorious life here and now. But to experience that victory in Jesus, you will have to walk the same path Jesus walked on his journey to the cross; before the triumph of his resurrection. It's the path of surrender.

We hope you will join us and invite a friend for an unforgettable celebration on this *White Flag Easter*!

Easter Sunday, March 31st Schedule:

- 7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary
- 7:45 a.m. – Free buffet breakfast in the Family Life Center
- 9:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
(Children's ministry & nursery available)
- 10:30 a.m. – Modern Worship in the Family Life Center and Online
(Children's ministry & nursery available)

Service of Shadows

Join us in the Family Life Center at 6:30 p.m. on Good Friday, March 29, as we share in the passion of Jesus' last hours in this powerful "*Service of Shadows*".

Easter loses its power and meaning when we forget to reflect on and remember the depth of pain and suffering that Jesus endured on our behalf. We will walk through the Scriptures and experience soul-moving music during this unforgettable worship. We will conclude with silent communion and depart in quiet reflection. There is no childcare, but the service is suitable for all ages!

Good Friday
March 29, 6:30 p.m.
Family Life Center

Worship Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Modern Service (Family Life Center)
- Children's ministry, nursery, and online worship at both services

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

You Asked For It!

the sermon series you designed



YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Over the last few weeks many people have submitted questions they would like to hear a pastor speak about from a biblical perspective. Some of them have come from members of our church. Others have come from those outside the church.

But ALL the questions are great ones! I wish I had adequate time to address each of them. However, I believe everyone will benefit from the questions I've selected for our seven-week series!

So, are you ready for the lineup?

April 7 – Confirmation Sunday – *How can I hear God's voice?*

How to discern God's will for our lives is one of the most common questions I get asked as a pastor. This week we will help young and old alike discover the ways God speaks to us and how God reveals His will.

April 14 – *What should I do with my doubts?*

Doubts creep into the hearts of skeptical and devoted followers alike. This week we will explore how to respond to doubts!

April 21 – Graduation Sunday – *How should a Christian decide how to vote?*

Politics have become incredibly divisive, and many people have turned their back on the church because of perceptions of "Christian Nationalism". This week we will talk about important questions for every Christian to work through as we seek first to be residents of God's Kingdom.

April 28 – *What should I know about "the rapture"?*

"The Rapture" has been the premise of many books and movies over the last several decades. This week we will discover where this theology comes from and what the Bible actually says!

May 5 – *Why does God sanction killing in the Old Testament?*

Many people are turned off by the violence sanctioned by God and carried out by God's people in the Old Testament. This week we will seek to understand part of Israel's role in the Old Testament and how Jesus' death on the cross changes everything!

May 12 – *How is it okay for women to be pastors?*

Our Methodist doctrine supports women in ordained roles, but not every faith tradition believes the same. Each side uses Scripture as their basis. Who's right? This week we will investigate some of the Scriptures in question and share our church's stance!

May 19 – *Why do bad things happen to good people?*

How can God be good if there is so much pain in the world? Sadly, wrestling with this question has led people to abandon their faith and turn their backs on God. This week we will briefly reflect on our theological understanding of the problem of evil, but more importantly we will spend extended time in prayer and worship – turning to the only one who can bring healing and hope to our pain.

It's my hope that knowing the questions in advance will inspire you to invite friends or family members who would be interested to hear them addressed in church. This series will be a perfect opportunity to live out our mission as we invite people on a *Journey with Jesus!*

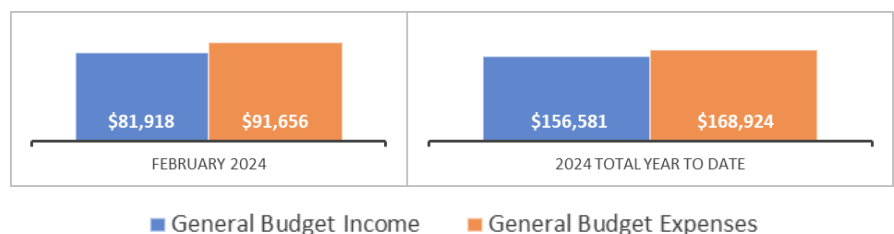
Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	February Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	123	108
9:00 a.m. - Online	143	170
10:30 a.m. - In Person	168	158
10:30 a.m. - Online	92	114
Sunday Children	58	54
Wednesday Youth	37	36
*Ash Wednesday (2/14)	138	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	419	374
Average Weekly Online Worship	235	284

