



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

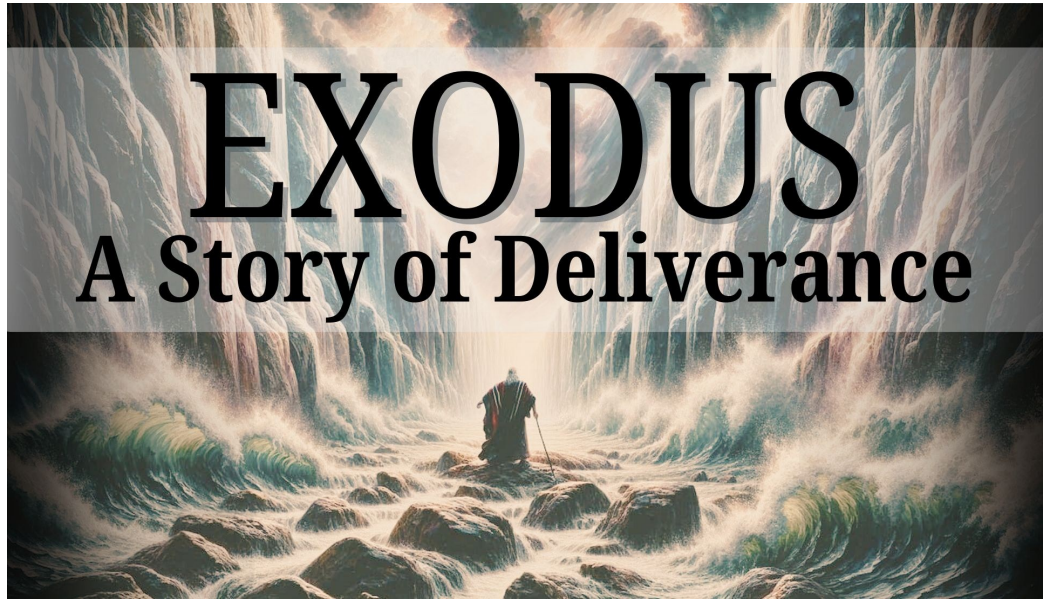
FEBRUARY 2025
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 2

IN THIS ISSUE

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

EXODUS

A Story of Deliverance



THE EXODUS: A STORY OF DELIVERANCE

The story of God is a story of deliverance. In January we have explored the backdrop to THE defining event for the people of God: God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt to become his treasured possession. We've seen little deliverances along the way, but in February we will taste the power of God to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine! Join us as we see the gospel of the Old Testament – the Passover, the parting of the waters, and the story which Jesus' life, death, and resurrection parallels. Together we will be drawn into the story of The Exodus that defined God's people then and can still define our lives today.

February 2: Deliverance from Sin – Exodus 12:1-14

February 9: Deliverance from Death – Exodus 14:1-31

February 16: Deliverance from Entitlement – Exodus 15:22-17:7

February 23: FIRE-UP Weekend – Guest Speaker Brooklyn Lindsey

March 2: Deliverance for a Purpose - Exodus 19:3-6, 33:12-23, 40:34-38

PLANTING HEALTHY CHURCHES WORKSHOP

Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22 at TMC

The Global Methodist Great Lakes Annual Conference with The River Network International is hosting this two-day workshop at our church. We encourage all members & leadership to consider attending this free-of-charge opportunity. Read more about this workshop in Andy's message on the next page of this newsletter and by going to our website at troymc.org/events.

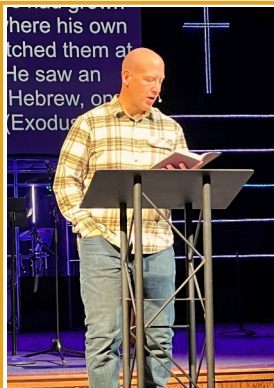
Worship Schedule

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*

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY



LET'S SHARPEN THE SAW!

You know what it feels like to shave with a blade that isn't sharp. Ouch! Have you ever tried trimming a tree with a chainsaw or a handsaw that had a dull blade? You just work and work and work at it with very little progress. Using a dull blade is painful and exhausting. The same is true in our ministry efforts. That's why we need to continually sharpen the saw!

