



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

JANUARY 2023
VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 1

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**ONE
MONTH
TO
LIVE**

WHAT IF YOU FOUND OUT THAT YOU ONLY HAD ONE MONTH LEFT TO LIVE?

You would live it to the fullest – making every moment count!

So, why wait? Why not live everyday as if it may be your last? It's time to rearrange our priorities so we can live everyday of the rest of our lives with no regrets. Join us for this January sermon series as we experience God's best for us in 2023!

January 1 - The Dash
January 8 - No Regrets
January 15 - Relationship Revolution
January 22 - Making Your Mark
January 29 - Life After Life



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*

Membership Vote on Disaffiliation
January 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
See pages 2 & 3 for details!

A MESSAGE FROM CHURCH LEADERSHIP

AN UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership Vote on Disaffiliation from UMC--January 22, 2023

Church Family,

BACKGROUND: As you know from our June 17, 2022 letter, the Church Council formed a Transition Team last year to review various options for our church related to the impending United Methodist Church (UMC) split. On June 14 (after months of meetings, information gathering, conversations and prayer), the Transition Team recommended to the Church Council that we seek disaffiliation from the UMC and potential affiliation with the Global Methodist Church (GMC). The Church Council approved both recommendations unanimously, understanding that the final decision lies with the Troy UMC membership. In addition, the Church Council formed a Disaffiliation Team to represent us in discussions with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) regarding specifics of disaffiliation from the UMC.

The Church Council didn't take these actions lightly. For many of us, the UMC has been our denominational home for years. We've accomplished much good as part of the UMC family and potential departure from the UMC involves a sense of loss. Nonetheless, the broader UMC is trending in a direction that challenges our faith convictions as a church body and allows practices that conflict with UMC doctrine as currently stated in the UMC Book of Discipline. We are convinced the future vision of the UMC denomination is not the future we would want for Troy United Methodist Church. On the other hand, we are excited about potential affiliation with the GMC, which would affirm our faith convictions and represent a compelling vision for future discipleship and evangelism. The GMC lines up strongly with our current faith practices and ministry at Troy UMC.

NEW INFORMATION: For months, our Disaffiliation Team waited for the Conference to meet with us to discuss costs and other terms of disaffiliation. We recognize the waiting was frustrating for everyone. The good news is our Disaffiliation Team and the Conference Team finally met on December 11th and agreed on a total exit cost of \$643,437 (of which \$224,712 has already been paid or budgeted for 2023). The cost breakdown is as follows:

Apportionments (2022 = \$119,028; 2023 = \$105,684)
Unfunded Pension Liability (\$371,051)
Property and Assets (\$47,674)

Note: The 2022 apportionments have already been paid, leaving a balance due of \$524,409. The 2023 apportionments are budgeted for next year and would have to be paid whether we stay or leave the UMC. After subtracting all the apportionments, the additional cost to disaffiliate is actually **\$418,725**, which is substantially lower than we expected when we began this process back in June. The bulk of this remaining amount consists of unfunded pension liability, much of which we would pay over several years if we remain in the UMC. When disaffiliating, we have to pay this cost up front. Finally, by disaffiliating from the UMC our church will own all our property, buildings and financial assets—which the Conference currently owns and holds in trust.

Having reached an agreement with the Conference on terms of disaffiliation, we have scheduled a date/time/location of **Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center** for a church vote on disaffiliation from the UMC. If disaffiliation is approved, we will then hold a vote on affiliation with the GMC. Disaffiliation from the UMC requires a 2/3 vote for approval. Affiliation with the GMC requires a majority vote for approval. To be eligible to vote, you must be present and a member of Troy UMC. Each church member will receive official notification of the date/time/location of the vote. Childcare will be available during the church conference. RSVP to Christine@troyumc.org.

PREPARATION FOR THE VOTE: We have updated the FAQs, which provide a lot of useful information and answer many questions. We strongly encourage you to read them at <http://troyumc.org/faq>

In addition, everyone is invited to come to one of two informational meetings to ask questions and understand the specifics of leaving the UMC and aligning with the GMC (meeting details provided separately in this newsletter).