General Budget



CHURCH NEWS

UPDATE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Church Council met on March 12, at the property of the former Saint Jacob Methodist Church. Five years ago, the church closed and donated its property and assets to Troy Methodist as we oversaw the ongoing worship there in Saint Jacob. Despite our investments, the attendance declined to the point that a final worship service was held there in December of 2023. For the last six weeks our council has been in a time of prayer and discernment about what to do with the currently unused property. At our meeting on March 12, our council discerned God's Spirit not leading us to any ministry uses for the building and unanimously voted to form a team to take next steps toward the disposition of the Saint Jacob property and report back to the council at our next meeting on May 14, 2024.

SERVE

UPWARD 2024 MISSION PROJECT

Each year the Upward participants, coaches, and families choose a mission project in which everyone can participate. The hope is those involved will learn the values of service and generosity. Last year, they held a toilet paper drive and were able to collect 1,104 rolls which were distributed to three area pantries! This year the group collected paper goods: 990 rolls of toilet paper, 216 rolls of paper towels, and 130 boxes of Kleenex! Because of the generosity of everyone involved, they were able to give to five area pantries! Because these items that we use on a daily basis are not covered by Food Stamps, oftentimes, families go without because they can't afford to purchase these items out of pocket. Through the generous giving this year, area pantries are well stocked so that anyone in need will be provided for.

What a joy - Thank you Upward!



MISSION MATCHING MOMENT

Equipping the Called is a ministry in our area that provides aid, comfort and relief to children in crisis. It is their goal to provide the most basic of necessities; such as clothing, toiletries, and other personal care items to children who have become displaced from their home. Part of this process includes deep-cleaning donated clothing before distributing the clothes to kids. Currently the ministry relies on external facilities and volunteers to wash donated clothing; but their hope is to raise \$3,000 to fund the purchase of their own washer and dryer. With the purchase of on-site appliances, the ministry will be able to provide clean clothing more efficiently!

The Troy Methodist Mission Team would like to support this fundraiser by encouraging you all to donate funds to the church office marked: Equipping the Called – Washer and Dryer Fund. And we will match up to \$500! This will provide a third of what is needed for this ministry! How exciting it would be to help them in this way. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of deserving children and the organizations that help serve them. If you would like to know more about Equipping the Called or the Troy Methodist Mission Team feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



WHY DO WE SERVE?

By Pastor Dan Perry

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each of us have been given unique talents, skills, and gifts by God. When you and I choose to serve others, we have the amazing privilege of making a Kingdom impact and a life-changing difference to those we serve. Whether that's serving in a care team area, a weekend ministry team, working with children and students, or volunteering in local outreach. We all learn new things and develop meaningful relationships. As Care Pastor, I oversee several areas:

• Visitation Team • Card Team • Phone Calls • Meal Team • New Mom's Ministry • J.O.Y. Seekers • GriefShare

Jesus said, "...the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." ***So, where is God calling you to serve?***

CONNECT



CONNECT LUNCH

APRIL 14 @ 11:45 a.m.



NEXT STEPS TO CONNECT

If you are new to our church family we want to welcome you and provide you with an opportunity to connect!

On Sunday, April 14, we will have a Connect Lunch following the 10:30 a.m. service. Starting at 11:45 a.m. and going until 1:15 p.m. we will enjoy lunch from Fire and Smoke, spend time getting to know each other, and provide time to answer questions you might have about our church family. Staff from various ministries will be available to answer questions and share about ways to get connected. We will also take a tour of our church facilities so you can get to know your way around.

