



# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**DECEMBER 2023  
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## Come Together Christmas

### ARE YOU READY FOR A VINTAGE 1960's CHRISTMAS?

This December we are all going to "Come Together" using Beatles songs to help tell the Christmas story! It will be a fun and meaningful way to anticipate and celebrate Jesus' birth. So let your sideburns grow long, put on your bell bottoms, break out the tie-dye, and join us to worship the coming King of hope, peace, joy, and love.

*This is a perfect time to invite friends!*

**December 3** - Yesterday

**December 10** - Revolution

**December 17** - Nowhere Man

**December 24** - 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - All You Need is Love

**December 24** - 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 11 p.m. - Here Comes the Son

2 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

4 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center and Online  
(kids ministry & nursery available)

6 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center

11 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary 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

This December we will be imitating the believers in the book of Acts by being part of starting a new church! Specifically, 16% of all our general budget December offerings will go to help fund a Global Methodist new church start in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois which will begin gathering people and launching ministry in 2024. Thank you for your generosity!

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## GOD IS CALLING YOU TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER

In the coming weeks, approximately 20-30 folks from Troy Methodist Church will complete our first round of the **Spiritual Leadership Generator**! I have been part of one group and can say it's been biblically rich and practically equipping as we have each been challenged and trained to be spiritual leaders in our homes, workplaces, communities, and church. It's been a joy of mine to see several people in the SLG step up and respond to God's call on their lives and be encouraged in community. Some have said, "I've never considered myself a leader before, but God is helping me see otherwise." I loved what another person told me: "I sensed God calling me to lead more effectively in the ministry I'm already serving in!" The fruit of our first year offering the **Spiritual Leadership Generator** will be hard to measure as it blossoms and grows more and more over the years to come.

*Would you consider God's call to growing as a spiritual leader?*

The **Spiritual Leadership Generator** is a process for developing everyday followers of Jesus into spiritual leaders. That means YOU. We'll look at biblical leadership through the life of Christ and dive into leadership concepts that can be directly applied to your life. Completing this course will help you:

- Integrate your learnings spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and vocationally.
- Develop your spiritual leadership.
- Sharpen your leadership skills.
- See your call and begin to embody your call.

### DETAILS:

- 5 modules over 10 months in a cohort of 4-5 people
- Weekly 90-minute meetings – video and discussion + application and accountability (your group can meet at any time during the week)
- 2 one-day retreats – worship, formation, relationship, vision-casting – **Kickoff on Saturday, January 20th (tentatively 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with lunch at TMC)**
- Shared learning experience that is two-fold: learning and formation – content learning of some key concepts and cohort learning that's being formed spiritually
- Learning from the experts in the field – integration of high-quality content by professors and practitioners
- Additional monthly coaching for each group facilitator

### COST:

Although the actual cost of this seminary level year-long course is between \$600-700, we are only asking you to invest \$300. The rest will be offered through a scholarship from our church's leadership development budget.

Please contact me ([andy@troymc.org](mailto:andy@troymc.org)) if you would like to participate! I am praying for another 20-30 of our leaders to invest in this life-changing journey together. Yes, that means YOU! Read more at [www.troymc.org/SLG](http://www.troymc.org/SLG)

Faithfully,

Andy

## STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	October Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	105	115
9:00 a.m. - Online	126	141
10:30 a.m. - In Person	152	162
10:30 a.m. - Online	100	112
Sunday Children	55	48
Wednesday Youth	39	35
St. Jacob 10:15 a.m.	5	7
*Prayer Worship & Healing (10/4)	47	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	375	373
Average Weekly Online Worship	226	253

### General Budget



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Prayer, Worship & Healing Service

December 6  
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### PRAYER, WORSHIP, AND HEALING SERVICE

As we enter into the Advent Season, our Prayer, Worship, & Healing Service is an opportunity to come together as we anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! If you haven't had the opportunity to be a part of Wednesday Night Worship consider this your invitation to experience the presence of God in a new way! We will gather together in the Sanctuary on December 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and spend time preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ child!