Whereas the informational meetings are question & answer sessions, members may also sign up for a small discussion forum for an opportunity to express feelings and opinions (forum details provided separately in this newsletter).

Finally, we urge you to be in prayer for the long-awaited church vote and the future of our church.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

How to Prepare for this Important Vote

"When are we going to vote?" That's been the number one question I've received over the last 6 months! Well, the time is finally upon us for you, our membership, to determine the future direction of our local church. Our leaders have been working behind the scenes in some form or fashion to prepare for this vote since 2018. That prayerful preparation culminated in June with our church council unanimously affirming disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church and affiliation with the Global Methodist Church. Now that an agreement has been reached with our conference, the matter is in your hands. I simply want to offer three things that can help you prepare you for our congregational vote on **Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Family Life Center.**

Attend an **Informational Meeting**: All members and attenders are invited to learn more at one of our two Informational Meetings. These meetings will include a presentation from our transition team on disaffiliation from the UMC and affiliation with the GMC, as well as time for questions and answers. These meetings are purely informational and are not designed to be opportunities to make personal statements about the matters at hand.

- **Sunday, January 8** at 3:30 p.m. (recorded for members who are unable to attend either meeting – email Tim@troyumc.org to receive a link to that recording)
- **Sunday, January 15** at 3:30 p.m.

Sign up for a **Discussion Forum**: Any member or regular attender of Troy UMC who desires to share his/her feelings or opinions in a personal statement is invited to sign up for one of (at least) four discussion forums in the Sanctuary. These forums are each limited to 25 people to allow for anyone, and everyone present to share their heart. I will be present along with members of our leadership to listen and have open discussion. Call the church office (618-667-6241) or go online to www.troyumc.org/faq to register for a spot. These are first come, first serve. Please only sign up for one forum. If demand is high, we will offer more!

- **Monday, January 9** at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 12** at 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 16** at 10:00 a.m.
- **Monday, January 16** at 2:00 p.m.

Finally, I invite you join in a **Season of Prayer and Fasting**. Let us all seek God for direction ahead of this important vote by:

- Fasting from food one day each week between now and January 22
- Praying this daily prayer: "Lord, lead us into the future you intend for our church."

Throughout the next few weeks, you will receive encouragement from our prayer team led by council members, Wenifer Greer and Rita Brandt, as we open our hearts to God's direction for our church.

Faithfully,

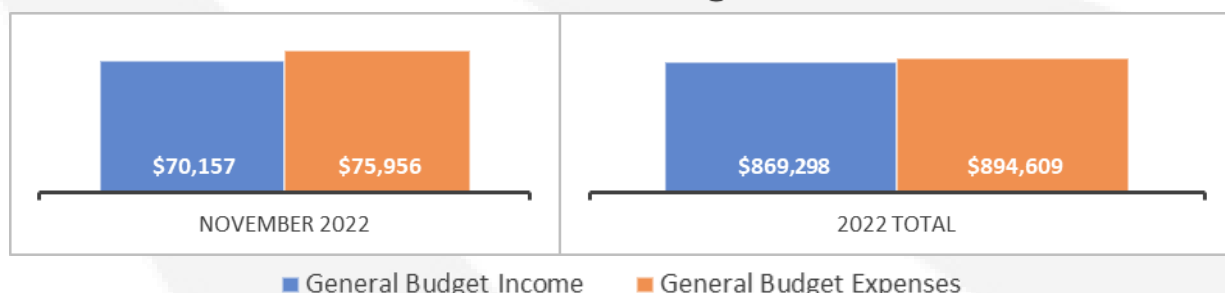
Andy



Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Andy Adams

STRATEGIC STATS

General Budget



SERVE



Share Thanksgiving, Operation Christmas Child, and Angel Tree Giving

Our church family blessed the lives of over 100 senior citizens and children through our Angel Tree this year. We gave 226 boxes filled to the brim with goodies to Operation Christmas Child. At Thanksgiving we distributed dozens of Thanksgiving meals to individuals and families in our community. THANK YOU for showing up in such a mighty way and showering others with the love of Christ this holiday season!