Sharpening the saw means getting better. It means investing the time to grow and improve rather than using all your time doing the same things over and over and over. When we don't take time to sharpen the saw, we bear less fruit and end up exhausting ourselves. Getting better helps us accomplish our purposes and avoid burning out.

I remember first learning the principle of "sharpening the saw" many years ago during a Stephen Covey training on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. I could immediately see the implications for ministry and have personally sought to continually grow and develop to keep my saw sharp. But it's not only important for pastors to keep growing. We all must continually improve what we offer the Lord in ministry for his Kingdom.

Last June I attended a 2-day training called *Planting Healthy Churches* put on by The River Network, a group focused on multiplication within the Global Methodist Church. As a church planter myself, the material wasn't new to me. However, it was packaged in such a way that it reminded me of the primary reason for having ministries of discipleship, outreach, worship, etc. When you're building something from scratch, you have to think through the purposes you're trying to achieve rather than "doing things the way they've always been done." It hit me during the training just how important this material would be for existing churches as well as church planters! I knew I wanted to bring this training to our leaders at Troy Methodist Church.

By God's grace, and generous support from our conference, the *Planting Healthy Churches* workshop will be offered at Troy Methodist Church FOR FREE on Friday and Saturday, March 21-22, 2025. Church groups from our region will be in attendance. I'm hoping many of our leaders and members of ministry teams and journey groups will also take the time to sharpen the saw of ministry here at Troy Methodist Church by attending this workshop. You'll hear more in the coming weeks, but if you're interested in attending, let me know and/or register by checking out the event on our website - troymc.org/events

Let's sharpen the saw together in 2025 by investing in improving the ministry of Troy Methodist Church!

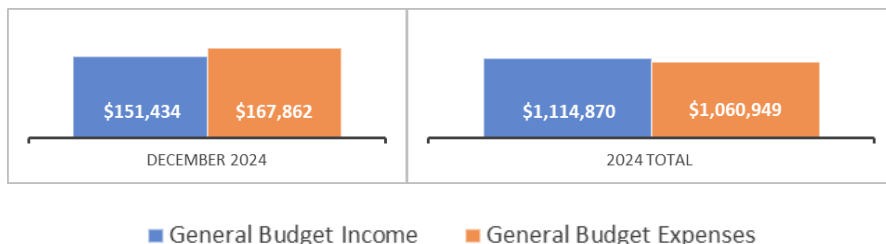
Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	December Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	112	114
9:00 a.m. - Online	174	136
10:30 a.m. - In Person	178	164
10:30 a.m. - Online	141	107
Sunday Children	58	60
Wednesday Youth	46	38
*Christmas Eve Candlelight - Total In Person	738	
* Christmas Eve Candlelight - Total Online	230	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	514	392
Average Weekly Online Worship	361	247

General Budget



GIVING

2024 MISSIONAL GIVING

Troy Methodist Church has dedicated 10% of all income throughout the year to go towards missional giving. 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 2024:

