



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

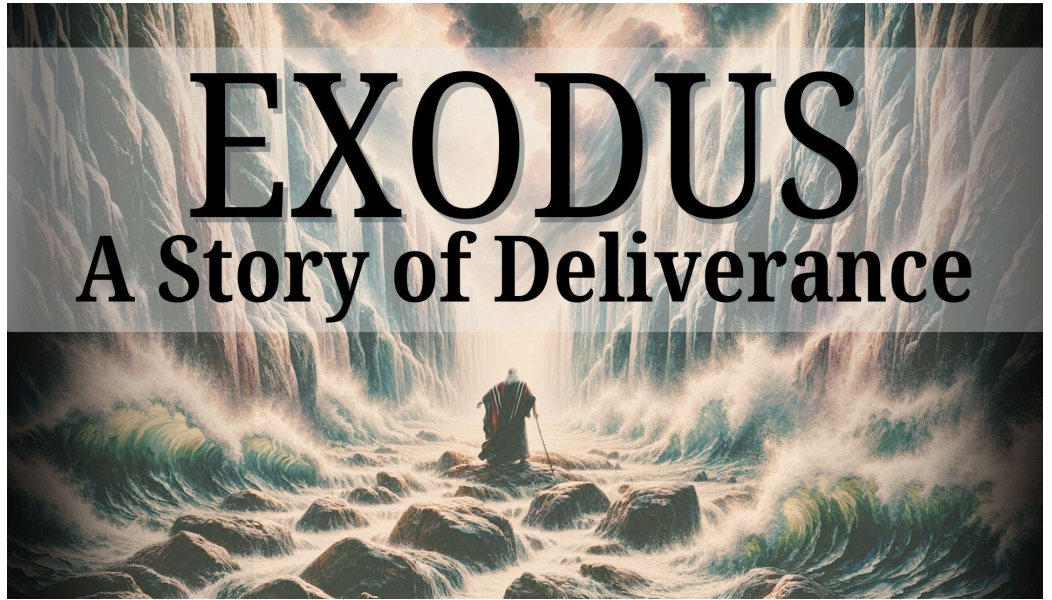
JANUARY 2025
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 1

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EXODUS

A Story of Deliverance



THE EXODUS: A STORY OF DELIVERANCE

The story of God is a story of deliverance. The book of Exodus is the most important book of the Old Testament because it contains the defining event for the people of God: God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt to become his treasured possession. This story of deliverance is timeless. We are invited into that same deliverance from slavery to becoming God's treasured possession. Although we might not be enslaved by Pharaoh, we find ourselves shackled by feelings of insignificance, our past, and insecurity. As we begin 2025, we will be drawn into the story of *The Exodus* that defined God's people then and can still define our lives today.

January 5: Exodus 1:6-14 - Our Need for Deliverance

January 12: Exodus 1:15-2:10 - Deliverance from Insignificance

January 19: Exodus 2:11-22, 3:1-4 - Deliverance from Your Past

January 26: Exodus 2:23-25, 3:5-4:17 - Deliverance from Insecurity



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

HOLIDAY GIVING RECAP FOR 2024

Our church family blessed the lives of over 150 senior citizens and children through our Angel Tree Ministry. We gave 357 shoeboxes filled to the brim with goodies to Operation Christmas Child. For Share Thanksgiving, we distributed 71 Thanksgiving meals to individuals and families in our local community. **THANK YOU** for showing up in such a mighty way and showering others with the love of Christ this holiday season!

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

INTRODUCING OUR ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

In August our Church Council approved the creation of Troy Methodist Church's first Adaptive Leadership Team. The Adaptive Leadership Team is comprised of 9 members of Troy Methodist Church: 3 staff and 6 laity. The team is diverse in age, primary worship service, ministry team involvement, and longevity with the church. But we share these things in common. We all love Jesus and Troy Methodist Church. We're also committed to the unity of our church, and desire to show Christ's love in practical ways with each other, the congregation, and the community. The purpose of the Adaptive Leadership Team is to address the growing challenges of ministry that have no easy or known solution (adaptive challenges). This is a function that I have largely fulfilled in my capacity as the senior pastor of TMC. I have carried the burden of seeing the big picture needs of our church, seeking God's will and direction for our church, developing strategy with staff and leaders around that vision, and overseeing its implementation. This type of leadership is the way I'm wired and it's how I've functioned for the last twenty years in ministry! However, this approach is far too dependent upon me. A big reason for the Adaptive Leadership Team is to move our church from a "solo heroic leader" to a team approach.

