

TROY
METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

JANUARY 2024
VOLUME 36 • ISSUE 1

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PART FOUR - THE NEXT LEG OF OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS!

We will be kicking off the new year by picking up where we left off in the Book of Acts.

Our next segment (Acts 13-20) contains the three exciting missionary journeys of Paul and his companions as they travel throughout the known world sharing about ***The Way*** – what it means to follow Jesus and how to live in the Kingdom of God. As we journey with these early apostles, we will find relevant application for their teaching today as we also follow ***The Way***!

- December 31: Acts 13:1-52 – Launching Well for 2024
- January 7: Acts 14:1-28 – Signs and Wonders
- January 14: Acts 15:1-35 – Discernment
- January 21: Acts 15:36-16:5 – All Things
- January 28: Acts 16:6-40 – Bearing Fruit

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

DO YOU WANT TO GET CONNECTED IN COMMUNITY?

Journey Groups help you grow deeper in relationship with others and with Jesus. Check out the groups and seasonal classes that are starting in January and February on our website at troymc.org/journeygroups

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

A SPECIAL SERVICE TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR!

For the last several months we have experienced glimpses of God's supernatural power through his Holy Spirit moving in our church. I can say that in a general way and also in several specific ways, particularly through our monthly prayer, worship, and healing services. I've previously shared testimony of some of the healing and encouraging miracles God has done in our midst. My faith has grown as a result! The only thing I regret is that more of our church family hasn't experienced the power of God during these special monthly services.

That's why we will be bringing the heart of our prayer, worship, and healing services to Sunday morning, **January 7, 2024**. Not only will we have an extended time of worship, we will also celebrate Holy Communion together around a special segment of prayer and healing ministry. Pastors and prayer team members will be available with anointing oil for anyone seeking prayer or healing for whatever is ailing you – physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual needs. This will be a Sunday you will not want to miss.

I believe with all my heart that God will show up in mighty ways as we seek Him and humble ourselves in prayer and worship. In fact, I will be praying and fasting in a focused way those initial days of January leading up to the first Sunday of 2024. This is the way we want to enter the new year – trusting in the Creator of the universe to display His power among us through signs and wonders like we consistently read about in the book of Acts. Would you join me in expectant prayer leading up to January 7? Would you prayerfully consider inviting someone you know who needs the touch of God on their life? But most importantly, would you come with a tender heart, open to the movement of God's Holy Spirit in our church and in your soul? That's what I'll be praying for!

Faithfully,

Andy



STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	November Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	120	115
9:00 a.m. - Online	90	137
10:30 a.m. - In Person	153	161
10:30 a.m. - Online	73	109
Sunday Children	55	59
Wednesday Youth	38	35
St. Jacob 10:15 a.m.	5	7
*All Saints Day Service (11/1)	49	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	382	373
Average Weekly Online Worship	163	246

General Budget



BECOME A SPIRITUAL LEADER IN 2024!

Join the **Spiritual Leadership Generator** in 2024 and apply biblical leadership concepts from the life of Christ to your life. In this course you will develop your spiritual leadership, integrate your learnings spiritually, relationally, and vocationally as well as discovering and embodying your call.

Here are some important details of the course:

- 5 modules over 10 months in a cohort of 4-5 people – Learning high-quality content from professors and practitioners
- 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 20 (tentatively 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with lunch at TMC)**
- 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@troymc.org) if you would like to participate!
Read more at www.troymc.org/SLG

UPWARD SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Upward season is here! Would you consider serving in some capacity as we provide radical hospitality for nearly 230 kids and their families?!

There are many opportunities and something for everybody.

- Concessions
- Greeting
- Scoreboard
- Emcee
- Refereeing

If you are available, we will train you! Games begin January 20 and continue every Saturday (except February 24 for Fire-Up weekend) until March 16.

Please 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!

UPWARD
SPORTS



JOIN THE TROY METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER TEAM

Each month there will be opportunities to pray for people at the altar, to pray silently during service times, or to pray in preparation for the service in a prayer room on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to know more about this new and exciting team, please reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.

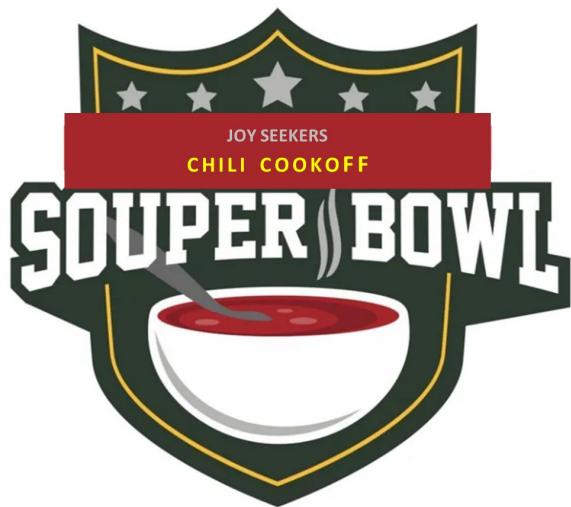
Join the Prayer Team!

