



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

APRIL 2023
VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from Pastor Andy	P. 2
Strategic Stats	P. 2
Opportunities to Serve	P. 3
Opportunities to Connect	P. 4
Journey Kids	P. 5
New Life Student Ministry	P. 6-7
April Schedule Highlights	Back Page

JOURNEYING
WITH

Jesus
TO THE CROSS

We are continuing our Journey with Jesus to the Cross by walking through the major events of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. We have already celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Now you're invited to walk in Jesus' footsteps in very meaningful ways between now and Easter.

Invite a friend and find healing, encouragement, and life-change as we continue our journey with Jesus.

March 26 – *The Living Last Supper:*
A Holy Thursday Experience

April 2 – *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord:*
A Good Friday Remembrance

**Note: On March 26 and April 2, both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services are in the Family Life Center.*

April 5 - Worship & Prayer Night
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 9 - *The Hope of Glory:* An Easter Sunday Celebration

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 &
Children's Ministry (and online)

10:30 a.m. – Modern Worship in the Family Life Center &
Children's Ministry (and online)



Worship Schedule

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

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

SPRING BRINGS NEW LIFE

Did we even have a winter? That might be arguable from a weather standpoint, but for those of us who love our church know that we're coming out of some cold and difficult days. Our winter season of determining our denominational future was painful for many. There may be lingering grief for some time. I know that will be the case for me. But thanks be to God that spring is a season of new life! Here are a few exciting things we can look forward to in April.

Easter Services

Check out the information on the front page and invite your friends and family to join you in worship as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection that gives us The Hope of Glory!

Pictures for New Attenders

On Easter Sunday anyone can have a quick picture at our photo backdrop, but we especially encourage our many newer members/attenders to have pictures taken to be included in our online directory! We will be prepared to get your photo after our 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services.

Input on New Church Name

With our change in denomination, we will have a new name. What will that name be? Our Rebranding Team has narrowed down your recommendations and will be asking you to rank the most popular options in person on Easter Sunday! How exciting!

Beulah Cabin

Many of our children, youth, and adults participate in summer camp activities each year at Beulah Holiness Camp in Eldorado, Illinois. While other church groups own cabins at the camp, we never have. But with the news that Greenville UMC is selling their cabin, our Church Council approved making an initial offer. If you are passionate about the ministry of Beulah and feel called to help make this purchase possible, please contact me. We have children and student groups heading down for camp this June!

A New "Mini-Series"

After Confirmation Sunday on April 16, we will begin a two-week series, Hands and Feet. St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no hands, no feet on earth but yours... Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world." We believe that wholeheartedly and will be relaying Jesus' call for all his followers to give their lives in ministry and mission. Because these two services will include some special elements (ministry and mission booths), we will be having both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services in the Family Life Center on April 23 and April 30.

Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	February Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	106	110
9:00 a.m. - Online	159	159
10:30 a.m. - In Person	168	158
10:30 a.m. - Online	137	131
Sunday Children	48	44
Wednesday Youth	36	37
St. Jacob 10:15 a.m.	5	6
Ash Wednesday (2/22)	175	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	406	351
Average Weekly Online Worship	296	300

General Budget



■ General Budget Income ■ General Budget Expenses

EASTER OFFERING

This year 16% of our Easter Offering will be going to the local organization, "Equipping the Called." Founded in 2014, "Equipping the Called" is on mission to provide aid, comfort and relief to children in crisis. It is their goal to provide the most basic necessities; such as clothing, toiletries and other personal care items to children who have become displaced or dislodged from their home. "Equipping the Called" is currently hoping to relocate to a larger space so that they might be able to better meet the needs of their clients. They dream of having room to create a boutique feel for their clients to come in and shop, and additionally would love to have storage space so they no longer have to turn down big item donations such as cribs. We are excited to continue to be ministry partners with "Equipping the Called!"

