



# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**FEBRUARY 2024**  
**VOLUME 36 • ISSUE 2**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Message from Pastor Andy	P. 2
Strategic Stats	P. 2
Serve	P. 3
Serve & Connect	P. 4-5
Troy Methodist Kids	P. 6
Troy Methodist Students	P. 7
February Schedule Highlights	Back Page

# ACTS

## Part Four: The Way

In February we will conclude our latest study in the book of Acts learning from the missionary journeys of Paul and his companions as they travel throughout the known world sharing about The Way – what it means to follow Jesus and how to live in the Kingdom of God. Join us each Sunday **and a special \*Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary** as we find relevant application for their teaching today as we also follow *The Way*!

**February 4:** Acts 17:1-34 – Common Ground

**February 11:** Acts 18:1-28 – Companions

**\*February 14:** Acts 19:1-41 – Impact

**February 18:** Acts 20:1-38 – Farewells

*\*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 Days (not including Sundays) of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time of repentance and “putting to death” those things that often distract us from putting our full attention on Jesus so our lives can have greater impact for God’s Kingdom. You’re invited to join us for worship, scripture reflection, and the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary on February 14 at 6:30 p.m.*



## 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*

## FIRE-UP 2024



## CORNERSTONE

## FIRE-UP SUNDAY February 25

Guest speaker,  
Pastor DJ Dangerfield,  
will be speaking at both  
morning worship services.

*(See page 4 for additional  
Fire-Up weekend details)*

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## WHAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO FOR OUR CHURCH IN 2024

It's been a while since I've been as excited to start a new year as I am for 2024! The last several years have been filled with the challenges of COVID and denominational turmoil, and I'm sure this year will have its own challenges; but I'm expecting God to do great things in us and through us in 2024. I'm prayerfully anticipating this will be a year marked with:

**Growth** – Of course we would all love to see our church continue to grow numerically but the growth I'm speaking of is in US! I have been seeing amazing spiritual growth happening in our kids, students, and participants in journey groups, bands, and our Spiritual Leadership Generator. I anticipate a deepening of our love for God and neighbor catalyzed by our commitment to discipleship. If you want to be part of that growth, join a group in 2024!

**Ministry** – Everything we do is ministry, but I'm specifically referring to our commitment to providing a few Sundays in 2024 where we will have extended times of ministry – prayer, worship, healing, and testimony. We experienced this on our first Sunday in 2024 and those who were present were blessed beyond measure. Let's look forward to God moving in supernatural ways in our worship this year!

**Outreach** – I am prayerfully trusting God to make us feel an urgency around our mission of inviting people on a journey with Jesus. Who can you invite to experience the presence of God and be transformed? Lord, break our hearts for those who are on the outside, and move us to action to INVITE people to join us in worship this year!

**Baptisms** – As God grows us and brings healing and transformation, I believe it will result in more and more of us, young and old, making public commitments to follow Jesus through baptism or remembering our baptism. Is this your year to publicly declare your commitment or recommitment to follow Christ? I've seen several students take that bold step recently. That's only the beginning!

**Connection** – God has blessed us with a growing connection of other Global Methodist Churches. This year in April, Bonnie and I will join with hundreds of other pastors from our Great Lakes conference for a clergy gathering. In June we will send representatives to our Annual Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University. In September, the GMC will host its first General Conference in Costa Rica. I can't wait for this year of connection where we can unite and spur one another on to greater mission and ministry together!

**Hope** – I also anticipate that God will breathe new hope into us this year as we participate in the life of Troy Methodist Church. It's time for a renewal of our hearts and passion for Jesus. As God renews us, I expect that one of the first things we'll experience is great hope for the future, just like he's done for me in anticipation of 2024!

