

# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**MAY 2023**  
**VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 5**

## 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
May Schedule Highlights	Back Page



### 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*



## **TROY METHODIST CHURCH** *A Global Methodist Congregation*

***The people have spoken!*** Thank you for sharing your feedback through email and in-person on Easter Sunday. We heard from over 400 of you! You overwhelmingly chose **Troy Methodist Church** as our new name.

It was clear that you wanted to keep "Troy" in our name (over 80%) and you preferred "Troy Methodist" over "Troy Global Methodist" at about a 2-1 ratio. Despite "Global" not being in our name, we will use the Global Methodist Church logo and color scheme in all our branding. Furthermore, our rebranding team and church council felt it would be beneficial to have the tagline "A Global Methodist Congregation" to be used when appropriate. We are excited to be a Global Methodist Church beginning Sunday, May 7!

### ***But what does it mean to be Global Methodist?***

For the first three Sundays in May, we will explore just that as we focus on the GMC mission – To make disciples of Jesus Christ who:

**May 7 – Worship Passionately**

**May 14 – Love Extravagantly**

**May 21 – Witness Boldly**

You will not want to miss these formative Sundays of worship at  
**Troy Methodist Church!**



**Our Mission** is to  
make disciples of  
Jesus Christ who  
worship passionately,  
love extravagantly,  
and witness boldly.

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE

God's Spirit breathed new life into me on Easter Sunday. How about you? It was such a joy to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with 720 of you in person and over 300 of you online! As we sang together in each of our three worship services, my heart couldn't contain my love for God and love for each of you. At one point during our 9:00 service in the jam-packed sanctuary, I thought to myself, "Andy, how are you going to preach? You're a mess!" For me it was a little taste of heaven. I hope it was for you too. My soul needed it!

We have seen a growing momentum over the last two months. In the seven Sundays between the end of February and Easter Sunday we welcomed over 400 people in-person for worship as many times (5) as we did all of 2022, including all the weeks we offered four services last year! There has been a tangible move of God's Spirit in our midst that I do not take for granted. You have felt it too! I pray that continues as we move into the future as Easter people – resurrection people – people who have been given new life in Christ!

Part of that new life for our church will transpire this month. On May 6, we expect our Annual Conference to approve our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. That means that Sunday, May 7 we will worship together for the first time as members of the Global Methodist Church. I hope you will join us for our new series when we'll discover what it means to be GMC. In the meantime, please pray for that Annual Conference session on May 6 to go smoothly. We anticipate it will, but there have been occurrences in other conferences where some churches were not approved. That has led to long legal battles and ugliness that both we and our conference leadership hope to avoid.

We also are experiencing new life amongst our staff. We are in a time of transition as we celebrate and say goodbye to some and welcoming others. Please pray for our staff team, old and new, as we move forward with excitement and simultaneously thank God for the past.

Please know that I am praying for you. I pray that you are experiencing rebirth as God breathes new life into the parts of you that have been dormant, dry, or dead. That's what our God does! That's why we are Easter people!

Faithfully,

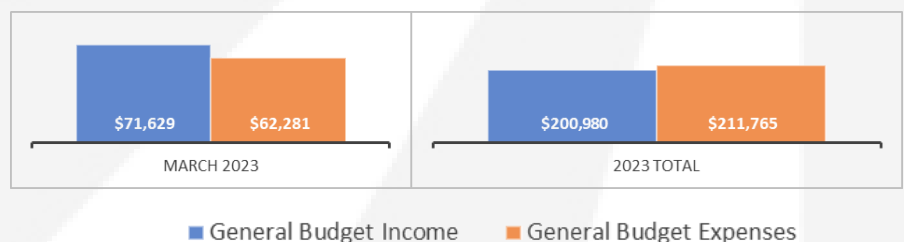
Andy



## STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	March Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	120	113
9:00 a.m. - Online	145	161
10:30 a.m. - In Person	181	165
10:30 a.m. - Online	137	133
Sunday Children	56	48
Wednesday Youth	35	36
St. Jacob 10:15 a.m.	5	6
*Worship & Prayer (3/15)	27	
<b>Average Weekly In Person Worship</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>Average Weekly Online Worship</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>294</b>

## General Budget



\*We also received \$11,349 for disaffiliation expenses in March



# SERVE

## TROY & ST. JACOB SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This summer we will again be doing a summer lunch program in both the Troy and St. Jacob communities for the children in our towns to have access to free lunches. Our church family will be volunteering on Mondays in both Troy and St. Jacob, and Wednesdays in St. Jacob only. This program is something that you can do on your own, with a friend, or with your family! All are invited! A sign-up genius form will be coming to the eReach later in mid-May. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org).