Seminary Students Tuition Assistance: \$4,000.00

Missionary Partners

Matt Henson: \$6,000.00

Josh & Lisa Inman: \$6,000.00

CRU Missionary Couple: \$6,000.00

Christmas Gifts for each Missionary Partner: \$1,000.00 each/\$3,000.00 total

Global Hope Network International

Myanmar Expansion Project: \$1,000.00

Northern Thailand Expansion Project: \$1,000.00

Ratchaboot Village Water Program: \$1,000.00

New Church Start

Bloomington-Normal, IL – *New Room* church plant: \$10,200.00

Organizations & Ministries

Beulah Holiness Camp: \$5,000.00

Equipping the Called: \$2,750.00

Faith in Action: \$1,500.00

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: \$1,000.00

First Step Preschool: \$5,000.00

First Step Preschool Teachers & Directors – classroom needs: \$1,000.00

Great Lakes Annual Conference – Ethiopian Pastor Support: \$300.00

Hurricane Relief: \$3,025.00

Jesus Saves Ministries: \$7,750.00

Journey of Hope: \$2,000.00

Making A Difference – Granite City: \$500.00

Midwest Mission Distribution Center – Food Pack: \$14,095.14

Ministries Unlimited: \$500.00

Safe Families for Children: \$600.00

Sew Much Joy: \$1,000.00

Troy Community Garden: \$5,000.00

Easter Offering

Easter Offering – Financial Assistance Fund: \$1,484.00

Holiday Giving Events

Angel Tree: Area nursing home resident gift bag items

Angel Tree: Gift cards for Safe Families

Operation Christmas Child: Boxes & soccer balls: \$711.02

Operation Christmas Child: 357 boxes filled

Share Thanksgiving Meals: 71 boxes

Christmas Offering

Bloomington-Normal, IL – *New Room* church plant: \$6,183.00

Compassion International: \$6,183.00

Hurricane Relief: \$6,183.00

Ministries Unlimited: \$6,183.00

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



GHNI.org
Global Hope Network International



JOURNEY GROUPS

2025 JOURNEY GROUPS

Below you will find a list of current journey group offerings. You are encouraged to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org - she can help you get connected! Take time at the start of the New Year to join a journey group and be on a journey with Jesus with others!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUP

Day/Time: Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Upper Family Life Center
Leader: Ron Finnan
Study: Reviving Christmas
Start: Ongoing

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SERMON SERIES GROUP

Day/Time: Sunday, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Upper Family Life Center
Leader: Tom Finley
Study: Sermon Series Discussion
Start: January 19

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUP – GENERATIONS

Day/Time: Sundays, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: Choir Rehearsal Room
Leader(s): Jeff Johnson
Study: Books of the Bible
Start: Ongoing

SUNDAY AFTERNOON COLLEGE-AGED GROUP

Day/Time: Sundays, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Family Life Center – Room next to Kitchen
Leader(s): Alex Brault & Erin VanMiddendorp
Study: Christianity Explored
Start: Ongoing

MONDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S GROUP – SISTERS IN CHRIST

Day/Time: Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Sanctuary
Leader: Deb Ellis
Study: Ephesians: A Study of Faith and Practice
Start Date: January 27

MONDAY EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP – CHICKS IN CHURCH

Day/Time: Mondays, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Choir Rehearsal Room
Leader: Beth Barbour
Study: Epic of Eden
Start Date: January 20

MONDAY EVENING YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Day/Time: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: TMC – Room TBD
Leader(s): Marissa Horning & Angela Wilkerson
Study: Sermon Series Discussion
Start Date: January 27

MONDAY EVENING ADULT GROUP – THE WANDERERS

Day/Time: Mondays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Meets in Participants Homes
Leader(s): Julie Ford & Barb Buck
Study: Sermon Series Discussion
Start: Ongoing

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT GROUP - TROY

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Location: TMC – Room TBD
Leader: Beth Repp
Study: Sermon Series Discussion
Start Date: Ongoing

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT GROUP - HIGHLAND

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Location: 809 Washington Street, Highland
Leader: Dave Lauchner
Study: The Epic of Eden
Start Date: January 15

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

Day/Time: Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Location: Upper Family Life Center
Leader: Bonnie Abel
Study: Exodus: God of Deliverance
Start Date: January 9

THURSDAY EVENING MEN'S GROUP

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: TMC – Room TBD
Leader: Tom Finley & Mark Lightle
Study: Rose Guide to Genesis
Start Date: January 16

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP (SMMG)

Day/Time: Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Room (first Saturday of each month at Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville)
Leader: Carl Inman, Jordan Buck, Rick Lechner
Study: Isaiah
Start Date: Ongoing

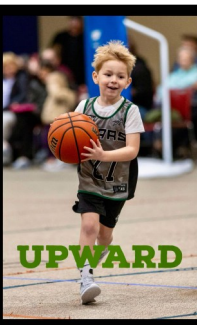
Romans 15:5-7: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another"

CONNECT & SERVE

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 288 basketball players and cheerleaders.

Remaining games take place on Saturdays throughout February and March! Contact Tyson Graham at upward@troymc.org or look for sign-up links in the weekly eReach or in the Troy MC Living Room Facebook group!



