



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 12**

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Pause:
SLOW DOWN TO RECEIVE *More*



PAUSE: SLOW DOWN TO RECEIVE MORE

For most of us, the stretch between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the busiest, most chaotic time of the year. Our to-do lists get so long it sometimes feels like just one more thing will raise the water level enough to drown us. It's not like the things that occupy us are bad; there is just so much that we find ourselves running faster and faster only to crash and burn when the last present is exchanged and the final family meal is finished. We just don't want to miss out on all the fun and meaningful things during this most wonderful time of the year!

But what if we've got it backwards? What if by doing more we actually receive less of what God has to give us? This Christmas, you're invited to hit *Pause* and slow down to receive more!

November 30: *Pause to Seek* - Matthew 2:1-6

December 7: *Pause to Reconsider* - Matthew 1:18-25

December 14: *Pause to Surrender* - Luke 1:26-38

December 21: *Pause to Hope* - Luke 2:21-38

December 24: *Pause to Celebrate* - Luke 2:1-20

December 28: *Pause to Pray* - Romans 12:9-21

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

2:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center and online
(Kids Ministry & nursery available)

6:00 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center

11:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary and online

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP GENERATOR

An Opportunity for YOU!

You're invited to learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and live into your calling! Over the last three years, 40 Troy Methodist Church members have completed the **Spiritual Leadership Generator**, a process for developing everyday followers of Jesus into spiritual leaders. I would love for YOU to join the ranks!

I participated in our first year of SLG, but the curriculum has been updated and streamlined, so I'm looking forward to participating again. Would you join me? 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:

- 4 newly designed modules over 8 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 31, 2026 (9:30 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, two-semester course is \$795, we are only asking you to invest \$350. The rest will be offered through a scholarship from our church's leadership development budget.

Please contact me at andy@troymc.org if you would like to participate! I am praying for 20 people to join me for this life-changing journey together. Yes, that means YOU! Read more at troymc.org/slq

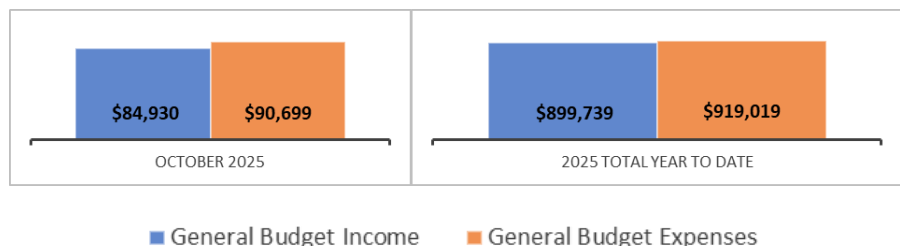
Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	October Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	114	120
9:00 a.m. - Online	144	146
10:30 a.m. - In Person	150	164
10:30 a.m. - Online	118	127
Sunday Children	58	59
Wednesday Youth	64	50
Average Weekly In Person Worship	385	399
Average Weekly Online Worship	262	273

General Budget



ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

This year our Angel Tree tradition continues with the following angels to choose from:

RED ANGEL: Gift Cards for Safe Families host families
BLUE ANGEL: Gift Cards for Ministries Unlimited

There are TWO deadlines this year:

- Safe Families gift cards are due back by **Wednesday, December 10**
- Ministries Unlimited gift cards are due back by **Christmas Eve**



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 collecting \$25 gift cards for Safe Families host families from Panera, Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's, Walmart, Target, Aldi, Walgreens, or gas stations. We will also collect \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100 grocery gift cards from Walmart, Schnucks, Aldi, or Pete's Market for Ministries Unlimited patrons.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org. Thank you for giving generously to bless families in our community!

Community Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 22 @ 12:45 pm



COME OUT AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

*Monday, December 22, 12:45 p.m.,
Upper Family Life Center*

Do you like to sing Christmas songs and share the joy of the season with others? Well, do I have an opportunity for you!

On Monday, December 22, we will be caroling at three area care facilities and spreading Christmas cheer! We will meet in the Upper Family Life Center and depart for the first location at 12:45 p.m. Music sheets of familiar songs will be given out that day, and we will easily be able to sing together.

This event will take approximately 2 hours, but the joy you share will last for days to come! If you would like to come, just show up! Everyone of every age is welcome to be a part of this day! If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

Each Sunday morning, we have a team of 50+ volunteers who provide hospitality to our members, attenders, and guests in a variety of ways. From greeting people with a smile to making coffee for the masses, we work to make Sunday mornings an experience where the love of Christ is experienced in all we do.