WINTER DINNER GROUPS - NOW FORMING!

Dinner Groups are a great way to get to know others at church and get connected!

The goal of Dinner Groups is for approximately eight people to get to know each other and simply share meals together three or four times (hopefully once per month) through the winter. We will kick off the groups this month. There is no pressure or any other agenda!

Paper sign-up sheets are available now at the Welcome Centers or online registration is open - the sign-up link is on the front page of the church website - www.troymc.org



JOY SEEKERS

Tuesday, January 23, we will host our first ever...

SOUPER BOWL & CHILI COOKOFF

If you are willing and want to have your entry added to the competition, please contact Pastor Dan to sign up dan@troymc.org or leave a message in the church office for him to contact you). We need at least five people to sign up for the competition.

LOOKING AHEAD... Tuesday, February 27, we have a very special musical group planned for our program – the **60's Chicks** will be back by popular demand. *Mark your calendars NOW!*

Watch the weekly eReach for additional details.

JANUARY CONNECT LUNCH

If you are new to our church family, we want to welcome you and provide you with an opportunity to connect!

Sunday, January 21, 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, 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.

If you have questions or want to sign up, contact Bonnie, our Discipleship Pastor, at bonnie@troymc.org



***Ring those Christmas bells!
Join the shouts and yells!***

Then as 2023 begins to fade and the last few Christmas carols are played, remember all who need our aid and join Troy UWF as plans for a new year are made!

Troy UWF will meet on January 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the TMC Family Life Center. The 2024 officers will be installed, refreshments will be provided by 2023 Officers, we will hear from Dottie Dexheimer of plans for a TMC Community Garden, and plans will start for the events of next year.

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

MINISTRY TEAM HIGHLIGHT *Carl and Deb Inman*



Among many other ways they help in ministry at Troy Methodist Church, the Inmans also have a key role in student ministry! Most every week, Carl plans and leads the activity for the student group. Deb assists in the activities and also helps with student ministry hospitality. Carl and Deb have been a part of the church since 2001. They have three adult, married children and seven grandchildren - seven girls and one boy!

Thanks for your ministry with the students each week!

2024 Summer Dates

June 13-15

Middle School Mission Trip - Chatham, IL

June 16-22

Beulah Youth Institute
(for students who have completed 7th grade through those who have completed 12th grade)

June 24-27

Beulah Bible Camp
(for students who have completed 6th grade)

June 30 - July 6

High School Mission Trip - Gatlinburg, TN

July 15-19

Epworth Youth Camp

JANUARY STUDENT TRIPS

On Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, both student ministry groups will be spending the day in service and mission.

The high school students will be traveling to Midwest Mission. Please pack a lunch, wear closed-toe shoes, and be at the church at 7:15 a.m. We will return home after dinner, around 6:30 p.m. Please contact Ryan ryan@troymc.org or Courtney courtney@troymc.org for more information or to sign up.



The middle school students will be serving* at Mt. Joy Baptist Church (327 Olive Street) in Edwardsville, IL. Please meet at Mt. Joy at 9:45 a.m. Pick up will be at 1:00 p.m. at the same location. Contact wenifer@troymc.org for more information on the middle school mission day.



*Collection Opportunity For The Church:

Our middle school MLK mission will be bagging care packs for the homeless. Troy Methodist Church's part will be donating gallon size Ziploc bags and non-perishable snack items (like granola bars, beef jerky, etc).

All high school students are invited to attend the Fire-Up Conference at Troy MC - February 23-25!

Clear your calendar and register for this weekend of preaching (with DJ Dangerfield), spiritual growth, connections with other student ministries in the area, food, and a free t-shirt (if you register before Feb. 5).



Fire-Up 2024 Preacher: DJ Dangerfield

February 23-25, 2024
fire-up.org

Fire-Up High School Conference registration is open. Please print, fill out, and attach payment to the registration form at troymc.org/students.

Talk with Tim Price if you have questions - tim@troymc.org

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org

Ryan - ryan@troymc.org

Courtney - courtney@troymc.org

Wenifer - wenifer@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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TROY METHODIST KIDS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Jenn Diliberto

Every year many of us make New Year's resolutions. But most of the time, within a few weeks, we no longer keep those resolutions. So what's wrong? Why do we find it hard to make and keep our promises to live better?

Change is hard. We often start with the intent to do right, but we can't do it in our own strength. Paul struggled with this too. Here is what he says in Romans 7:15-20 - "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me."

Here is the first challenge of the year: ask Jesus to forgive your sins, and help you to turn from habits that hinder your relationship with God and others.

This year, consider making Biblical resolutions with your kids. You can incorporate relevant Bible stories into the time you spend setting New Year's resolutions. The Bible is full of stories of new beginnings.

- Genesis 1 – Even God started with a blank canvas! Talk to your kids about the steps God took to create the heavens, the earth, living creatures and people.
- David went from shepherd to king. He was a man after God's own heart, and God forgave him when he repented.
- Hebrews 2:18 and Joshua 1:9 – These verses remind us that even when the resolutions they set for themselves are tough, God is there to help.
- Luke 19:1-10 – The story of Zacchaeus helps us remember that we can all have a fresh start in Jesus' eyes.
- Luke 22:54-62 – Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Jesus forgave him and built his church through him.