Childcare is available with RSVP. Your kids will be able to eat lunch with you, and then go to the children's area with our staff for a fun activity. Sign up by emailing Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK Sunday, April 21

As we enter into our "You Asked For It" sermon series this month, we thought it was the perfect time to bring back something that so many people ask for again and again: another all church potluck! So pull out the recipe cards and find a favorite dish to share for a great time of food and fellowship together!

We will meet in the Family Life Center right after the 10:30 a.m. service. The church will provide all paperware & utensils, drinks, and rolls; you provide a dish:

Families/Individuals:

- Last name A - F:** bring a dessert
- Last name G - L:** bring a salad
- Last name M - R:** bring a hot side (beans/veggies/potatoes)
- Last name S - Z:** bring a main course (meats/casseroles)

Please bring food that will serve 10 - 12 people. No need to register, just bring a dish - it's a potluck, anything goes!

If you have questions or you'd like to help set up/clean up: contact our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



all church

Potluck

Sunday, April 21 at 11:45 a.m.



CRAFT NIGHT

Have fun while learning a new craft!

Friday, April 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Upper Family Life Center

Project: greeting card making

Open to all (including kids; age 10 and up, accompanied by a parent)

Help support church ministries and learn a new craft at the same time. We will be making greeting cards to be used by the Kid's ministry and the Care ministry teams. Our volunteer leaders will guide you through the steps - you will learn several techniques in this evening workshop including stamping. The cards we make will be used by these ministries and you will take a couple home too!

RSVP by Monday, April 8 to deb@troymc.org. We need a good headcount to ensure we have enough supplies.

"BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED" *Troy United Women in Faith Spring Fundraiser*



UWF welcomes you to the "Bloom Where You Are Planted" Salad & Dessert Buffet, Silent Auction, and Fashion Show.

Join us on Saturday May 4; the doors open at 11:00 a.m. Elizabeth Grant is our Emcee for a Fashion Show featuring women's clothing from three entrepreneurial resale shops in the area. Bring your friends, enjoy a meal together, participate in a silent auction, and support area missions for women and children.

Advance tickets are \$15 per adult, \$10 for children age 12 and under. Tickets are available at the TMC office or from UWF members following upcoming Sunday services.

For more information contact Bethel Rogers,
rogersbethel@gmail.com.



United Women in Faith

APRIL MEETING *Thursday, April 11, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

Join us in the Family Life Center as we welcome our guest speaker from Cunningham Children's Home, Brooke Watson, Associate Director of Advancement. She will update us on the home and its progress in helping children in need.

Come for the program and stay for our business meeting, refreshments, and fellowship.

All women are welcome!

TROY METHODIST MEN - UPCOMING EVENTS

Car Care Class

Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. - noon
TMC Church Parking Lot

Join the Troy Methodist Men as they conduct a free class teaching basic car maintenance including tire changing, checking oil, radiator, and wiper fluid levels, tire pressure, and more. This class is open to everyone, especially new drivers!

Car Maintenance Check - Open to the Community!

Saturday, April 20, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
TMC Church Parking Lot

Drop by with your car for a basic maintenance check. We will look at your fluid levels & tire pressure. We will have limited supplies of radiator fluid & windshield washer fluid to top off as needed.

(We will provide basic checks - not repairs)

This is open to all - including members of the community!

Men's Breakfast & Program

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Family Life Center

Join us for a delicious breakfast of biscuits & gravy (and other goodies) prepared by our very own Dale Storey. And stay for an informational talk about the new Troy Community Garden given by Dottie Dexheimer. This will be a great time of men's fellowship! **Open to all!**

For more information, contact Don Satterlee at keypad@proalarm.net.



TROY METHODIST KIDS

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION: 5 Bible Tips For Raising Wholesome Kids By Jenn Diliberto

Raising kids can be difficult, even on the best days. Thankfully, we have help! The Bible offers valuable guidance to help instill Godly values and virtues in children. By studying the Bible and applying its teachings, parents can raise children who love and serve God wholeheartedly.