MIDWEST MISSION FOOD PACK EVENT

Mark your calendars for this upcoming spring event! We will be conducting our annual food packing event on Saturday, March 29. More details will come out in the March newsletter, but we wanted to make sure you had the date on your calendar. This is a fun opportunity for everyone to get involved. Your family could fill a table, your band, a journey group, or we can place you at a table and you can 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!

Got questions? Feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

Membership Class & Lunch

Sunday, February 23 @ 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 23, we will have our first Membership Class of the New Year, and 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 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.

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



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

A NEW NAME! A NEW LOGO!

The Troy Methodist Women
Faith*Missions*Service

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next meeting which will be held Thursday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Our guest speaker will be Kristina Power with Gateway Regional Home Health. She will be speaking to us on the benefits of

using home health and what it covers. After the meeting, everyone is invited to take Valentine cards, provided by the children's ministry, and other special items to Charter Senior Living of Troy and Aspen Creek of Troy. If you have any questions about our ministry, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or call at (618) 954-6263.

1 Corinthians 13:4 "Love is patient and kind; it does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude."

JOY SEEKERS (ADULTS 55+)

Tuesday, February 25

On February 25, we will meet in the Family Life Center at noon for our lunch and program.

The theme is "Celebrating God's LOVE".

Our Program will be presented by a "surprise" guest. For lunch, we will have a pasta theme with food catered by Ravanelli's. We're asking members to bring a dessert to share. Contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org if you plan to provide one.

Call the church office at (618) 667-6241 to register. Deadline is Thursday, February 20.

(We ask for a \$10 per person donation to cover expenses.)



TROY METHODIST KIDS

LOVE, CREATIVITY, AND SERVING: KIDS SPREADING JOY THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

By Jenn Diliberto

In the bustling halls of TMC this February, something heartwarming is brewing. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we are asking kids to gear up to spread love in a truly special way—by serving others with the purest form of biblical love.

At the heart of this initiative is a simple yet profound idea: making Valentine's Day cards for two senior living centers: Aspen Creek and Charter Senior Living. This isn't just about crafting pretty cards; it's about fostering connections and brightening days with acts of kindness straight from the heart.

Biblical Love in Action

The Bible teaches us about love in many forms, emphasizing kindness, compassion, and service to others. What better way to show these principles than by reaching out to the elderly in our community?

"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) captures the heart of this project. By making Valentine's cards, kids grow in creativity and learn to care for their community.

Not Sure What to Write?

Making heartfelt cards doesn't have to be intimidating—it can be as simple or as creative as you like. Here are a few ideas to spark inspiration:

Look up scripture. Adding a Bible verse like 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us," is a great way to share God's love.

- ✦ **Too young to write?** Draw a picture! A big, colorful heart or a sunny scene can speak volumes.
- ✦ **Feeling funny?** Add a joke! Everyone loves a little humor. For example: What did one piece of toast say to the other on Valentine's Day? You're my butter half!
- ✦ **Be creative!** Use stickers, crayons, markers, glitter—whatever you have at hand.
- ✦ Remember, the most important thing is to make it fun and create memories as you do it. These small acts of kindness mean so much to the seniors who will receive them.

From Inspiration to Action

Starting the first two Sundays in February, children will have 15 minutes during Sunday morning services to create Valentine's cards. While this is a great start, we'll need more cards made at home to reach our goal of at least 65 cards. Please have the cards delivered to the Children's Ministry mailbox by no later than February 12.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, church member, or simply inspired by this initiative, you can help! Encourage kids to make a card or two, volunteer to assist during crafting sessions, or connect with others to expand the effort. This project is about more than cards—it's about living out the love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: patient, kind, and enduring. Together, let's create a season of joy and meaningful giving, one heartfelt card at a time.

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



In the Word on a Sunday morning

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEENS BEING VERY CONNECTED TO A CHURCH

By Tim Price

We're praying for our students to sense belonging and purpose as they connect more deeper with Jesus at Troy Methodist Church! Praise the Lord for the great ways the church is investing in student ministry, families, and teens individually.