Consider this: even when we fail to live up to the promises we make, God doesn't give up on us.

The Word says in Philippians 1:6, ". . . he who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus."

This year, consider making Biblical resolutions with your kids. They need to see what healthy habits look like AND how to change course when we don't follow through with what we set out to accomplish.

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING—KIDS MINISTRY AREA—9:00 or 10:30 a.m.

- Every Sunday is a big deal in the life of a child! Each week includes worship, learning, scripture, fun, activities, and most importantly, the commitment to learn to follow Jesus and be committed to his church!

KIDS CONFERENCE—MARION, IL—APRIL 6

- Get on the bus about 7:00 a.m., event is at Aldersgate Church from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., head home, ice cream, and back by 4:30 p.m.

BEULAH BIBLE CAMP—ELDORADO, IL—JUNE 24-27

- This event is for children and students who have completed 4th, 5th, or 6th grade. Leave on the bus about 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 24 and get back home about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

BEULAH BEGINNER CAMP—ELDORADO, IL—JUNE 28-29

- This overnight event is for children who have completed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. and will return home about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 29.

VBS—TROY, IL—JULY 8-12

- This is an awesome week of meeting each morning (from about 9:00—11:30 a.m.) with children from pre-k through completed 5th grade—you won't want to miss it!



TROY METHODIST KIDS



JINGLE JAM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Last month, several families attended the Jingle Jam family event, where the story of Jesus was retold through crafts, a scavenger hunt, and silly games. It was a great experience, and even the kids were asked to participate in family competitions. What made the event special was the fact that Mr. Tom, Mr. Rick, and myself (Ms. Jenn) had "Decked The Halls" in a "piratey" way to entertain and delight the kids, while ultimately sharing the message of the greatest gift: Jesus. It was heartwarming to see the story of Jesus come alive in such a fun and engaging way for the whole family while also learning more about the birth of Jesus. After the event, families were treated to delicious cupcakes and snacks. Jingle Jam was a great way to spend time with family while kicking off the Christmas season. We hope to have even more families join us next year!



I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this event, both on stage and behind the scenes. I extend my sincerest thanks to the hospitality team, lighting and sound/tech teams, tween backstage hands, and everyone who helped with the setup and takedown of the event. I would also like to give a special shoutout to Mrs. Shirley H. She may not enjoy being in the spotlight, but she was a true blessing throughout the planning process.



BUILDING NEW YEAR HABITS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

By Tim Price

The new calendar year brings a fresh slate and a great opportunity to build new habits into your family life. Read this list of five practical habits and simple ways to help build a love for the Lord into the lives of your children and home!

<https://shorturl.at/ajEHZ>



Kids -
look for the hidden orange somewhere in this issue of the newsletter!

CONTACT

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Jenn - jenn@troymc.org

WEBSITE

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FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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Church Information
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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**
Lisa Rayle
***Director of Traditional Worship Music**
Rebecca Koebbe
***Director of Modern Worship**
Marissa Horning
***Communications Coordinator**
Deb Ellis
***Production Coordinator**
Josh Case
***Administrative Assistant**
Karen Wimmer
***Children's Ministry Leader**
Jenn Diliberto
***Middle School Ministry Leader**
Wenifer Greer
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Courtney Froidcoeur
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Ryan Froidcoeur
Custodians
David Barr, Rex Repp,
Blaine Stolle
***Staff E-mail** [firstname]@troymc.org

LOOK! New staff email
addresses - @troymc.org

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

Connect with us!
@troymethodistchurch



JANUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
January 10	Troy Methodist Students - Wednesday Night Kickoff (see website)
January 11	Troy United Women in Faith January Meeting (page 4)
January 15	Troy Methodist Students - High School Mission Day (page 5)
January 15	Troy Methodist Students - Middle School Mission Day (page 5)
January 16	1st Step Learning Center Open House (see below)
January 20	Spiritual Leadership Generator Kickoff (page 3)
January 21	Connect Lunch (page 4)
January 23	Joy Seekers Chili Cookoff (page 4)



1st Step Learning Center is now registering for the 2024-25 school year with our current students and church family. Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 20. Currently, there are 48 students enrolled for the 2023-24 school year. There are still a few openings available in the 3's and 4's classes for the rest of this year. If you are interested please call the office at 618-667-6241 ext 13.

1st Step is a wonderful program that not only teaches the basics like colors, shapes, letters and counting but also incorporates biblical concepts with weekly chapel lessons. At 1st Step Learning Center, the children are actively involved in learning through play. We also use the Second Step program to help children build self-regulation and social-emotional competence. 1st Step strives to meet the needs of every student enrolled.

Our Open House will be held on Tuesday, January 16 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We would love for you to stop by, meet the teachers, and see our facility.

If you would like to set up a tour or have any further questions, please email Lisa Rayle at lisa@troymc.org or call the office at the above number.



REACH

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