Equipping the
CALLED
FOSTER & CRISIS CLOSET
2816 N. Center St.
Maryville, Illinois
mailing address
po box 171
Troy, Illinois 62294



MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Our church is planning a mission trip to the Methodist Mountain Mission in Eastern Kentucky the week of April 23-29! Are you interested in being a part of this week-long ministry experience? Are you curious about what it might entail? Have you never been on a mission trip before and you aren't sure what to expect? If you have questions now or already know that you want to go if the dates work out please email our Minister of Discipleship at bonnie@troyumc.org.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT - PAT SIMON



One of the core values of our church is to WORSHIP! We believe that worshipping God is something that we have the opportunity to do on Sunday mornings when we come together and sing, pray and grow spiritually. We also believe that we can worship God in our daily lives when we utilize the gifts that God has given us. As such, our church is committed to highlighting the artistic talents of those in our midst.

Pat has been interested in art for as long as she can remember, and as a child she was always creating. She assumed that everyone was artistic until she was asked by her 4th grade teacher to stay in at recess in order to create classroom displays and projects. She admits that she really loves art, but in 4th grade it's still a bummer to miss out on recess!

In the upcoming weeks you will start to see her paintings popping up in different locations in the church. Pat was inspired by Pastor Andy's series on the book of Genesis a few years ago and once the painting started she was able to paint over 20 pictures, each displaying abstractly a part of the creation story.

In addition to the beauty that these items will bring to our church building, Pat has also agreed to allow the church to sell her paintings. Paintings will be sold for a donation to the mission team which will go to support fine art ministries. Our hope is that these paintings will bring you joy and remind you of the great work that God has done for each of us, both in the beginning days of creation, and even still today.

Are you an artist and would like to share your gifts with the church? Contact bonnie@troyumc.org



CONNECT



United
Women
in Faith

Troy United Women in Faith will meet on Thursday, April 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center, to learn about the many activities we can join in our immediate area from the Executive Director of the Troy Chamber of Commerce. We will discuss a luncheon trip to the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in May and a fun family afternoon Tea in June. (Tickets available in May.)

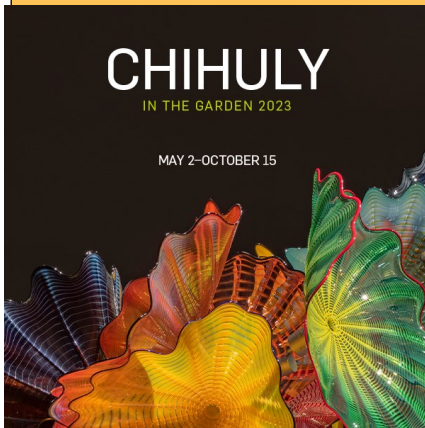
Thank you all for your support. By working together we are able to help many, so celebrate Easter in joy and remember Christ died for all.

1 Corinthians 11:17 "We, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

CARE NOTES FROM PASTOR DAN

Our April JOY SEEKERS lunch (50+) will meet on April 25 at noon in the Family Life Center. The theme for our lunch will be golf. Please contact pastor Dan to volunteer in any of the following areas: program, table decorations, devotion, greeters & dessert donation. Watch the weekly eReach for more information.

Be sure to call the office to register by April 20. We ask for a \$10 per person donation to help cover our food and other expenses.



LOOKING AHEAD ... The JOY SEEKERS are planning a trip for the month of May. We are planning to go to the Missouri Botanical Garden on May 23. Watch for more information in the weekly eReach and May's REACH newsletter.

Chihuly in the Garden 2023 presents the work of world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly's art. Thousands of pieces of blown glass forms in 18 dramatic installations throughout the Garden's grounds.

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/events-classes/special-exhibitions/chihuly-in-the-garden-2023

DINNER GROUPS FORMING SOON!

Dinner Groups are a great way to get to know others at church and get connected!

The goal of Dinner Groups is for approximately eight people to get to know each other and simply share meals together three or four times (hopefully once per month) through the summer. We will kick off the groups in May. There is no pressure or any other agenda!

Do you prefer eating at restaurants or would you rather contribute to a potluck at someone's home? Do you need a group that includes children or would you prefer an adults only group? Communicate these preferences when you sign up and we will do our best to match you with a group of similar preferences.

We will have sign-up sheets available and online registration in the eReach later this month.



JOURNEY KIDS



April 9- Easter Sunday there will be children's ministry during 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. We will have our own kid friendly, short, Easter worship service in our children's area and then watch: Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol with music by the sister of the members of For King and Country Christian band.

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. ~UMC Book of Discipline



Join us on **Saturday, April 22, at Watershed Nature Center** in Edwardsville as we celebrate Earth Day. This is family event from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. More details to come.

