



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

FEBRUARY 2026
VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 2

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BLESS: HOW TO ENGAGE OTHERS FOR CHRIST

Before someone can become a passionate disciple, we must first engage them with the good news of Jesus Christ! At Troy Methodist Church we *invite people on a Journey with Jesus*, but how? Just thinking about sharing our faith with others can feel scary!

You may not think of yourself as an evangelist, but you can certainly BLESS those around you as a good friend. Join us this February as we learn how to live out our mission and practically engage others for Christ – connecting with unchurched people to befriend them, invite them to our church, and make Jesus known.

February 1: *Begin with Prayer* – Matthew 9:35-38

February 8: *Listen and Eat* – Luke 18:35-42, Luke 7:34

February 15: *Serve* – John 13:1-17

February 22: *Share Your Story* – Romans 10:14-17



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

1ST STEP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

1st Step Learning Center is now registering for the 26/27 school year with our current students and church family. School runs Tuesday-Thursday from 8:25 - 11:45 a.m. mid-August through mid-May. If you are interested, please call the office at 618-667-7748.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

ASH WEDNESDAY—ONE OF MY FAVORITES!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of “Lent” – a 40-day period (not including Sundays) which continues through the cross of Good Friday and ends on Easter morning. **This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18, and we will be having a special worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** I hope you will join us for this meaningful time together. It is one of my favorite times of worship every year.

When you search your Bible, you will not find anything about Ash Wednesday or Lent. Because of that, some faith traditions never observe these seasons of the church calendar. Although not prescribed or practiced in the Bible, they are part of church tradition that helps focus God’s people on a journey to the cross with ashes. Why ashes? Because ashes are a symbol of repentance, and the journey of Lent is a journey of reflection and repentance.

Just as Advent (also not mentioned or prescribed in the Bible) is a time of reflective longing for the coming of Jesus our savior, Lent is also a time of reflective longing for our savior, but with a different twist. You see, Lent is a time of introspection where we come face to face with our failings. Ashes have historically been a symbol of grief. Our grief during Lent is grief over our own brokenness and sin. As we confront the reality that we are sinners who fall short of God’s call on our lives, it causes grief, and that kind of grief is meant to lead to repentance.

During Lent, as we “give up” those things that threaten to become idols in our lives (sweets, TV, social media, etc), we are repenting. We are turning from ourselves and our false idols and turning our heart back to God. Doing so reminds us of our desperate need for a savior, and as we struggle to fight the urge to turn back to those things that do not offer life, we again recognize the depth of our brokenness. That is the point of Lent – to recognize the depth of our brokenness and sin. These aren’t small issues that just need a little tweaking – they are big issues, and we need someone to save us.

So as individuals and as a church, Lent is the time to recognize our own guilt and consequently, our desperate need for a savior. The 40-day journey brings to mind the wandering of the Israelites in the wilderness after their failure to enter the Promised Land – a time that God used to cleanse and purify them from their sin. But it should also bring to mind Jesus’ 40-day journey in the wilderness after his baptism and before he began his ministry. You see, the time of lamenting our sin and recognizing our brokenness eventually becomes joyous celebration! Just as Jesus defeated the temptation of the devil in his 40-day journey, his grace gives us the power to overcome sin in our own lives. And we can be filled with great hope as we look toward the cross of Good Friday where Jesus saved us from our sin by paying its penalty for us and then rose from the grave victorious over sin and death to give us new life in him!

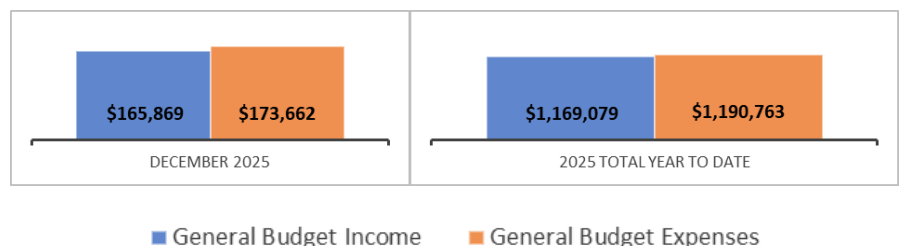
But it all begins with the recognition of our need. That begins on Ash Wednesday.