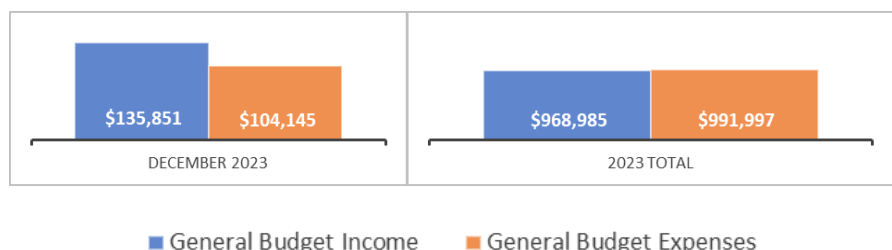
Faithfully,

Andy

## STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	December Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	117	115
9:00 a.m. - Online	155	138
10:30 a.m. - In Person	163	161
10:30 a.m. - Online	130	111
Sunday Children	53	49
Wednesday Youth	37	35
St. Jacob 10:15 a.m.	26	7
*Worship, Prayer, & Healing Service- 12/6	12	
*Christmas Eve Candlelight- Total In Person	638	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	492	387
Average Weekly Online Worship	285	247

### General Budget



## 2023 MISSIONAL GIVING

Troy Methodist Church has dedicated 10% of all income throughout the year to go towards missional giving, and we are able to give generously to so many ministries, organizations, and relief efforts because of your generous support through tithes and offerings. The Mission Team is proud to share that we supported the following initiatives in 2023:

### General Missional Giving

Seminary Student Tuition Assistance: \$3000.00  
Harvest Ministries: \$2500.00  
Sew Much Joy: \$2029.40  
Midwest Mission Food Pack: \$15,093.01  
31 Days of Kindness Initiative: \$100.00 + countless hours of kindness!  
Red Bird Mission Trip: \$6375.00  
Safe Families for Children: \$500.00  
Upward Basketball Project: paper products for three area pantries

### Easter Offering

Equipping the Called: \$1299.00

### Holiday Giving Events

Angel Tree: Liberty Village: \$341.01 in monetary donations and 90 Gift Bags worth of donations  
Angel Tree: Safe Families: \$1760 in Gift Cards  
Operation Christmas Child Soccer Balls: \$285.75  
Operation Christmas Child Boxes: 289 boxes  
Share Thanksgiving Meals: 50 meals

### Christmas Offering

New Global Methodist Church Plant in Bloomington Normal Area - \$25,749.00

### Missionary Partners

Josh & Lisa Inman: \$6000.00  
Matt Henson: \$6000.00  
CRU Missionary Couple: \$6000.00



## THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Every week our church office gets phone calls from individuals in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. Requests for rent assistance, utility help, gasoline, and grocery gift cards are just a few of the ways that our Financial Assistance Fund helps to alleviate some of the stress in the lives of others. Right now our Financial Assistance Fund is low, and we are having to turn people away who are in need. Please consider donating to help others at this time. You can do so by writing a check or giving online. Simply write a check to: Troy Methodist Church with the Memo Line: Financial Assistance Fund. If you have questions or would like to know more about the fund or other mission opportunities, feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## MIDWEST MISSION FOOD PACK EVENT – SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for this UPCOMING SPRING EVENT! We will be doing our annual food packing event on Saturday, March 23! More details will come out as we get closer, but we wanted to make sure you had the date down. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get involved. Your family could be a table, your band, a journey group, or we can place you at a table with others to meet new people. This service opportunity is for all ages: toddlers (3+) to adults (90+). We'd love to see you be a part of this day! Look for more details to come in the weekly eReach.

Got questions? Feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org)





# SERVE & CONNECT

## UPWARD SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Don't forget to check the weekly eReach to sign up to serve in a variety of capacities during our Upward basketball and cheerleading outreach. This is a great opportunity to meet and serve the families of our 216 basketball players and 24 cheerleaders registered!

Remaining games take place the first three Saturdays in February and March! Please contact Tyson Graham at [upward@troymc.org](mailto:upward@troymc.org) or look for sign up links in the weekly eReach or in the Troy MC Living Room Facebook group!



