



TROY
METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

DECEMBER 2024
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ADVENT CONSPIRACY

A DIFFERENT WAY TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



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*

ADVENT CONSPIRACY *A Different Way to Celebrate Christmas*

There is a better way, a fuller, richer, and more Spirit-led way to celebrate Christmas. This year, as followers of King Jesus, we will conspire to resist what presses in on each of us during the Advent season. This year we will substitute compassion for consumption as we realize whose birthday we are celebrating. Since it's Jesus' birthday, we will honor him by giving gifts that he desires – gifts that bless others. This Christmas, let's conspire to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all.

December 1: Two Kings

December 8: A Special Guest

December 15: Jesus and Those who Suffer

December 22: Conquering Complacency with Compassion

December 24: The Gift of Christmas

Christmas Eve 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

STARTING NEW CHURCHES FOR NEW PEOPLE

As we approach Advent in 2024, I wanted to look back and reflect on our 2023 Advent. For the last several years, Troy Methodist Church has given a significant portion of our December offerings to the work of God beyond our local church. In previous years we've supported a variety of local, regional, and global missions and outreaches. It's a joy and privilege to be a blessing to others!

Last year we gave away 16% of our December offerings (over \$25,000) to help fund the start-up a new Global Methodist Church in Bloomington-Normal. Since that time, the church planting pastor, Rev. Mark Crawford, was officially appointed to begin this endeavor on July 1, 2024. Since that time, Mark and his family moved to Bloomington-Normal, began sharing the vision for the new church with anyone and everyone they meet, and have recently gathered interested people into a couple small groups. Last month they announced the name of their church too! They are known as "New Room Church" – a name with historic Methodist roots. The early Methodists in Bristol, England created a "new room" where their people could gather for worship, hold class meetings, and do outreach works to their community. In the same way, God is raising up a "new room" for people to gather in Bloomington-Normal. I encourage you to like and follow their Facebook page.

In his first few months of work, Mark has gathered and developed a diverse core team of 15-20 people. As they continue to reach out and connect with more people, they are also beginning to hold monthly preview worship services at a Christian School in the area. Their first preview service was Sunday, November 17, where they gathered about 30 people. They will continue with monthly preview services until they gather enough critical mass to increase their frequency, while also continuing to meet in weekly small groups.

I am thrilled to share that Mark will be joining us as our special guest preacher on Sunday, December 8! I look forward to him sharing the vision behind this new church and help us see the opportunities we have to reach out to those without a church home around us. We are key partners with Mark and his family as they share the gospel in Bloomington-Normal, so I invite you to begin or continue praying for them. One specific prayer request Mark shared is for an upcoming training event he's attending. He asks us to pray for his inspiration and Holy Spirit led ideas to connect with more people in Bloomington-Normal who are far from God and/or looking for a church home. I can't wait for you to hear more from Mark this month!

Faithfully,

Andy



STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	October Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	115	113
9:00 a.m. - Online	108	135
10:30 a.m. - In Person	170	161
10:30 a.m. - Online	103	104
Sunday Children	62	60
Wednesday Youth	42	37
Average Weekly In Person Worship	389	376
Average Weekly Online Worship	211	239

General Budget



ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

This year our Angel Tree tradition continues and there are three types of angels to choose from which include:

BLUE ANGEL: gift cards for Safe Families host families

RED ANGEL: bulk items for gift bags for residents at local care facilities

PINK ANGEL: 250-500 piece puzzles for residents at local care facilities

There are TWO deadlines this year:

- Safe Families gift cards are due back **Thursday, December 12.**
- Puzzles and bulk items for the local care facilities are due back by **Sunday, December 15.**

The first Sunday of Advent, December 1, 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 residents at two of our area care facilities along with providing bags to all our homebound members. We started this project last year and heard from many of the residents and staff that the gifts we gave were, for many of the residents, the only Christmas present they received. 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. Our third angel this year will be a PINK angel! Grab a PINK angel and bring in a new or gently used 250-500 piece puzzle for our area care facilities. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



Community Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 16 @ 12:45 pm



COME OUT AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

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 16, 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 will be given out that day of familiar songs we will easily be able to sing together. This event will take approximately two hours, but the joy you share will last for days to come! If you would like to join us, just show up! If you have questions reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

Each Sunday morning, we have a team of fifty plus volunteers who provide hospitality for 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 a time where the love of Christ is experienced in all we do. During the holidays is a great time to join a team and be a part of sharing that love! Whether you are extraverted 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 are interested or have questions, please contact our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 7
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

FILL MY CUP, LORD

This Advent season, join us for a morning of community, inspiration, and refreshment!