Faithfully, *Andy*

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	December Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	124	120
9:00 a.m. - Online	195	152
10:30 a.m. - In Person	176	165
10:30 a.m. - Online	122	128
Sunday Children	64	60
Wednesday Youth	65	52
*Christmas Eve Candlelight - Total In Person	749	
* Christmas Eve Candlelight - Total Online	228	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	584	414
Average Weekly Online Worship	374	284

General Budget



MISSIONAL

2025 MISSIONAL GIVING

Troy Methodist Church dedicates 10% of its annual income to missional giving. We generously support numerous ministries, organizations, and relief efforts thanks to your giving throughout the year. The Mission Team is proud to share that we supported the following initiatives in 2025:

Seminary Students Tuition Assistance: \$2500

Missionary Partners

Matt Henson – \$6000
Josh & Lisa Inman – \$6000
CRU Missionary Couple – \$6000
CRU Missionary Baby Gift – \$750
Christmas Gifts for Each Missionary Partner –
\$2500 each/\$7500 total

New Church Start

Bloomington Normal – *New Room* Church Plant – \$10,000

Easter Offering

Eden's Glory – \$3570

Holiday Giving Events

Share Thanksgiving Meals: 139
Operation Christmas Child Boxes & Soccer Balls – \$599.90
Operation Christmas Child: 343 boxes filled
Angel Tree - Safe Families: \$1100 via gift cards
Angel Tree - Ministries Unlimited: \$2250 via gift cards
Angel Tree: 118 gift bags for homebound members and nursing home residents

December Offering - 18% Total (4.5% to each ministry)

Jesus Saves Ministries – \$7164
Fellowship of Christian Athletes – \$7164
CRU Missionary Family – \$7164
Global Hope Network International Missionary Family – \$7164

Organizations & Ministries

Global Methodist Church – Ethiopian Church – \$300
Midwest Mission – Food Pack – \$13,699.40
Fellowship of Christian Athletes – \$2500
Granite City Community Outreach – \$3000
Harvest Ministry – \$3000
Faith in Action – \$2000
Red Bird Mission – \$1000
Equipping the Called – \$2000
Safe Families for Children – \$2000
Chestnut Health – \$290.53
Share Thanksgiving – \$1232.40
Sew Much Joy – \$2000
Midwest Mission – \$5000
Ministries Unlimited – Building Fund – \$5000
Got Your Six Support Dogs – \$250
Found in Jesus Ministries – \$250
Cardinal Glennon – \$2000
First Step Preschool – \$2000
Violence Prevention Center – \$1500
Oasis Women's Shelter – \$1500
Journey of Hope – \$1500
Seventh Beacon Ministry – \$1500
African Vision of Hope – \$1500

Food Pantries

Maryville Outreach Center – \$225
Glen Ed Pantry – \$225
Highland Area Christian Service Ministry – \$225
Collinsville Food Pantry – \$225
Ministries Unlimited – \$1225
Fill the Pantries: \$629.60 (items purchased for the 5 pantries)

JOURNEY WITH PASTOR ANDY TO TURKEY & GREECE *Footsteps of the Apostle Paul | September 27–October 7, 2026*

Join Pastor Andy Adams on a spiritually rich journey tracing the missionary path of the Apostle Paul through Turkey and Greece. This land-and-cruise pilgrimage brings Scripture to life as we walk through ancient communities where Paul preached, taught, and wrote his epistles - including Ephesus, Corinth, and Thessalonica - while also enjoying meaningful time in the Greek Isles.

Now open to Troy Methodist Church members and friends. Space is limited. Scan the QR code for full details or contact **Elizabeth Forman** at **618-708-6443** with questions.