*You don't want to miss this time with God!*

*The Troy Methodist Church Players present...*

### "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, A LIVE RADIO PLAY"

Inspired by the classic 1946 Frank Capra Film, this version is performed as a 1940s live radio broadcast. Eighteen of our actors perform the forty-four characters with four Foley Artists providing the live sound effects. Three female studio singers lend their talents singing jingles from vintage 1940s radio commercials.

With its themes of self-sacrifice and that everyone's life touches so many other lives, the play sends a powerful message about God's grace.

Performances are Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m. They will be held in the Family Life Center. There is no charge for admission. A free-will offering is optional.

*Join us for an evening of nostalgic holiday fun!*

Troy Methodist Church Presents:

## It's A Wonderful Life A Live Radio Play

December 8-9, 2023

Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Family Life Center  
Free Admission



## "He Comforts Us" A Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m.  
Family Life Center

### "He Comforts Us" - A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Join us for an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music!*

You are invited to attend our 2023 Christmas Concert, "He Comforts Us" on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Refreshments will be available immediately following the conclusion of the concert.

"He Comforts Us" inspires us to remember our Heavenly Father sending our Savior, Jesus, who redeems us and gives us hope for salvation.

Many musicians from amongst our church body will join together to present this program which features Troy Methodist's Bell Choir and Chancel Choir, as well as several vocal and instrumental soloists and small ensembles.

Rebecca Koebbe, director of Traditional Worship Music at Troy Methodist, leads a team of many volunteers who make this event possible each year.

If you have questions regarding either the Christmas concert or the Traditional Music program at Troy Methodist, you may reach out to Rebecca via email at [rebecca@troymc.org](mailto:rebecca@troymc.org)



# CONNECT

## ANOTHER ROUND OF 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 winter. We will kick off the groups in January. 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 weekly eReach later this month.



*"Fun times getting to know these folks better!" - Kay*



## HELP FORM THE NEW TROY METHODIST MEN'S GROUP

All men are invited to attend the initial meeting of the *Troy Methodist Men* to help organize & plan events, Bible studies, and ministry opportunities that will bring the men of our church closer together and on a closer walk with Christ.

We will be meeting on Sunday, December 3 at noon in the Family Life Center. Food will be provided. We encourage all men to join us as we discuss and discover opportunities to serve, lead, and participate in events and/or studies.

If you have questions or want to sign up, contact Don Satterlee at (618) 779-1889 or Jordan Buck at (618) 910-8273.

## PRAYER LABYRINTH RECEIVES UPDATES

Last month, the Troy United Women in Faith Group celebrated the newly renovated prayer labyrinth, located behind the Family Life Center.

The bench and cross were recently added to honor those women who have put their time, talents, and gifts into the missions they support.

Stop by and visit the prayer labyrinth!



Troy UWF encourages all to shine bright in the light of Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Our Christmas Luncheon is December 14 at Bella Milano in Edwardsville. Members can purchase tickets from Becky Rushing. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. All women of the church are invited to join us!

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.  
Lyrics from "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

# SERVE & CONNECT



## UPWARD EVALUATIONS SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome and serve our community in a tangible way through our Upward basketball and cheerleading ministry! We still have one evaluation date remaining: December 10 from 3-5 p.m. Serving opportunities include greeters, check-in, uniform sizers, and several folks willing to test the players' skills (don't be intimidated - it's easy!).

There are still some serving slots open, so sign-up for one or more spots online here:

[signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ABAA28A3F9C52-upward6#/](https://signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ABAA28A3F9C52-upward6#/) or by contacting our Upward Coordinators, Tyson and Erica Graham at [upward@troymc.org](mailto:upward@troymc.org)

## COLLEGE STUDENTS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

All college students are invited to the College Age Christmas Gathering on Sunday evening, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Family Life Center

We will have food, games, and fellowship. It will be a great time for us to get together and welcome home our students!