Here are 5 Bible verses that can provide guidance to parents:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

Hebrews 12:11 - *"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*

Deuteronomy 4:9 - *"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children."*

Proverbs 22:6,15 - *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it... Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away."*

Proverbs 11:30 - *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise."*

*It's important to remember that these verses should be read in context and understood within the larger narrative of the Bible.

Helping our children become approved workers, who are unashamed and able to handle the word of truth, can make a positive impact on their lives and those around them. It's important to instill these values in them from a young age so that they may grow up to be responsible and faithful individuals. Raising children can be a challenging and daunting task at times, but the payoff is absolutely worth it.

RISE UP - KIDS CONFERENCE

ON A MISSION

kidsconference.org

There's still time to register your grade school child for the Kids Conference, a one-day event, Saturday, April 6, for children in first - fifth grades.

Our Troy Methodist Church kids ministry will take a road trip to Marion, IL! Meet at 7:00 a.m., depart by 7:15 a.m. and travel to Aldersgate Church in Marion, IL, for the event from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. We will get back on the bus and be home by 4:15 p.m. at the latest.

To register for this event, please grab a registration form from the kids ministry area, fill it out, and return it with the registration fee of \$35 per child. If a parent would like to join us, great! The cost for adults is \$30. To find out more, visit www.kidsconference.org.

KIDS MINISTRY PARENT MEETING

On Wednesday, April 3, we're inviting all parents, guardians, and leaders to join us for a Troy Methodist Kids Ministry meeting. We will meet in the Kids Ministry Area from 6:30 p.m. to no later than 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the gathering is to share where we're going, some of our vision for the ministry, and to hear thoughts and answer any questions you may have.

We hope you can join us!

**Kids -
look for the
hidden
orange
somewhere
in this issue
of the
newsletter!**



CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org
Jenn - jenn@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

[@troymethodistkids](https://www.facebook.com/troymethodistkids)

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

GRADUATION SUNDAY April 21

We're celebrating our graduates on Sunday morning, April 21!

We will compile graduate information for a Sunday morning bulletin insert and introduce graduates at the 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. (*You don't need to be present at both services; we will introduce whoever is at either service*).

Please provide the following information: name, graduating from where, plans after graduation, favorite scripture verse, and include a digital photo.

Send the above information to Karen Wimmer at karen@troymc.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ICE SKATING EVENT Friday, April 26

The Middle School Students will go ice skating at R.P. Lumber Center (6289 Tiger Drive, Edwardsville) on Friday, April 26!

We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m., ride the church bus to the center, and return to the church building by 9:30 p.m. Bring your permission slip and \$10 (which covers skates and entry). **Invite a friend!**

For more information, contact Wenifer Greer at wenifer@troymc.org.

Visit troymc.org/students for more information.



CONFIRMATION CLASS RETREAT

The Confirmation Class went on their Spring Retreat and had a family dinner the Sunday evening they returned to Troy. It was a terrific weekend of hiking, worship, final confirmation class curriculum lessons, meals, games and prayer.

Thanks to the leaders who took the students on the retreat - Steve Kraabel (confirmation leader), Tom Wilkerson (bus driver), and Cheri Buck (weekend chaperone).



PARENTS CORNER

We're praying for you, parents!

Thank you so much for your faithfulness in marking the calendar, driving your student to the church Sundays and Wednesdays, and coming up with funds to send them to camps, mission trips, and ministry events. We're grateful to partner with you in this endeavor of inviting students on a journey with Jesus. We want them to grow in Christ and desire to follow Him each day of their lives! If you need anything, we're here to talk, pray and discuss. There's no way to go around the teen years - you have to walk right through them - with grace and purpose. We never get it perfect, but God has given us the privilege of raising these students in our homes.

Students are at the church for maybe two or three hours a week and **parents have the other one hundred and sixty five!** So let's diligently pray for each other!