JOURNEY GROUPS



SUNDAY, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Open to: Everyone
Sermon Series Discussion Group
Start Date: Ongoing
Location: Room 241
Leader: Tom Finley

Phone/Email: 314.578.6957/tomlfinley@aol.com



MONDAY, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Open to: Young Adults
Sermon Series Discussion & Scripture Study
Start Date: January 26
Location: Home of Marissa - Caseyville
Leader: Marissa Rushik

Phone/Email: 309.224.9377/marissa@troymc.org



SUNDAY, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Open to: Everyone
Sermon Series Discussion & book of Ezekiel
Start Date: January 11
Location: Choir Rehearsal Room
Leader: Jeff Johnson

Phone/Email: 618.979.1267/jeffjane627@gmail.com



WEDNESDAY, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Open to: Everyone
Study: Called to Take a Bold Stand
by Jack Hibbs
Start Date: January 28
Location: Room 241
Leader: Beth Repp

Phone/Email: 309.825.1074 elizabeth.repp@yahoo.com



SUNDAY, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Everyone
Study: Romans
Start Date: January 11
Location: Home of Vic & Ellie - Highland
Leaders: Vic & Ellie Mitchell

Phone/Email: 918.397.5943/vic_56@msn.com



WEDNESDAY, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Everyone
Study: Life Lessons from Philippians
by Max Lucado
Start Date: January 21
Location: First Congregation Church - Highland
Leader: Dan Perry

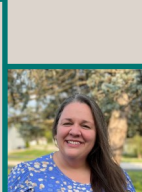
Phone/Email: 618.830.5589/dan@troymc.org



MONDAY, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Open to: Women – All Ages
Study: He Speaks to Me by Priscilla Shirer
Start Date: January 26
Location: Sanctuary
Leader: Deb Ellis

Phone/Email: 618.581.3383/debsellis@sbcglobal.net



THURSDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Open to: Women – All Ages
Study: I Surrender All by Priscilla Shirer
Start Date: January 15
Location: Upper Family Life Center
Leader: Bonnie Abel

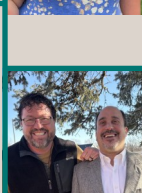
Phone/Email: 314.496.0890/bonnie@troymc.org



MONDAY, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Women – All Ages
Study: The Fruit of the Spirit:
A Study in Galatians
Start Date: January 12
Location: Choir Rehearsal Room
Leader: Beth Barbour

Phone/Email: 618.977.9323/bbarbour67@gmail.com



THURSDAY, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Men – All Ages
Study: The 12 Knuckleheads -
A Study of the Disciples
Start Date: January 22
Location: Room 241
Leaders: Tom Finley & David VanMiddendorp
Phone/Email: 314.578.6957/tomlfinley@aol.com



MONDAY, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Open to: Everyone
Study: Kinda Christian by Roger Ross
Start Date: January 12
Location: Home of Barb - St. Jacob
Leader: Barb Buck

Phone/Email: 618.363.2847/bbuck8181@gmail.com

FRIDAY, 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

Open to: College Age
Study, Start Date, Location: TBD
Contacts: Erin VanMiddendorp & Alex Brault
Emails: littlevme@gmail.com/icyphnx@gmail.com

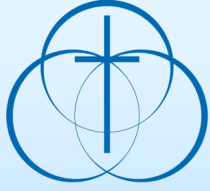
We are always working to find new ways to connect people to Christian community! As such, we are curious if you might be interested in joining a journey group, but would prefer an online option? If so, we want to hear from you! For more information or help getting connected to a group, you are encouraged to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



SATURDAY, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Open to: Men – All Ages
Study: The Letter to the Hebrews:
A OneBook Study
Start Date: January 17
Location: Wiesemeyer Center
Leaders: Carl Inman, Jordan Buck, Rick Lechner
Phone/Email: 618.604.6551/cr2000@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

LET'S SPREAD THE LOVE - TMW FEBRUARY MEETING!

**Thursday, February 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.,
Family Life Center**

The monthly meeting of the Troy Methodist Women will be Thursday, February 12 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the FLC. Please come and join us to hear a representative from the SOS Soup Kitchen and Collinsville Food Pantry. After

refreshments and a business session, we will visit Charter Senior Living of Troy and Aspen Creek Memory Care to distribute valentine cards made by 1st Step Learning Center and our church Children's ministry. We will also take handmade items such as prayer shawls, hats, mittens, etc.