According to Thom Rainer in his book We Want You Here, being involved in a church makes a teenager stronger and less likely to participate in harmful behavior.

Here's a list for students more involved in a church:

- Alcohol abuse is lower
- Cigarette use is lower
- They are safer drivers
- Less prone to criminal behavior
- Less likely to buy, use, or sell drugs
- They are more engaged in school
- They enjoy life more fully
- They feel like their lives are useful
- They have a sense of hope for the future
- They enjoy school more
- They have an overall higher self-esteem



Read more here

Let's keep praying for our homes, families, schedules, and the heart of students as they experience the grace of Christ in their formative years.

I once heard a quote from someone who said, "Tell me where your students are on Sunday mornings and I will tell you what your nation will be like in fifty years."

FIRE-UP WEEKEND

Friday, February 21 - Sunday, February 23 at TMC

Fire-Up Conference is a discipleship-focused weekend for high school students. This will be the 29th year and, like all the other years, our focus is to welcome students from the region, share the good news, and encourage their faith in Christ.

Toward the beginning of the month, we will be inviting you, members of TMC, to partner with us in praying for the weekend, providing snacks, and to possibly help volunteer for a time slot of welcoming, greeting, providing security, leading a small group, or serving food.

On Sunday, February 23, our 2025 Fire-Up speaker, Brooklyn Lindsey, will be sharing during the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary and will also close out the Fire-Up Weekend at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Everyone and anyone who would like to be a part of that closing worship service (during our regular modern worship time) is welcome to be attend. It will be a normal Sunday schedule but with a guest Fire-Up preacher.

If you are a high school student, register here: fire-up.org.

If you're part of the church and would like to see how you might help make the weekend great, take a look at this small list: harvestministryteams.com/fireuphostchurch

or scan this: code:



SERVING ON MLK DAY

Our students split up to serve in two different areas on Martin Luther King Day, and it was awesome!

The high school students traveled to Midwest Mission in Chatham, IL for a day of volunteering and ministry. The middle school students traveled to Mt. Joy Church in Edwardsville to participate in a worship service and volunteer to help clean up the area warming center.

Thanks to each leader and student who took part. What an awesome witness!



CONTACT

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***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](https://www.facebook.com/troymethodistchurch)



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
February 13	Troy Methodist Women Meeting (page 5)
February 21-23	Fire-Up Senior High Conference (page 7)
February 23	Membership Class & Lunch (page 5)
February 25	Joy Seekers Lunch & Program (page 5)

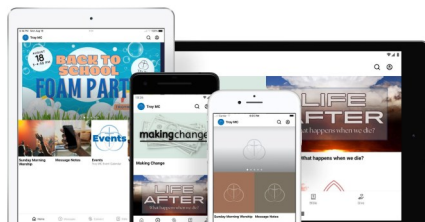
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Stay connected and get the latest content.



Troy Methodist Church

Available in App Stores



Did you know you can get Sunday morning message notes on your phone with our app? You can even take notes and email them to yourself. Oops, forgot your Bible...we've got you covered with a Bible app in our app!

Did you know you can explore the sermon library and listen to messages dating back five years? You can even view our website or events page with one click...yep, all in our app! We have also made giving super convenient...in our app.

We encourage you to download our app and start exploring!

JESUS, LOVER OF OUR SOUL

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." – St. Augustine

If you are looking for love this Valentine's Day - real, satisfying, lasting love, there is only one place you can truly find it – in Jesus.

The man who wrote the quote above tried everything to find love he could rest in. He was brilliant, talented, and admired. He had friends and lovers. Unmarried, he had fathered a son. Outwardly he had it all, but inwardly he was a churning restless mess ... Until he MET Jesus.

In Jesus, Augustine found what his heart was seeking – a love he could eternally rest in. A love big enough to still the turmoil inside him.

This Valentine's Day, stop settling for inadequate love. Consider Jesus – and let Him give you the eternal love, peace, and rest your heart was made for.

Pastor Dan, *Care Pastor*



REACH

Troy Methodist Church
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Troy, IL 62294
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