United  
Women  
in Faith

*Let the Love of God fill your heart  
and spill out onto everyone you meet this month.*

The Troy UWF February 8th meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. at the Troy Cedarhurst Assisted Living Community located at 39 Dorothy Drive. After greeting and sharing Valentine cards & gifts with the residents, we will gather in the TMC Family Life Center for our monthly meeting. The meeting should start around 1:45 p.m.



February 23-25, 2024 | [fire-up.org](http://fire-up.org)

## FIRE-UP - THE 28TH YEAR!

Fire-Up is a weekend conference for high school students from around the region. The emphasis for the weekend is worship, preaching, prayer, small groups, seminars, community, and fun.

The weekend is February 23-25, and DJ Dangerfield (Chanute, KS) is the preacher. For that Sunday, DJ will be preaching in the 9:00 a.m. service as well as the 10:30 a.m. closing Fire-Up service. Everyone from Troy Methodist is welcome to come that day. For any high school students who want to register, please visit the student ministry website or talk with Ryan and Courtney Froidcoeur.

If you would like to help make the weekend great, talk with Tim Price at [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org) about any of these serving opportunities:

- **Pray** for the weekend (text PRAY4FIRE to 618-243-7476)
- **Donate** any of these things the week before the event:
  - ◇ Bottled water
  - ◇ Individual bags of chips
  - ◇ Prepackaged snacks
  - ◇ Cans of soft drinks
  - ◇ Cash for these things (*if that's easier for you*)
- **Sign up** to be a greeter / security person for a shift during the weekend

The theme of Fire-Up is **CORNERSTONE**. The purpose of the event is to help students encounter Jesus and grow in faith as they follow him all their lives! Fire-Up has been going each year since 1997, and thousands of students

# SERVE & CONNECT

## Membership Class & Lunch

Sunday, February 11 @ 11:45 a.m.  
Upper Family Life Center



### MAKING THE MOVE TO MEMBERSHIP

As we begin the New Year we each have the opportunity to go deeper in our faith and commit to God and our church family in new ways. One way to do so for you might be by becoming a member of Troy Methodist! On February 11, we will have our first Membership Class of the New Year. If you haven't been to a Membership Class, you might be wondering what that entails; well, I'm glad you asked! Membership Class is an opportunity to learn about what it means to be a committed part of our church community. In Membership Class you learn about our deep Wesleyan faith and what it means to be Methodist. You also discover

what makes Troy Methodist unique. It is an awesome opportunity to ask questions both theological and logistical about what it means to join our Global Methodist Church family.

You see, being a member of the congregation that you call your church home is a way to say – I'm all in! In Membership Class you learn about the importance of committing to uphold our church with your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. There's no pressure to join during our time together, but there will be the opportunity if you feel so led. So, my invitation to you is to just come! If you have been attending our church for a few weeks or many, many years, I would LOVE to see you come and join me! Lunch will be provided, and we will have childcare upon request. If you have questions feel free to email me at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

Sign up and come sit by me – I'll save you a seat!

*Bonnie*



### JOY SEEKERS (55+)

**Tuesday, February 27 at noon**

For our February JOY SEEKERS lunch, we will once again be blessed with the musical talents of the 60s Chicks Show Choir, featuring our very own Libby Gregg. This month's theme is "LOVE"!

Call the church office (618-667-6241) to register. (We ask for a \$10 per person donation to cover expenses)



### ONGOING TRADITIONAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

If you are an instrumentalist of any kind, there are opportunities throughout the year for both soloists and ensemble participation. If you are a pianist who would like to have an opportunity to be involved in the traditional music experience, reach out to Rebecca!

We are always ready to welcome new members to join us in our Chancel Choir! Chancel is our primary adult vocal ensemble. We usually sing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month during the choral year (Sept-May), and practice on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. On the occasional Wednesday that there is a special service in the Sanctuary, we rehearse in the choir room. Out of consideration for those who would like to participate in the special service, we end rehearsal early on those dates.