The holiday season is a great time to join a team and be a part of sharing that love! Whether you are an extrovert or would rather work behind the scenes, there is something for everyone. Each volunteer commits, on average, to help once a month, or you could volunteer extra if you would like to do more! If you would like to sign up or have questions, please contact Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

SERVE & CONNECT

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday, December 6, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Family Life Center

Hope
Romans 15:13

Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 6
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

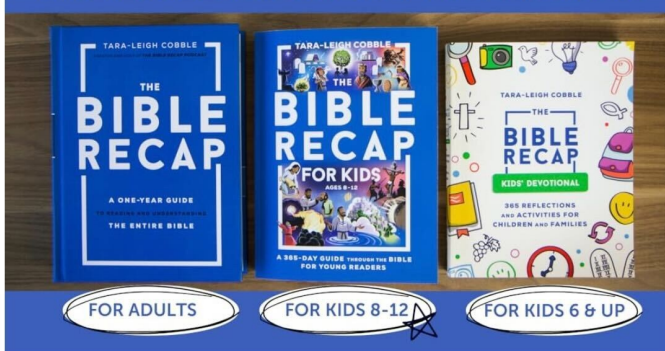
troymc.org/events

This Advent season, join us for a morning of community, inspiration, and refreshment! Along with a delicious brunch, the event will be filled with beautiful music by our very own Marissa Rushik and an inspirational message by special guest, Valerie Johnson. Val is a powerful and encouraging speaker who loves Jesus Christ!

Tickets are \$15 and on sale after Sunday services and in the church office through December 3.

Contact Deb Ellis at debsellis@sbcglobal.net with questions.

THE BIBLE RECAP IS FOR ALL AGES



THE BIBLE RECAP Starting January 1, 2026

Starting January 1, you are invited to journey through the Bible in a year as a family! Pastor Bonnie, her son Micah, and YOU can go on this journey together!

We will have a Facebook group for encouragement and interactions. Buy the books your family needs and let's go on this journey together!

Questions, email Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

TMW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 11, 11:30 a.m., Bella Milano

Joy to the World! The Troy Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Bella Milano, Edwardsville. The cost remains at \$20 per person for buffet lunch, plus drink and dessert. Pastor Bonnie will give our Christmas devotional.

Please reserve your seat today by emailing Becky Rushing at rushing1@sbcglobal.net or calling (618)792-0020. For more information on our ladies' mission group, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618)954-6263.

WORSHIP CIRCLE

Friday, December 5, 6:30 p.m., Upper Family Life Center

Join us for the next Worship Circle as we make music to the Lord together! This will be a time of helping each other grow in musicianship, so bring your instrument - but most importantly, bring your heart of praise and worship to the Lord as we experiment with different ways to encounter him in musical worship.

Questions, email Marissa, Director of Worship Arts, at marissa@troymc.org.



CONNECT

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m., Family Life Center

You are invited to attend our Troy Methodist Church Christmas Concert 2025 on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This event features TMC's Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, soloists, and readers - all comprised of volunteers from within our church family.

Refreshments will be shared immediately following the concert. Everyone is invited to join us, free of charge, to share in this musical celebration of the Christmas season!

If you have questions regarding either the Christmas Concert or the Traditional Music Program at Troy Methodist Church, you may reach out to Rebecca Koebbe via email at rebecca@troymc.org.



CONNECT LUNCH COMING SOON Sunday, December 7, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Upper Family Life Center

If you are new to our church family, we want to welcome you and provide you with an opportunity to connect! On Sunday, December 7, 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. 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 our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.

J.O.Y. SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+)

During the month of December, the **J.O.Y. Seekers** take a break from our regular meeting schedule.

For several years, Gerry Lentz has reserved a number of tickets for the **Holiday Brass Concert** held at Manchester UMC in St. Louis. *(Below is a picture of some of our group that went last year. I believe all tickets are now sold)*

Our planning team for J.O.Y. Seekers anticipates another great year in 2026. We continue to be a blessing to our senior citizens. Our planning team is looking into several different ideas for 2026. Some

include: Marcoot Creamery, personal testimonies, a program of Sue Suhre's Israel trip, a program for aging, and much more.



TROY METHODIST KIDS

GINGERBREAD BASH

Sunday, December 7, 4:00-6:00 p.m.,
Family Life Center

Get ready for one sweet Christmas adventure! Join us for Gingerbread Bash, a fun, family event where you'll build a gingerbread nativity, decorate your own gingerbread person, play games, and discover how we can all be part of God's Christmas story.

This isn't a drop-off event — it's designed for families to enjoy together! Bring your creativity, your sweet tooth, and your Christmas spirit!



WINTER SEASON PRAYER FOCUS FOR KIDS

By Jenn Diliberto

Can you believe we're already at the end of the year?

Thank you for continuing to pray for your "bookmarked" kids - your prayers matter more than you know! As we move into the Christmas and winter season, here are five simple ways you can be praying for our kids in the weeks ahead.