For more information, contact Tim Price at [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org)

## ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

This year our Angel Tree tradition continues, and there are two types of angels to choose from:

- ✦ Gift cards for Safe Families host families
- ✦ Bulk items for gift bags for each resident at Liberty Village

The deadline to get all the gifts dropped off at the church will be **December 17**.

The first Sunday of Advent, you will find Christmas trees in both the Family Life Center and Sanctuary foyers adorned with angel ornaments. Each ornament represents an individual or family that you can bless this Christmas season!

This year we will be making gift bags for all 108 of the residents at Liberty Village! For many of the residents this will be the only gift that they receive this Christmas! To help out with this, you can pick up a RED angel on the Angel Tree and buy one of the bulk items needed to fill the gift bags. Additionally, we will be collecting gift cards for Safe Families. Find a BLUE angel on the Angel Tree and pick from a variety of Gift Card options to bless a Safe Families host family this Christmas as they support and love children in our communities.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org)





# TROY METHODIST KIDS

## SHARING THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR KIDS

*By Jenn Diliberto*

As Christians, it's important that we teach our children the true meaning of Christmas. It's so easy in the busyness and excitement of the season for kids to lose sight of this. So how do we help them understand the real meaning of Christmas? Here are some practical and meaningful ways to teach kids about the true spirit of Christmas:

- ✦ Keep Christ at the center. Read the Word together. Share the story of the birth of Jesus and explain why Christmas is celebrated. The very first Christmas began with a gift - God gave his Son so that people can be reconciled with God and receive eternal life.
- ✦ Teach the spirit of giving. Explain that giving isn't just about physical gifts; it can also involve giving love, time, and attention. Encourage your kids to create handmade gifts or cards for family and friends. Ask your kids to think about what they can give rather than just what they want to receive.
- ✦ Volunteer together. Spend time as a family volunteering at church, a soup kitchen, or community events during the holiday season. This hands-on experience can help kids understand the joy of blessing their community.
- ✦ Lead by example. Children often learn best by observing the behavior of adults. Demonstrate the values you want to instill in your kids by showing generosity, kindness, and gratitude in your own actions.
- ✦ Attend at least one Christmas service together. Encourage your children to actively participate in church or children's ministry. Talk about what their biggest takeaway was from the sermon or lesson.
- ✦ Slow down. You do not have to attend every Christmas party or say yes to every holiday event. Intentionally schedule down time at home. Create meaningful family traditions. This could include activities like baking together, making handmade ornaments, or going to see Christmas lights in your neighborhood.

Remember that every family is unique, and it's important to tailor your approach to what works best for your children's ages and interests. By incorporating these ideas into your family's holiday traditions, you can help your kids understand and appreciate the true meaning of Christmas.

## FALL FEST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who donated time and resources to Fall Fest! Your dedication, hard work, and donations did not go unnoticed, and the success of the event would not have been possible without your invaluable support.

We had over 450 participants and we received numerous compliments! We are incredibly fortunate to be a church that is willing to go above and beyond to make a difference. Your generosity and selflessness is inspiring! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus for the kids at our church as well as the communities surrounding Troy.



### CONTACT

Tim - [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org)  
Jenn - [jenn@troymc.org](mailto:jenn@troymc.org)

### WEBSITE

[troymc.org/children](http://troymc.org/children)

### FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

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



# TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

## HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT WRAP-UP

Twenty-four students and leaders went on the High School Fall Retreat to Little Grassy Camp in Makanda, IL. It was perfect fall weather for hiking, climbing, and other adventures!



Noah Durbin, Troy MC member and student at Asbury Theological Seminary, joined us as the devotion speaker for the weekend. He did a great job inviting students to think seriously about their faith, why they believe in Christ, and how a Christian lives. The worship and speaking times were great! Students also enjoyed watching "The Journey To Bethlehem" movie one night and closed out the weekend attending worship (and a surprise church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner) at Aldersgate Church in Marion, IL! Thanks to each leader and student who participated.

As a church family, we have the privilege to continually pray for our students and help disciple their faith.

(More retreat photos can be found at [facebook.com/troymethodiststudents](https://facebook.com/troymethodiststudents)).