## ARTWORK SPOTLIGHT

Have you seen the beautiful artwork that is brightening up the church? If not, come check it out in the Family Life Center entryway and Sanctuary foyer. These remarkable pieces that display the creation story in abstract beauty are available for you to purchase! Each painting will be sold for a donation to the mission team and 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. If you are interested in purchasing one of these pieces please reach out to [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org).

## HANDYMAN MINISTRY

Our Handyman Ministry was recently highlighted as a possible volunteer opportunity in our eReach for anyone who is interested in lending a helping hand in our community. For more details on how to volunteer you can reach out to David and Lisa Rayle at [rayleroad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rayleroad@sbcglobal.net).

We also wanted you to know that that ministry is available for YOU to utilize. Do you need someone to come help out with a leaky faucet? Do you have yardwork that you can't do because of a recent illness? Do you need help replacing your smoke detector batteries? We are here for you and would love to support you in this way! Just reach out to [rayleroad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rayleroad@sbcglobal.net)



## RESOURCE CENTER

Are you looking for a new book to read on your own to grow in your faith? Would you like to see options on available Bible studies that you might do with a journey group you are a part of or one you are planning to start up? Feel free to peruse the Resource Center found in the Upper Family Life Center. There is a sign up sheet available for you to borrow books, or you can purchase books to keep! If you have questions or can't find what you are looking for, just reach out to Bonnie, our Minister of Discipleship at [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org)



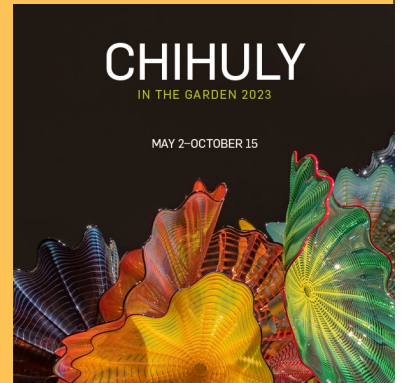
# CONNECT



## CARE NOTES FROM PASTOR DAN

For our May JOY SEEKERS, we will NOT have our regular meeting at the church. Instead, on **Tuesday, May 23**, we are planning to go to the Missouri Botanical Garden. The feature presentation is **Chihuly in the Garden 2023**; works of world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly. Thousands of pieces of blown glass, in 18 dramatic installations are spread throughout the Garden's grounds. See [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org) for details.

We need 25 people to purchase tickets to get the \$12/person price. Please make your \$12 check payable to Libby Gregg and get it to Libby, Pastor Dan, Sharie, or Carole Mecurio before **May 5**. The church bus will be available for a \$5 donation (please bring cash to be collected as you get on the bus). We plan to leave from the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m., arrive at the Botanical Garden around 9:45 a.m., receive our tickets, begin a self-guided tour, and enjoy lunch at the Sassafras Restaurant. Then return to the bus by 1:00 p.m. and arrive back at the church around 2:00 p.m.



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



### Happy Mother's Day! Praise God for the Women and Children in our lives.

Join Troy United Women in Faith at 9:30 a.m. Thursday May 11 when the church bus leaves on our trip to **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** in East St. Louis. This is one of the local missions we support each year; a great nonprofit location that for the last 100 years has provided life necessities, early childhood

development and training programs at all ages designed to help families move out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. We will have lunch together during our visit. It will cost \$5 per person, in cash. If you want to join us, contact Libby Gregg [lgregg129@gmail.com](mailto:lgregg129@gmail.com) to save your seat on the bus.



## HELP PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Calling all church members who love to cook and/or bake! United Women in Faith has long served to coordinate funeral luncheons as a ministry to our church and its members. We are in the process of updating the list of volunteers for providing food and working at these luncheons. All church members are welcome to help with this ministry. Please let us know if we could occasionally contact you for a covered dish or dessert or call on you to help serve a meal. There are also opportunities for help with set-up and cleanup. Please contact Isabel Ososki [iososki@icloud.com](mailto:iososki@icloud.com) if you would like to support this vital ministry.