For more information on TMW, please contact Libby Gregg at (618) 954-6263 or lgregg129@gmail.com.

J.O.Y. SEEKERS (55+) LUNCH & PROGRAM Tuesday, February 24, Family Life Center

Our J.O.Y. Seekers' February lunch gathering will be on February 24 in the Family Life Center (FLC). J.O.Y. Seekers' members, feel free to invite a friend who is a senior to join us. Our planned program for that day is a presentation by Sue Suhre about her trip to Israel. Our meal is still being planned.

Please call the office (618) 667-6241 to sign up to attend, and if you plan to bring a dessert, let us know what dessert you plan to bring. Please sign up between January 9 - 20.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

February puts love everywhere we look. Cards, chocolates, and reminders that hearts matter. As the church, we get to go deeper than seasonal romance and live out a love that lasts all year.

Jesus made it simple and challenging at the same time. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). His love was patient, sacrificial, and intentional.

Loving one another does not require perfection; it requires presence. A kind word. A prayer offered. A meal delivered. A text that says, "I am thinking of you." Small acts done in Christ's love can carry great weight. Even a smile in the hallway can become a quiet sermon.

Paul reminds us, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).

This February, let us be known not just for what we believe, but for the way we love. The world has plenty of noise. What it needs is a church that loves well. Oh, and by the way, chocolate helps too.



Grace and peace,
Pastor Dan, *Care Pastor*



ADULT SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Each Wednesday night, we host a meal for student ministry and invite members of the church to help provide a meal! Thank you to each person / group / family who has joined us! The dinner is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday for about 50 people.

Will you take a night?
You can sign up using the QR code:



TROY METHODIST KIDS

SAVE THE DATES: HERE'S TO LOOKING AHEAD!

Save the Dates: Here's to Looking Ahead!

We have an exciting year ahead in Kids Ministry, and we want to make sure these key dates are on your calendar.

- Tune-In Kids Conference (Silver Creek Elementary): March 28, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Troy
- Beulah Beginner Camp (1st - 3rd Grade): June 26 - 27
- Beulah Bible Camp (4th - 6th Grade): June 22 - 25
- Easter Event: TBD (March 28 or 29)
- VBS Prep Days: Beginning weekly in April
- VBS: July 6 -10 at 9:00 a.m.
- KidzMatter Conference: October 6 - 8 in Evansville, Indiana

We look forward to a full year of growth, fun, and ministry together.



TEACHING KIDS WHAT LOVE REALLY LOOKS LIKE

February is often called the month of love, but for kids, love needs to be experienced in ways that go far beyond cards, candy, or a single day. Scripture reminds us that love is not just something we say or celebrate, it is something we practice. Children learn what love means by watching how it is lived out in everyday moments.

One simple way to remember how kids experience love is the word **LOVE**.

L – Listen well

Kids feel loved when they are truly heard. Eliminate distractions and really listen. Slowing down, making eye contact, and listening without rushing or correcting communicates that your kids matter.

O – Offer encouragement and praise

Words shape a child's heart. Notice effort, kindness, and growth, not just results. Encouragement builds confidence and helps children understand their value.

V – Value time together

Love grows through presence. What that looks like is a shared meal, car conversations, bedtime prayers, or maybe even a short check-in/text. It's not about the amount of time but the intention behind it.

E – Extend kindness outward

Love is meant to be shared. Invite kids to serve others through simple acts of kindness, writing notes of encouragement, helping a neighbor, or praying for someone in need.

A few years ago, I introduced the idea of using the **GIFT test** when giving or doing something for others. It remains a helpful lens. We can ask whether what we offer builds **Gratitude, Insight or Intimacy, Fondness, and Trust**. Often, the most meaningful gifts are not things at all but moments of connection and care.