Along with a delicious brunch, this event will be filled with beautiful music by our very own Jane Scott and an inspirational message by special guest speaker Laura Hunter from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY.

Tickets are \$15 and will be on sale after Sunday services and in the church office through Wednesday, December 4.

Contact Deb Ellis, Communications Coordinator with questions at deb@troymc.org



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A SPIRITUAL LEADER *Join the Spiritual Leader Generator*

In the last two years we've had over 40 Troy Methodist Church members complete the Spiritual Leadership Generator! This biblically rich and practically equipping journey challenges and trains participants to be spiritual leaders in their homes, workplaces, communities, and church. 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! SLG groups 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 25, (9 a.m. -3 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 Andy at andy@troymc.org if you would like to participate! Read more at www.troymc.org/SLG

"Night of the Father's Love" A Christmas Concert Journey

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Troy Methodist Church

"Night of the Father's Love" A CHRISTMAS CONCERT JOURNEY

You are cordially invited to attend our 2024 Christmas concert, "Night of the Father's Love", on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This event features TMC's Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, small ensembles, soloists, and speakers; 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 reminder of the joy and wonder of Christmas: a celebration of all that God brought to us through Jesus on the night that revealed His love for mankind.

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

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 8



Have you ever wondered about our preschool here at Troy Methodist Church?

On Sunday, December 8, at the 10:30 a.m. service, you will get a little glimpse into 1st Step Learning Center. Some of our students will be singing for the congregation and you will get to hear about our teachers and some of the exciting things that happen here each week.

We invite you to join us as we welcome our staff, students, and their families to join us for a morning of worship!

Join Troy UWF in acknowledging the true power of the Advent Season.

"Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand."



United
Women
in Faith

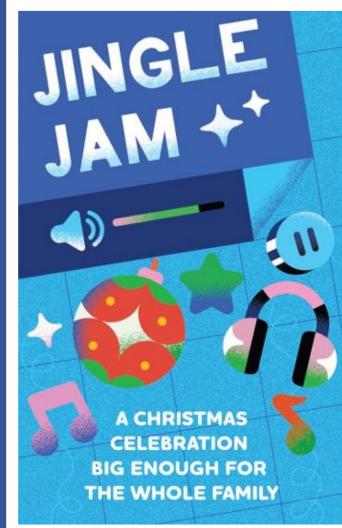
Our Christmas Luncheon is December 12, 11:30 a.m. at Bella Milano in Edwardsville. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by contacting Becky Rushing at rushing1@sbcglobal.net.

Our next Meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will start our journey as a Christian Women's Mission Group independent of United Women in Faith. Our meetings are open to all women in the church.

Christ is Born! Now All is Well!



TROY METHODIST KIDS



JINGLE JAM A CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENT

Join us to make gingerbread houses, play some wacky Christmas games, and share some laughter as we start the season.

This all-inclusive program engages the entire family, from children to parents and teenagers, fostering a sense of community and connection. This is a fun way to celebrate Christmas while sharing the story of the season's true meaning.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

FALL FEST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who donated creativity, time, and resources to this year's Fall Fest. We had over 400 participants and we received numerous compliments! We know we are incredibly blessed to have a church family that is willing to go above and beyond to make a difference. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus at our church as well as in the communities surrounding Troy.



PARENTS: ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS?

For the most current announcements and lots of photos of our kids, follow us!



CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

@troymethodistkids

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: KIDMIN LESSON PLANNING

Are you passionate about helping young minds grow and learn? We're seeking a dedicated volunteer to assist with getting lessons ready for Sunday mornings.

Responsibilities:

- **Lesson Preparation:** spend an hour or so each week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday) gathering supplies and organizing them for Sunday's classes.
- **Organization:** keep materials tidy and well-stocked for a smooth learning experience.