Upward Serving Opportunities

Upward season is upon us, and we have record numbers of registrations! As a result, we are expanding our volunteer opportunities and hope you will help serve these nearly 240 kids and their families in one of the following ways:

- Concessions
- Greeting
- Scoreboard
- Emcee
- Refereeing



If you are available, we will train you! Games begin January 14 and continue every Saturday (except February 25) until March 11. Please contact Dawn Lambert at tumcupward@gmail.com or look for sign up links in the weekly eReach or in the Troy UMC Living Room Facebook group!

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP GENERATOR – A great investment for 2023!

Learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and live into your calling!

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 5 people (we'll take a short summer break)
- 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 Friday, January 27th (tentatively 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with lunch at TUMC)**
- 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 Andy (andy@troyumc.org) if you would like to participate! We are praying for 40 of our leaders to invest in this life changing journey together. Yes, that means YOU! Read more at www.troyumc.org/SLG

CONNECT

New Sunday Morning Journey Group in the New Year!

Starting on January 8 there will be a new Sunday Morning Journey Group at 9:00 a.m. If you regularly attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service, this class is a great opportunity for you to be in community! The group will gather together in the Upper Family Life Center each week. The first week come prepared to get to know each other and decide together what the first study will be!

Women's Bible Study - New Study Starting January 12

Set in the midst of one of the most corrupt eras of Israelite history, Ruth is a story about three compelling characters: Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. In *The Epic of Eden: Ruth*, Dr. Sandra Richter makes each of these characters come alive. Participants in this study will be challenged as they see themselves in these characters and find themselves faced with many of the same questions and challenges. Here is real life, lived out by real people with real fears, real struggles, real hope, and real faith. Come join us on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. starting on January 15th in the Upper Family Life Center! All women are welcome to attend. For more information contact Bonnie at bonnie@troyumc.org.

Sisters In Christ - New Study begins January 23

Join us on Monday afternoons as we dive into the life of Elijah with one of our favorite authors, Priscilla Shirer. In this 7-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah we will discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now. We meet in the Family Life Center on Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. We will host a kick-off social on January 23 - all women are welcome. For more information contact Deb Ellis at debsellis@sbcglobal.net

The Bible Recap - Weekly Discussion Group

Have you ever closed your Bible and thought, "What did I just read?" Maybe you've tried to read through the Bible but quit when it felt confusing or impersonal? Join the Bible Recap Discussion Group on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Family Life Center beginning January 12. Each day you will listen to The Bible Recap podcast (8 minutes per day) and read the assigned daily Scripture. Then on Thursdays we will go through a discussion guide to dig deeper. Want to join in? Have questions? Reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troyumc.org.

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, January 15, 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 our Minister of Discipleship, Bonnie, at bonnie@troyumc.org.



JOY SEEKERS (55+)

In December, JOY SEEKERS did not have a regularly scheduled lunch, but a group of about 26 attended the Holiday Brass Concert at the Manchester United Methodist Church in Manchester, MO.

In January, our JOY SEEKERS' "Board" will meet to discuss plans for the 2023 calendar year. We are looking for volunteers to help with greeting, table decorations, devotions, program ideas, etc. Would you like to get more involved? Contact Pastor Dan at dan@troyumc.org or 618-830-5589 for more information.

For our gathering on January 24, we're looking forward to celebrating with a "SOUPER BOWL" theme. Please RSVP to Sharie in the church office (618-667-6241) by January 19.

Reminder: We meet on the 4th Tuesday each month (unless we plan special outings). We also ask for a \$10 donation to help cover food expenses.



NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

Happy New Year! Here is the January 2023 quick-look for Troy UMC middle school and high school students:

YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY JANUARY 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

“CHEAT CODES” and “PRO TIP”: A Series about wisdom and faith

January 4		Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:5	Wisdom matters.
January 11	MS	Proverbs 1:1-5a; 4:25-27	Character matters.
	HS	Proverbs 3:5-6	Your reputation matters.
January 18	MS	Proverbs 1:1-5a; 6:6-8	Patience matters.
	HS	Proverbs 22:1	Today matters.
January 25		Proverbs 1:1-5a; 15:1	Words matter.

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENT

MLK Day of Volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – ALL Students
Monday, January 16, 2023
7:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
RSVP + \$15, and bring a lunch

Middle School and High School students will spend the day volunteering at the MMDC, Springfield, IL. The various work assignments may include: sorting donated materials for education bags, assembling student education bags, repairing bikes, servicing electric sewing machines, and pre-assembling student desks. We will eat dinner at Mario's Italian Restaurant before returning home.

2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class sessions restart 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 8, 2023.
The “Fall” 1-Day Retreat is rescheduled for Saturday, January 14 at The Dubois Center.

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



JOURNEY KIDS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday, January 1 - New Years day children are invited to wear their pajamas to children's ministry and nursery during the 9am and 10:30am services. We will be watching a movie, *Snow Buddies*, so that our volunteers can take a break to celebrate the new year.



1ST STEP LEARNING CENTER OPEN ENROLLMENT



1st Step Learning Center will open 2023/2024 enrollment to current families and church families on Monday, January 16. Our preschool offers classes for preschoolers ages 2-4. We are a part day program running Tuesday through Thursday from 8:25am-11:45am.

Our mission is to serve families of preschoolers by partnering with them to prepare them for their future school experiences. This is accomplished by offering a safe, nurturing, Christ-centered environment that provides play-based experiences. We believe that these experiences will enhance the development of the whole child. We accomplish this by addressing

the following areas – Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual.

We will have an Open House on Tuesday, January 24 from 5:30-7:00pm. Our spots are limited so reach out before the Open House if you would like to reserve a spot. You may also find our registration and parent handbook at www.troyumc.org/1ststep

If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Rayle at lisa@troyumc.org or call the church at 618-667-6241 Ext. 13



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 Koebe

*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, Erica Ellis

***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



JANUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
January 8	New Sunday Morning Journey Group Kickoff (page 5)
January 8	Disaffiliation Informational Meeting (page 3)
January 9	Disaffiliation Discussion Forum (page 3)
January 12	Disaffiliation Discussion Forum (page 3)
January 12	Women's Bible Study - New Study (page 5)
January 12	The Bible Recap Discussion Group (page 5)
January 12	Troy United Women in Faith Meeting (see below)
January 14	Upward Basketball Games Kickoff (page 4)
January 15	Disaffiliation Informational Meeting (page 3)
January 15	Connect Lunch (page 5)
January 16	NLSM - MLK Day of Volunteering (page 6)
January 16	Disaffiliation Discussion Forums (page 3)
January 22	Membership Disaffiliation Vote (pages 2-3)
January 23	Sisters in Christ - Bible Study Kickoff (page 5)
January 24	Joy Seekers Luncheon (page 5)
January 27	Spiritual Leadership Generator Kickoff (page 4)

*Ring those Christmas Bells!
Join the Shouts and Yells!
Then as 2022 begins to fade and the last few Christmas
Carols played, remember all who need our aid and join
UWF. There are plans to be made!*



United
Women
in Faith

A New Year of support for local missions begins for Troy UWF at our January 12 meeting. Join us at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. 2023 Officers will be installed, refreshments provided by 2022 Officers and the 2023 program booklets will be available. Come One, Come All to the Hall!

Job Opening—Custodial Position

Part-Time Custodian position open for Troy United Methodist Church.
Approx. 10-15 hours a week. Mainly weeknights and weekends.
Reply to jobs@troyumc.org or call [618-667-6241](tel:618-667-6241).



Troy United Methodist Church
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