RANDOM STUFF

- We have a few Troy Methodist Student t-shirts left - mostly mediums and smalls - \$10 each.
- Like or follow the student ministry Facebook and Instagram pages. (*See box below*) It helps share information and encourages others to join.
- text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000 to stay in the loop.

*"Show me Your ways,
LORD, teach me
Your paths. Guide
me in Your truth and
teach me, for You are
God my Savior, and
my hope is in You all
day long."*

Psalm 25:4-5

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org
Ryan - ryan@troymc.org
Courtney - courtney@troymc.org
Wenifer - wenifer@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

[@troymethodiststudents](https://www.facebook.com/troymethodiststudents)

Church Information
Phone (618) 667-6241
troymc.org

Staff

***Senior Pastor**
Andy Adams
***Discipleship Pastor**
Bonnie Abel
***Care Pastor**
Dan Perry
***Next Generation Minister**
Tim Price
***Office Manager**
Sharie Meyer
***Director of 1st Step Learning Center**
Lisa Rayle
***Director of Traditional Worship Music**
Rebecca Koebbe
***Director of Modern Worship**
Marissa Horning
***Communications Coordinator**
Deb Ellis
***Production Coordinator**
Josh Case
***Administrative Assistant**
Karen Wimmer
***Children's Ministry Leader**
Jenn Diliberto
***Middle School Ministry Leader**
Wenifer Greer
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Courtney Froidcoeur
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Ryan Froidcoeur
Custodians
David Barr, Rex Repp,
Blaine Stolle

***Staff E-mail** [firstname]@troymc.org

**LOOK! New staff email
addresses - @troymc.org**

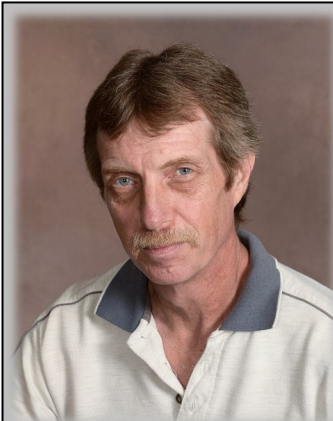
If you would like to receive the Reach
newsletter via email only, please
contact karen@troymc.org

Connect with us!



APRIL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
April 3	Troy Methodist Kids - Parent Meeting (page 6)
April 6	Troy Methodist Kids - Kids Conference Adventure (page 6)
April 7	Confirmation Sunday
April 11	Troy United Women in Faith April Meeting (page 5)
April 12	Craft Night (page 4)
April 14	Connect Lunch (page 4)
April 20	Troy Methodist Men - Car Care Class & Maintenance Check (page 5)
April 21	Graduation Sunday (page 7)
April 21	All Church Potluck (page 4)
April 23	JOY Seekers April Lunch & Program (see website events page)
April 26	Troy Methodist Students - Middle School Ice Skating (page 7)



DAVID BARR (1961-2024)

It is with a heavy heart that I share this information with you. Our full-time custodian, David Barr, was found deceased in his home Saturday evening, March 16.

Our hearts are grieved by the passing of David. He was an integral part of our staff team for twelve years. He often went above and beyond to ensure that the ministries of our church were served well. David is already missed and will be for a long time.

David was a servant to us all. The most common phrase I heard from him was, "I've got it." Whenever I tried to help he'd say, "I've got it." Whenever I asked for a particular setup, I'd hear, "I've got it." Whenever I wasn't sure what was needed, but nebulously asked for his help, he'd respond, "I've got it." I will miss those words on so many levels. They reflect the attitude of a servant. I'm so thankful that David has been able to hear Jesus tell him, "Well done good and faithful servant."

We do celebrate that David knew Jesus and lived out his faith in service to our church and his family. In fact, we ask that you join us in prayer for David's mother (with whom he lived) as she struggles with dementia. And please also pray for his family who are not only dealing with David's unexpected death but are now trying to figure out how to best care for his mother.

Faithfully,
Pastor Andy



Troy Methodist Church
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