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON LADIES TEA

Troy United Women in Faith is hosting a Ladies Tea, **Sunday, June 11 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The afternoon will feature a variety of teas, finger foods, silent auction items and a unique program presented by Sue Busler. All proceeds from the event will support missions for women and children. Advance tickets are \$15 per adult and \$10 for children under 12 years of age. Tickets will be available starting this month through the church office or a UWF member.

*Dust off your fancy hat and reserve your seat today!*





# JOURNEY KIDS

We aren't simply hosting a VBS!

- We connect kids into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ to lead them to a better future.
- We connect kids! Rarely outside of Sunday morning do kids have the chance to make great memories, have tons of fun, and get to know each other in a way that can only come when you spend five straight days together.
- We create a week filled with FUN! We believe that fun over time with a group of kids will allow us to gain more influence in their lives. We spend this week laughing with them!
- We create a space where we can partner with parents. We believe that parents are the primary influence in a child's life.
- Through worship., music, crafts, activities, games, lessons, mission and STEM we help kids learn they can and should follow Jesus here, there and everywhere!



## READY, SET, MOVE!

June 12-16, 2023

9:00am-11:30am

FOLLOW JESUS HERE,  
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

VOLUNTEERS are the secret sauce!

Here are just a few of the ways you can serve: tech team, greeters, crafts, games, mission, snack, small group leaders and assistants. Whether you can serve one day or all five we want your help! Each year we host approximately 125 kids from our church and the Troy community. Last year we had 35 adult volunteers! We need you!

Registration for kids and volunteers can be found here:

<https://www.myvbs.org/TROYUMC/>

## MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP



REGISTER  
TODAY!

[troyumc.org/children](https://troyumc.org/children)

For Grades 1-6.

June 5-8, 2023

Children must have  
completed first grade.

Children in 1st - 6th grades can register now for Music & Drama Camp at Troy Methodist Church! The event will be held each morning, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. from **Monday, June 5 – Thursday, June 8**. Children will learn music and drama and will perform at the end of the event at a show case open to family and friends. The 2023 Music & Drama Camp will be led by a team of adult leaders from our church and coordinated by Ruby Price. For more information, email Ruby at [rubyprice@gmail.com](mailto:rubyprice@gmail.com) or contact the church office (618) 667-6241. The cost per child is \$38. Space is limited, so register today!

# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to be on a journey with Jesus! New Life Student Ministry serves middle and high school students through opportunities for worshiping God, engaging the Scriptures, and serving others. Come and see, join us for these May events!

## YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY MAY 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

**“START THE PARTY”: A Series about THE PROMISE Jesus made about getting the most out of life!**

<b>May 10</b>	Matthew 5:41	A party starter does more than what is asked of them.
<b>May 17</b>	Matthew 9:10-13	A party starter knows there's more to God than just what their own experience has shown them.
<b>May 24</b>	John 4	A party starter comes alongside people to experience their difficulties with them.
<b>May 31</b>	1 Corinthians 3:4	A party starter knows helping someone else win is as meaningful as winning themselves.

## MAY SPECIAL EVENT: The Places You Will Go!

**New Life Student Ministry Day Trip to see uniquely beautiful places in Southern Illinois!**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

**6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

*All middle school and high school students are invited to make this special trip.*

**RSVP +\$50**



We will paddle canoes through the Lower Cache River, North America's northern most cypress and tupelo swamp – it is unusual and amazingly beautiful! It has been called 'floating forest,' many of the trees are 1,000 years old, and the Illinois state champion cypress tree is in this swamp. Note: there are no alligators in this swamp! Next, we will travel to Inspiration Point at the Larue – Pine Hills National Natural Landmark in Shawnee National Forest. The massive 150' limestone bluffs are impressive, even to the explorers Lewis & Clark in 1804. Our third stop of the day will be Bald Knob Cross – an awe-inspiring spiritual monument *“where people can unite to experience the presence of God.”* We wrap up the day with some hiking trails in Giant City State Park and enjoying a delicious fried chicken family-style dinner. These are a few of Pastor Kurt's favorite places, so get registered for a day trip to remember!