Adult Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:45 p.m. We generally play on the 2nd Sunday of each month during the choral year. On special service Wednesdays we begin rehearsal immediately after the service ends — usually around 7:30 or 7:45 p.m. — and conclude at 8:45 p.m. as usual.

Rebecca puts together smaller vocal ensembles as well as solo opportunities throughout the year. If you are interested, please reach out! We would love to welcome you and get to know you! Our ensembles are wonderfully supportive groups of people who both care and share their talent freely. It truly is a family environment!

Rebecca Koebbe's contact info:  
Email: [rebecca@troymc.org](mailto:rebecca@troymc.org)  
Cell: 217-320-8802





# TROY METHODIST KIDS

## FOCUS ON GOD'S LOVE THIS MONTH

*By Jenn Diliberto*

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. It can be a great opportunity for Christian families to focus on love and express gratitude for God's love. Traditionally, this one day of the year shows how much love there is in the world. But what happens after the chocolate is eaten and the flowers wilt? And should we even celebrate this day?

We should celebrate because God created us to love, to express that love to others, and to receive love. He set the greatest example of love, giving up His only son for us. Romans 5:8 shows us "...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Because of His great love for us, we should share that love as well. After all, the Word says in John 13:35 that the world will know us by our love for one another. Scripture overflows with references to God's great, enduring, and abounding love. 1 John 4, for example, details the depth of God's love and his commandment to **love others**. Valentine's Day gives us that opportunity to show love to not just family but to friends, neighbors, and more.

Now that we know why we should celebrate this day, how do you create Valentine's Day traditions that will have a longer-lasting impact on your family and the people around you? Here are just a few ways we can make an impact on not just our own families but the community around us.

- ✦ Gather as a family and read scriptures that speak about love and God's love for us
- ✦ Rethink gifts. Valentine's gifts should never just be about buying something for the sake of buying something. Scripture says that we should not store up earthly treasures (Matthew 6:19-21). Make this about the heart-to-heart expressions that build intimacy and connection. That means handmade cards, extra time together, or massages. If you must buy a gift, choose it using the GIFT test: does it create more Gratitude, Insight or Intimacy, Fondness, and Trust between you? Otherwise, is it to impress or 'spoil' someone?
- ✦ Create handmade Valentine's Day cards and share them with family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers with messages of love and encouragement. One of my favorite ways to do this is to give someone a "Heart Attack." In the days leading up to Valentine's Day, leave a love note on your child's (or loved one's) bedroom doors every day. Make sure that the notes are character traits and specific things that you love about that person. By the 14th, their door is covered with reasons you love that special person!
- ✦ Tuck little construction paper hearts with love notes into your family member's backpack, lunch, or jacket pocket for them to find throughout the day. Leave little surprises for your friends or coworkers.
- ✦ Plan a special Valentine's Day dinner instead of going out to a busy restaurant. After dinner, you could go to church as a family or consider volunteering with the Youth at church. (Valentine's Day falls on Wednesday night this year)

Showing love needn't be that involved. Call someone you haven't talked to in a while, send a greeting card, hold a door open, or even listen with a compassionate ear and heart—all these gestures communicate and show love. Remember the marginalized people; think about the lonely elderly neighbor, the struggling widow, the discontent teen, or someone from your church who may be lonely and enjoy some cheering up.

This upcoming Valentine's Day, consider the endless possibilities. Make new traditions that can have a lasting impact all year long. Let your words and actions flow from a Christ-filled heart. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. (1 John 4:7)

Kids Ministry hosted a PJ Movie Day on December 31.

The kids enjoyed their cozy pj's, breakfast and a movie!



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

### 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)

# TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

## 2024 SUMMER CAMPS & MISSION TRIPS

Summer Camps & Mission  
Trips Family Meeting  
**Monday, February 5 at  
6:00 pm** in the Sanctuary.