1. Joy That Lasts

Scripture: *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* - Nehemiah 8:10

Prayer Focus: Pray that each child finds true joy that doesn't depend on gifts, grades, or activities - but on knowing Jesus. Ask God to fill their hearts with His joy, even when the days grow colder and darker.

2. Peace in Every Heart

Scripture: *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* - Philippians 4:7

Prayer Focus: Pray for God's peace to fill kids' hearts - especially in busy homes, during exams, or when changing schedules. Ask that they know they can talk to God when they feel worried or stressed.

3. Gratitude in All Things

Scripture: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Prayer Focus: Pray that kids will learn to be thankful - not just for presents and parties - but for God's love, family, and the little blessings each day.

4. Generous Hearts

Scripture: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* - Acts 20:35

Prayer Focus: Pray that kids will have hearts that look for ways to give - whether through kind words, helping a friend, or sharing with someone in need.

5. Growing Closer to Jesus

Scripture: *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* - 2 Peter 3:18

Prayer Focus: Pray that through the Christmas story and the new year ahead, each child grows in knowing who Jesus is and how much He loves them.

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

STUDENT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Upper Family Life Center

All 6th-12th grade students are invited to the Student Ministry Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

We will have food, fun, and celebrate the gift of Jesus in our lives! Invite friends.



STUDENT MINISTRY MEALS IN 2026

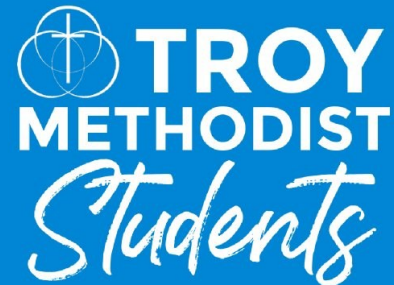
You may not know that each Wednesday evening someone from our church provides a meal for the Student Ministry dinner. It has been awesome to have so many faithful people help provide great meals for the ministry!

If you like to make food (or order and serve it), we invite you to sign up now for the spring semester. You can make a meal happen on your own or with your family, with a group of friends, a journey group, or ministry team. Follow the QR code below for signup.



If you haven't already, text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000.

And don't forget to follow @troymethodiststudents on Facebook and Instagram.



PRAISE THE LORD

We want to praise the Lord for the many students who have been attending Student Ministry this year. We're praying for each one as they encounter Christ and grow as disciples.

Praise the Lord for our small but mighty team of volunteers who serve in student ministry on a weekly basis and at many special events. Your investment of time and heart is leaving a powerful legacy in the next generation.

STAFF UPDATE

Wenifer Greer, who has led the Troy Methodist Church Middle School Ministry for the last 2 1/2 years, has stepped down from her role on the team.

We are grateful for the ways she's led, helped shape the ministry, and poured her time into young lives. We're praying a blessing on Wenifer as God leads her in her next endeavor. Our student ministry leadership will be assessing the needs of the ministry in the next few weeks to determine the next steps.

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org

Ryan - ryan@troymc.org

Courtney - courtney@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

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[@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
Amy Burrelsman

***Preschool Liaison**
Lisa Rayle

***Choirs Coordinator**
Rebecca Koebbe

***Director of Worship Arts**
Marissa Rushik

***Children's Ministry Leader**
Jenn Diliberto

***Communications Coordinator**
Tracey Berkemeier

***Production Coordinator**
Josh Case

Administrative Assistants
Chris Boemecke, Kathy Hahn

***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Courtney Froidcoeur

***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Ryan Froidcoeur

Custodians
Jacob Baum, Bruce Jackson

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

To contact our Administrative Assistants,
use admin@troymc.org

To contact 1st Step Learning Center, use
1ststep@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!
[@troymethodistchurch](https://www.instagram.com/troymethodistchurch)



DECEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
December 5	Worship Circle (page 4)
December 6	Women's Christmas Brunch (page 4)
December 7	Connect Lunch (page 5)
December 7	Gingerbread Bash (page 6)
December 10	Student Ministry - Christmas Party (page 7)
December 11	TMW Women's Luncheon (page 4)
December 14	Christmas Concert (page 5)
December 22	Community Christmas Caroling (page 4)
December 24	Christmas Eve Services (page 1)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAN

As we continue through Advent, I'm reminded that one of the greatest gifts we give is the gift of love and care. December is filled with celebration and joy, yet it can also be a challenging month for those who are grieving, ill, or feeling alone. I'm deeply thankful for the way this church family steps up with compassion and kindness.

Your calls, cards, visits, meals, and prayers reflect the heart of Jesus in such tangible ways. You brighten days, lift spirits, and remind others they're not forgotten. That is the love of Christ in action!

Let's continue to shine His light this Christmas season. If you know someone who could use encouragement or support, please reach out, we're here to walk with them.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with peace, hope, joy and the warmth of God's love.

Pastor Dan – Care Ministry



REACH

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