A Special Announcement from Staff Parish:

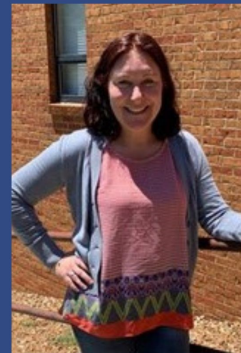
We would like you to be aware of a few staffing transitions that will occur in the coming months. Many of you already know that our Associate Pastor of Student Ministry, Rev. Kurt Stone, will be retiring in May. Furthermore, our Director of Children's Ministry, Christine Lippert, will be graduating from seminary in May and receiving a pastoral appointment in the UMC beginning July 1.

Realizing this leaves a big hole in our next generation ministries, our staff parish team has been preparing for many months and are pleased to share the following news with you. Near the end

of this school year, our own Tim Price will shift his primary responsibilities from worship leadership to becoming our Next Gen Pastor. He will be providing overall vision and direction for the ministries; building on the great foundation Kurt and Christine have created. Tim will also be working with our team to hire a part-time children's Ministry Leader and a part-time Student Ministry Leader. We feel Tim is uniquely gifted to lead our Next Generation Ministries into the future as he already points kids and students to Christ through Harvest Ministries! Of course, this also means that our staff parish team will be searching for a Modern Worship Leader to hire in the next few months. Please pray for Tim, Kurt, Christine, and all our ministries during this season of change!



Rev. Kurt Stone



Christine Lippert



Tim Price

ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER...CAMPS!

Save the dates! Coming Soon: details & registration forms at troyumc.org/children and troyumc.org/1ststep

May 30-June 1
June 5-8
June 12-16
June 26-29
June 30-July 1
July 11-13

1st Step Preschool Art Camp
Music & Drama Camp
Ready, Set, Move! VBS
Beulah: Bible Camp - \$200*
Beulah: The Beginning - \$105*
1st Step Preschool Exploring Nature Camp

Age 2 through kindergarten
1st through 5th grade
Age 3 through 5th grade
5th & 6th grade
2nd through 4th grade
Age 2 through kindergarten

* 1/2 of camp fees will be paid by the church through the Youth Scholarship Fund

NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

Troy UMC invites all middle school students (6th- 8th grade) and high school students (9th-12th grade) to continue the journey with Jesus! New Life Student Ministry provides opportunities to worship God, engage the Scriptures, and serve others. Come and see what this vibrant and growing student ministry is all about and discover the ways you will be encouraged to walk in the Christian faith.

2023 TroyUMC CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!

Sunday, April 16

- 9:00 a.m. – introduction of Confirmation Students during the early service
- 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation Service for 2023 Confirmation Students as we remember our baptism, confirm baptismal vows, and receive students into church membership! Come and worship!

2023 GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, April 23 - during both worship services!

Troy UMC will recognize 2023 graduates – both high school and college, so please electronically submit your student's name and a recent photo and the following information to Pastor Kurt by **April 9**:

High School Graduates

Student Name
Parent's Name(s)
Name of High School
Post High School Plans – job & employer,
military & branch, college & major, other

College Graduates

Student Name
Parent's Name(s)
Name of College/University
Name of Degree
Post College Plans – job/employer, other

Please contact Rev. Kurt Stone for student ministries: kurt@troyumc.org or (618) 407-7586.

YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY APRIL SCHEDULE & THEMES

6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Supper	Family Life Center
6:30-7:45 p.m.	High School (HS) Students	Family Life Center
6:30-7:45 p.m.	Middle School (MS) Students	Youth Area – Upper Family Life Center

“ECHO” and “BEFORE I GO”: An Easter series about important things Jesus said

April 5	John 17:20-21	Jesus prayed for unity.
April 12	Luke 22:42	Be real with God.
April 19	John 19:16b-18, 28-30a	Jesus loves you.

“LET’S TALK ABOUT” and “ELEVATE”: A conversation about suicide and the power of real hope

April 26	Psalm 34:18	There is hope.
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APRIL SPECIAL EVENT

New Life Student Ministry Family Bike Ride, Trail Hike, & Pizza Party!