## EXPLORE SERVING IN STUDENT MINISTRY

There are lots of opportunities to be a part of helping to shape the lives of the next generation! Here are some ways you can become involved:

- Serve a meal to the students one Wednesday night (as an individual or a group you're involved with).
- Be a summer camp sponsor—we will need two men and two women serving as chaperones for three different weeks of camps for children and students.
- Join us in small group ministry next semester and help lead a group of students weekly.
- Pray for the student ministry on Tuesday afternoons at 3:15 p.m.

Talk with Tim Price at [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org) to learn more about any of these opportunities!

### CONTACT

Tim - [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org)  
Ryan - [ryan@troymc.org](mailto:ryan@troymc.org)  
Courtney - [courtney@troymc.org](mailto:courtney@troymc.org)  
Wenifer - [wenifer@troymc.org](mailto:wenifer@troymc.org)

### WEBSITE

[troymc.org/students](https://troymc.org/students)

### FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

## A Thanks from Emelia McLeod Troy MC Student, Triad Class of 2023

"Hi Everyone!  
Thank you so much for the box of goodies!  
Thank you for the notes and prayers. God has definitely been moving in and around me at Xavier.

I have found a church home in Cincinnati and am part of a college-age bible study on Thursday nights. I miss you all. Let me know how I can pray for you.  
—Blessings, Emelia"



## DECEMBER STUDENT MINISTRY EVENTS

**Wednesday, 12/6**

Regular student ministry night

**Wednesday, 12/13**

Student Ministry Christmas Party - 6-8 p.m.



**Friday, 12/15**

**Game Night** - 6-11 p.m.

Everyone is invited as we play games and try to beat the longest nine square record we know of.

For more information, contact Ryan Froidcoeur at [ryan@troymc.org](mailto:ryan@troymc.org).

## DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- ★ Attend the Christmas production of "It's A Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Show"
- ★ Attend the Christmas concert
- ★ Attend worship each Sunday
- ★ Attend a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



**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 Koebe

**\*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](mailto:karen@troymc.org)

**Connect with us!**  
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## DECEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
December 2	Women's Christmas Brunch ( <i>see events page on our website</i> )
December 2	Troy Methodist Kids - Jingle Jam ( <i>see events page on our website</i> )
December 3	Troy Methodist Men Formation Meeting & Meal ( <i>page 4</i> )
December 6	Prayer, Worship & Healing Service ( <i>page 3</i> )
December 8-9	It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play ( <i>page 3</i> )
December 10	Saint Jacob Closing Service & Luncheon ( <i>see below</i> )
December 13	Troy Methodist Students - Christmas Party ( <i>page 7</i> )
December 14	Troy United Women in Faith Christmas Luncheon ( <i>page 4</i> )
December 15	Troy Methodist Students - Game Night ( <i>page 7</i> )
December 17	"He Comforts Us" - A Christmas Concert ( <i>page 3</i> )
December 17	College Students Christmas Gathering ( <i>page 5</i> )
December 24	Christmas Eve Services ( <i>see front page</i> )

### SAINT JACOB CLOSING SERVICE AND LUNCHEON Sunday, December 10

Our Saint Jacob worshipers will be having a final service to celebrate its rich history and kingdom fruitfulness since 1879, when the first building was constructed.

Reverend Roger Russell, who served Saint Jacob Methodist when he was a senior at McKendree College in 1968-69, will return to preach at this special occasion. We invite anyone who has worshiped with the Saint Jacob congregation over the years to attend this meaningful closing worship service and luncheon.

For planning purposes, please RSVP your attendance for lunch to Sharie Meyer at (618) 667-6241 or [sharie@troymc.org](mailto:sharie@troymc.org).

#### Closing Service Schedule

**11:00 a.m.** – Closing worship service  
preached by Rev. Roger Russell

**12:00 p.m.** – Luncheon (please RSVP)

**1:00 p.m.** – A time of sharing memories  
and singing Christmas carols



# REACH

Troy Methodist Church  
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troymc.org

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