When families practice love in these simple, intentional ways, children begin to understand love not as a season or celebration but as a way of life. Love becomes believable when it is **predictable, personal, and practiced**. Through that steady, everyday love, children catch a clearer picture of how their Heavenly Father loves them.

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

FIRE-UP CONFERENCE February 27 - March 1

Troy Methodist Church is hosting Fire-Up February 27-March 1. This will be the 30th Fire-Up Conference weekend, which is a discipleship event for students in 9th-12th grades. We're praying for powerful and transforming work of Christ in the lives of teenagers who will be attending from our church and from other churches around the region.

Triad High School Students: Register Today! Cost is \$79 and you can bring a check or register online. Talk with Ryan and Courtney.

Congregation you're invited to:

1. Pray for our teenagers and the weekend
2. Bring some refreshments to help us roll out abundant hospitality
3. Invite any churches / church leaders or teens you know to the event
4. Volunteer to help with greeting / hospitality or small group leadership

Learn more at troymc.org/fireupinfo or scan the QR code.



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you have a heart for students and would like to explore serving in student ministry, talk with Tim Price or Ryan and Courtney Froidcoeur.

We have open roles for serving in small group leadership / mentorship and serving in special event ministry this summer.



MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

Sunday, February 22, 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All Middle School Students are invited to stick around for lunch and some games after worship on Sunday, February 22.

We will sit together in worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center, then have lunch and play some games from 11:45 a.m. until about 1:30 p.m. Hope you can join us and don't forget, invite a friend!



REMINDER: PARENT MEETING! Wednesday, January 28, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Parent Meeting on Wednesday, January 28, from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., meeting in the Kids Ministry Area.

If you haven't already, text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000.

And don't forget to follow @troymethodiststudents on Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

@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
Amy Burrelsman

***Preschool Liaison**
Lisa Rayle

***Director of Worship Arts**
Marissa Rushik

***Children's Ministry Leader**
Jenn Diliberto

***Communications Coordinator**
Tracey Berkemeier

***Production Coordinator**
Josh Case

Administrative Assistants
Chris Boemecke, Kathy Hahn

***Student Ministry Co-Leader**
Courtney Froidcoeur

***Student Ministry Co-Leader**
Ryan Froidcoeur

Custodians
Jacob Baum, Bruce Jackson

***Staff E-mail** [firstname]@troymc.org

To contact our Administrative Assistants,
use admin@troymc.org

To contact 1st Step Learning Center, use
1step@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!
[@troymethodistchurch](https://www.instagram.com/troymethodistchurch)



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
February 12	TMW February Meeting (page 5)
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service (page 2)
February 22	Middle School Lunch (page 7)
February 24	J.O.Y Seekers Lunch & Program (page 5)
February 27	Fire-Up Kickoff (page 7)
February 28	Student Ministry - Parent Meeting (page 7)

STAFFING UPDATES

Our Staff Parish Team is excited to announce expanded roles for three of our current employees effective immediately.

Marissa Rushik will be taking over the additional responsibilities of leading our bell and chancel choirs. In her role as Director of Worship Arts, Marissa already oversaw the entire worship ministry of our church so she is very familiar with our choirs. She has a degree in worship and ministry, including training in conducting. Her education, lifelong experience in choirs, and classical music training make her the most qualified candidate we could hope for, and we believe our choirs will thrive under her leadership and care.



Ryan and Courtney Froidcoeur will move from leading only the High School Student Ministry to serving as Student Ministry Co-Leaders overseeing grades 6-12. Ryan will continue to lead the High School Worship Team, and together they will provide leadership for our summer camps and mission trips too. We believe their gifts in planning and leadership, as well as their hearts for youth, will continue to bless our student ministry into the future.



TRADITIONAL MUSIC UPDATE

As of January 2026, the Traditional Music ensemble rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Bell Choir, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m., Wednesdays
Chancel Choir, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m., Wednesdays

If you are interested in joining the TMC Chancel Choir as a singer or the TMC Bell Choir as a ringer, contact Marissa Rushik at marissa@troymc.org!



Troy Methodist Church
407 Edwardsville Road
Troy, IL 62294
troymc.org

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