Sunday, April 23, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Edwardsville

No RSVP; Free

Students, Siblings, & Parents

Meet at Hoppe Park, Watershed Nature Center, 1571 Tower Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Students, siblings, and parents are invited to ride a 6 mile loop on the Madison County Bikeway Trails, or hike the trail around the nature center pond, and share together pizza dinner in the parking lot!

Bring your own bike & helmet for this outdoor activity.

PARENTS

- New Life Student Ministry schedules and registration flyers can be accessed at troyumc.org/students
- Rev. Kurt Stone is available via email, texts, and phone calls: kurt@troyumc.org or (618) 407-7586

NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

SUMMER 2023 MISSION TRIPS & CHURCH CAMPS

See troyumc.org/students for registration forms and trip details!

Middle School Students
June 9-11, 2023

Summer Weekend Retreat at Midwest Mission Distribution Center - \$125

Middle/High School Beulah Youth Institute
June 18-24, 2023

Beulah Holiness Camp in Eldorado, IL - \$250*
Summer Camp for 6th – 12th grade students

High School Student Mission Trip
June 25-30, 2023

Red Bird Mission work Camp; Beverly, KY - \$425 (\$225 per student + \$200 covered by Student Ministry Scholarship)

Epworth Junior / Senior Camp
July 17-21, 2023

Durley Camp in Greenville, IL - \$285*
Summer Camp for 6th – 12th grade students

* 1/2 of camp fees will be paid by the church through the Youth Scholarship Fund



Wednesday Night Youth Group - Students enjoy playing "9 Square in the Air" game in the Family Life Center!



Fire Up Conference for High School Student hosted by Troy UMC



Middle School Special Event – lunch at Fitz's Bottling Company & Ice Skating in Forest Park



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

Staff

*Senior Pastor
Andy Adams
*Associate Pastor, Student Ministry
Kurt Stone
*Care Pastor
Dan Perry
*Minister of Modern Worship Arts
Tim Price
*Minister of Discipleship
Bonnie Abel
*Director of Children's Ministry
Christine Lippert
*Director of 1st Step Learning Center
Lisa Rayle
*Director of Traditional Worship Music
Rebecca Koebbe
*Office Manager
Sharie Meyer
*Administrative Assistant
Karen Wimmer
*Communications Coordinator
Deb Ellis
*Production Coordinator
Josh Case
*Youth Worship Band Leader
Ryan Froidcoeur
Custodians
David Barr, Loren Fear

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

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

Connect with us!
@troyumc



APRIL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date

Event

April 2	Good Friday Remembrance (page1)
April 5	Worship & Prayer Night @ 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary (page 1)
April 9	Easter Sunday Celebration (page 1)
April 13	Troy United Women in Faith Meeting (page 4)
April 16	Confirmation Sunday (page 6)
April 23	Graduate Recognition Sunday (page 6)
April 23	NLSM - Family Bike Ride, Trail Hike & Pizza Party (page 6)
April 25	Joy Seekers Luncheon (page 4)

SERVING OPPORTUNITY – Bus Driver

Do you have flexibility during the days? Do you enjoy driving? We're in search of a couple more drivers willing to get their CDL license (we'll pay the fee!) in order to drive approximately once/month for day mission trips and/or group trips. If you are interested in this fun serving opportunity, please contact the church office!



FIRE-UP RECAP

What an amazing and blessed Fire-Up weekend we had this year! There were approximately 160 high school students, leaders and team members here during the weekend. The theme was DARE TO... dare to return to God, dare to wait on God, and dare to follow God. Roger Palmer did a great job speaking and students responded to the invitation to follow Jesus for the first time and other who rededicated their lives to Christ. We're continually praying for faith to grow our own students and others who attended Fire-Up. The Troy Conference Host Team invested a tons of hours preparing food, praying, organizing shirts, small group, registration details, setting up, decorating, cleaning, serving, providing security, hospitality and welcome. There were also leaders from Troy who led small groups for students throughout the weekend. And the congregation provided tons of snacks (that the high schoolers loved), prayed for the event and opened the doors of the building to welcome teens for the weekend. The closing service on Sunday was a full house and we give God praise for all it! The next Fire-Up High School Conference will be February 23-25, 2024.



REACH

Troy United Methodist Church
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Troy, IL 62294
troyumc.org

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