If you're interested in making a positive impact on the lives of children and enjoy a hands-on approach, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jenn at jenn@troymc.org.

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS



HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT RECAP

The high school fall retreat took place mid November and it was an incredible weekend of worship, nature, hiking, meals, games, friendships, and "Girls in Christ"! A big thanks to the leaders and students who took part in the weekend. We also enjoyed worshiping with Aldersgate Methodist Church in Marion, IL on Sunday morning and a yummy meal at Giant City Lodge!

More retreat photos can be found at facebook.com/troymethodiststudents



CONFIRMATION CLASS

The confirmation class has been meeting each Sunday morning this fall and attended a one-day retreat together on November 16. The purpose of the fall retreat was to help connect these students together, have some fun and grow in faith. They traveled to Lake Williamson in Carlinville, IL to participate in a low ropes course, an escape room, axe throwing, and rock climbing! Thanks to Steve Kraabel for leading the way with our group.



Summer Dates

We want to give families plenty of time to anchor next summer's calendar with important camps, mission trips, and opportunity for spiritual growth. If you have any questions, please contact any of the student ministry leaders to find out more.

- June 15-21** - Beulah Youth Institute (for current 7th - 12th grades)
- June 23-26** - Beulah Bible Camp (for current 4th - 6th grades)
- June 27-28** - Beulah Beginning Camp (for current 1st - 3rd grades)
- June 29 - July 4** - High School Mission Trip to Red Bird
- July 7-11** - VBS at Troy Methodist Church
- July 14-18** - Epworth Camp (for current 6th - 12th grades)
- July 24-26** - Middle School Mission Trip

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org
Ryan - ryan@troymc.org
Courtney - courtney@troymc.org
Wenifer - wenifer@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

@troymethodiststudents

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
*Children's Ministry Leader	Jenn Diliberto
*Communications Coordinator	Deb Ellis
*Production Coordinator	Josh Case
*Administrative Assistant	Karen Wimmer
*Middle School Ministry Leader	Wenifer Greer
*Senior High Ministry Co-Leader	Courtney Froidcoeur
*Senior High Ministry Co-Leader	Ryan Froidcoeur
Custodian	Jacob Baum, Bruce Jackson
*Staff E-mail	[firstname]@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!
@troymethodistchurch



DECEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
December 1	Upward Evaluation Night (see website)
December 7	Women's Christmas Brunch (page 4)
December 8	1st Step Learning Center - Preschool Sunday (page 5)
December 8	Kid's Ministry - Jingle Jam (page 6)
December 12	Troy United Women in Faith Christmas Luncheon (page 5)
December 15	"Night of the Father's Love" - A Christmas Concert (page 5)
December 16	Community Christmas Caroling (page 3)
December 24	Christmas Eve Services (front page)

IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 24 - 26, AND WILL REOPEN MONDAY, DECEMBER 30.

A SEASON OF LOVE

Pastor Dan Perry, Care Pastor



While the holiday season often revolves around gift-giving, it's important to remember that the true essence of giving extends beyond the monetary value of presents. It's about the love and thoughtfulness behind these gestures. As the season of love and giving approaches, I am grateful for our wonderful community at Troy Methodist Church which enriches our Church with care, presence, kindness, love, and generosity.

Troy Methodist is a place where love abounds. I have witnessed your support, friendship, and compassion for one another daily. As we embrace the season of love, let us continue to strengthen our community bonds by sharing not only material gifts, but also the invaluable treasures of time, companionship, and understanding.

Some of us might express our affection through words of affirmation, acts of service, quality time, or physical touch, as found in Gary Chapman's Five Love Languages. However, giving can encompass all these love languages. When we carefully select a gift, create something special by hand, or offer our time to help others, we are expressing our love in various ways.

I encourage you all to participate and contribute to the love and warmth that make our Church so special in the various activities and events planned to celebrate the Christmas season. As we enter this season of celebrating God's gift of His Son, let us embrace the spirit of love and share it with everyone around us. Together, let's make this holiday season truly special and memorable. Wishing you all a joyful and love-filled holiday season.



REACH

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