## SUMMER 2023 MISSION TRIPS & CHURCH CAMPS

*See [troyumc.org/students](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

High School Student Mission Trip

**June 25-30, 2023**

Red Bird Mission work Camp; Beverly, KY - \$225 (after \$200 NLSM scholarship is applied)

Epworth Junior / Senior Camp

**July 17-21, 2023**

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

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

## PARENTS

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



# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY



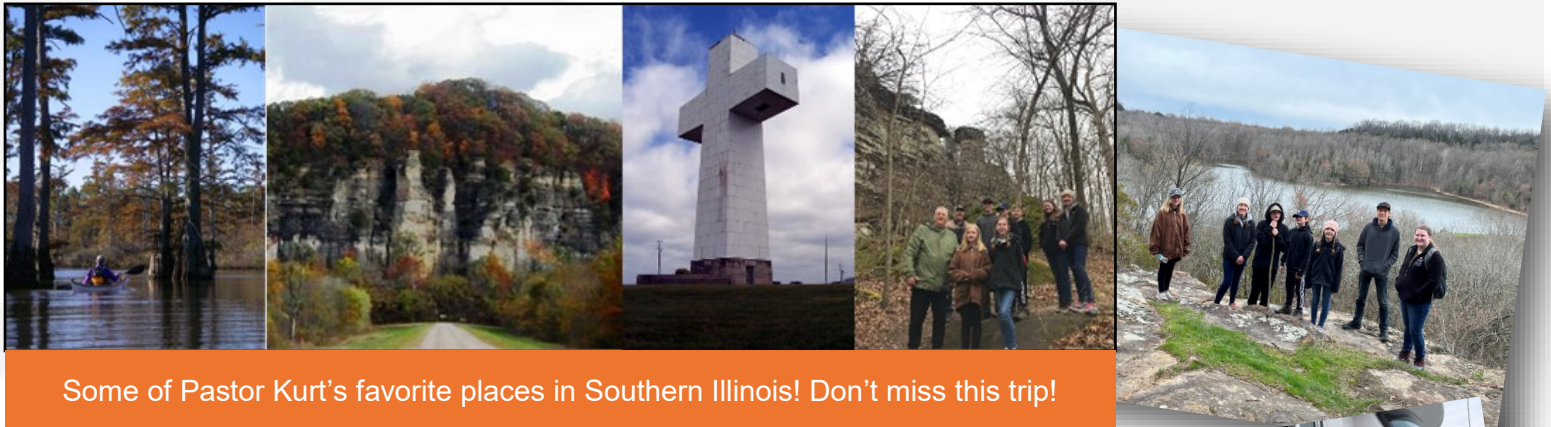
## HELP US CELEBRATE THIS GUY...KURT'S RETIREMENT PICNIC!

*We are honoring Rev. Kurt Stone's 30 years in Ministry with a church-wide potluck picnic*

**Sunday, May 28 at 11:45 a.m.** at the church Ballfields (*Family Life Center if inclement weather*)

The church will provide all the grilled meats (burgers, brats, hotdogs & chicken spiedini) and desserts. In true Methodist style...this is a potluck! We ask everyone to bring a hot or cold side dish to share. Bring your own drinks and chairs.

*The afternoon is guaranteed to be full of fun! You don't want to miss it!*



Some of Pastor Kurt's favorite places in Southern Illinois! Don't miss this trip!



2023 Confirmation Class - Andrew Cushing, Ronin Schmidt, Macy Price, and Annie Kennett

Wednesday Night Youth Group - Favorite Game: 9 Square in the Air!



March Special Event: MMDC Food Pack Setup & Staging with Pizza Dinner!





**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](mailto:karen@troyumc.org)

**Connect with us!**  
@troyumc



## MAY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
May 6	NLSM - Day Trip to Southern Illinois (page 6)
May 7	Connect Lunch @ 11:45 a.m. - Upper Family Life Center
May 11	UWF Day Trip to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (page 4)
May 13	Community E-Cycle Event at church (see eReach for details)
May 23	Joy Seekers Day Trip to Missouri Botanical Garden (page 4)
May 28	Rev. Kurt Stone's Retirement Picnic (page 7)

## We are Easter People!



# REACH

Troy United Methodist Church  
407 Edwardsville Road  
Troy, IL 62294  
troyumc.org

Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID**  
Troy, IL  
Permit #37

Return Service Requested