*for parents and students  
both middle school and high school*

All families and students are invited and encouraged to join us for this informational meeting. We know summer calendars and vacation planning starts now and we want to give the best possible chance for as many of our students to experience the life-changing effects of summer ministry trips! We believe that many students will encounter Jesus in amazing ways as they serve in mission and as they participate in church camp! During our meeting, we will share about each of the trips; details, costs, payment plans, scholarships, mission trip application, expectations, and answer your questions. Contact Tim Price [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org) for more information.

One of the best ways to stay connected  
is to subscribe to the  
Troy Student Ministry texting!  
**TROYSTUDENTS to 94000**



Fire-Up weekend will be held February 23-25, and we're praying for fruit in the lives of high school students as they encounter Jesus during the spiritual emphasis. Students from around the region will be joining together for worship, preaching, small groups, meals, and community.

TMC high school students can register with Ryan and Courtney. If you know high school students outside of our church, they can visit the website, [fire-up.org](http://fire-up.org).



Our students joined together with lots of others at Mount Joy Baptist Church in Edwardsville and had an amazing morning of worship, music, preaching, and serving on Martin Luther King, Jr. day.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH AND SERVE DAY Sunday, February 11 - 10:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

After we attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service together, we will make cards, share a meal (bring a sack lunch), and go share God's love at an area retirement home. All middle school students are invited - it will be a great afternoon!

## TWEEN EVENT

**Tween Times**, a short-term gathering for 4th and 5th grade girls, will be held at Troy Methodist Church each Wednesday during the month of February.

This group, led by Jennifer Zahn, will meet from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings to talk, read scripture, do fun activities and grow in faith.

Meeting nights will be February 7, 14, 21, and 28.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jennifer Zahn at [tiergirl@gmail.com](mailto:tiergirl@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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](mailto:karen@troymc.org)

**Connect with us!**  
@troymethodistchurch



## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
February 5	Troy Methodist Students - Summer Camps & Trips Meeting ( <i>page 7</i> )
February 8	Troy United Women in Faith February Meeting ( <i>page 4</i> )
February 11	Membership Class & Lunch ( <i>page 5</i> )
February 11	Troy Methodist Students - Middle School Lunch & Serve Day ( <i>page 7</i> )
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service ( <i>front page</i> )
February 23-25	Fire-Up Senior High Conference ( <i>front cover, pages 4 &amp; 7</i> )
February 27	Joy Seekers February Meeting ( <i>page 5</i> )



### TROY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Gardening gives us the opportunity to see God at work in creation. How can we NOT believe in a Creator when we watch a plant grow from a tiny seed and then bloom into a beautiful flower or healthy vegetable. Yes, we plant that seed in the ground, maybe fertilize it and water it from time to time when it doesn't rain; but beyond that God does the work. What's exciting is that we get to be a part of God's work! We get to partner with the Creator!

Starting this month you can watch for the development of our very own Troy Community Garden. This garden project is a labor of love birthed from the desire to see individuals and families of every age engage with creation and learn the benefits of healthy food and hard work. We are excited about the many possibilities to serve our church family and our community through this garden project.

We invite you to consider donating to this project today. Checks can be written out to Troy Methodist Church with Memo Line: Troy Community Garden. Additionally, the garden will have raised beds measuring 4 ft x 10 ft x 2 ft that you can utilize by renting out a bed for a season. Your family, journey group, band, or other group might consider renting a bed together. You also could rent out a bed as a gift to a group, organization, or family. The possibilities are endless! For more information please contact Dottie Dexheimer at [dondotdex@att.net](mailto:dondotdex@att.net) or by calling 618-206-8021.

Don't know how to garden? The Troy Library will be hosting classes on gardening led by local Master Gardeners. Dates for classes are: Thursdays during March at 6:00 p.m. Sign up at the Library or go online to [www.troylibrary.org](http://www.troylibrary.org). Classes will cover such topics as: raised beds, herbs, vegetable gardening, attracting butterflies and birds.

**Enjoy being a kid again and plunge your hands into the soil.**



Troy Methodist Church  
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Troy, IL 62294  
troymc.org

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