To that end, in 2025 our team will work together to assess the current state of our church's ministry as well as the needs of our community. We will clarify the values of our congregation and evaluate our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. We will practice spiritual disciplines together as we seek God's will and direction for our ministry and then develop a Ministry Action Plan (MAP). This high level MAP will lay the foundation for several other MAPs in our various areas of ministry and help us be much more intentional about the investment of our time, energy, and other resources as we try to faithfully follow God's leading. Our Adaptive Leadership Team will report to our Church Council which remains the highest decision-making body of our church. Beginning in 2026, our Adaptive Leadership Team lay members will begin a staggered 3-year term with two members rolling off and two new rolling on each year beginning in 2027.

As you might imagine, serving on the Adaptive Leadership Team requires significant commitment and investment of time. So far, our team has met twice (October and December), and we will continue to meet together for a full day every month. Because none of us has ever done this before, this first year we are being guided by a ministry coach, Rev. Dr. Roger Ross. Our monthly meetings will help us grow as a team with a high level of trust to accomplish our important purpose. I invite you to hold this team up in prayer throughout 2025! And if you are intrigued and interested to learn more of the principles behind our leadership and ministry philosophy, I invite you to consider being part of the Spiritual Leadership Generator starting this month!

Faithfully,

Andy

Adaptive Leadership Team

Front Row: Dan McLeod, Andy Adams, Marissa Horning

Back Row: Bonnie Abel, Mickey Jackson, Rick Lechner, Deb Inman, Stephanie Lawson

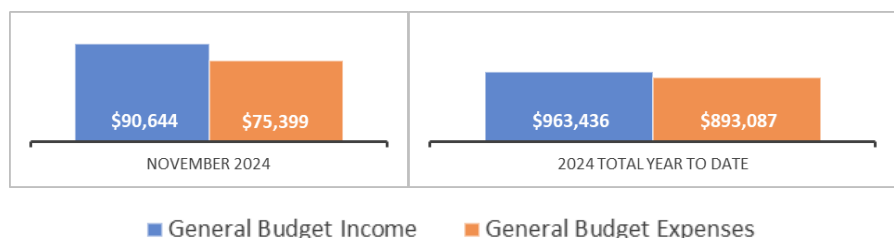
Not Pictured: Barb Buck



STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	November Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	130	114
9:00 a.m. - Online	97	132
10:30 a.m. - In Person	182	163
10:30 a.m. - Online	104	104
Sunday Children	61	60
Wednesday Youth	47	38
Average Weekly In Person Worship	408	379
Average Weekly Online Worship	201	236

General Budget





UPWARD SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Upward season is here! Would you consider serving in some capacity as we provide radical hospitality for over 200 kids and their families? There are many opportunities and something for everybody.

- Concessions
- Greeting
- Scoreboard
- Refereeing

We will have a brief volunteer meeting on Sunday, January 5 at noon after the 2nd service in the Family Life Center. Be sure to attend so we can get you an Upward T-shirt! And don't worry about your qualifications – if you are available, we will train you! Games begin January 18 and continue every Saturday (except February 22 for Fire Up weekend) until March 15.

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!



MIDWEST MISSION FOOD PACK EVENT Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for this UPCOMING SPRING EVENT! We will be hosting our annual food packing event on Saturday, March 29. More details to follow as we get closer, but we wanted to make sure you had the date on your calendar. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get involved.

Anyone can fill a table - your family, 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.



BECOME A SPIRITUAL LEADER IN 2025

Join the **Spiritual Leadership Generator** in 2025 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 discover and embody 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 25 (tentatively 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 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 at andy@troymc.org if you would like to participate! Read more at www.troymc.org/SLG

CONNECT

WINTER DINNER GROUPS - FORMING SOON

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 in late January. There is no pressure or any other agenda!

Do you prefer eating at restaurants or would you rather contribute to a potluck at someone's home? Do you need a group that includes children or would you prefer an adults only group? Communicate these preferences when you sign up and we will do our best to match you with a group of similar preferences.

We will have paper sign-up sheets available on Sunday mornings and online registration in the weekly eReach later this month.



"JOY" SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+ ADULTS)

Our next JOY SEEKERS lunch and program is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 beginning at noon in the Family Life Center. We will have a fun

game of identifying baby pictures of members of our group. If you would like to participate, please submit a baby picture of yourself to Pastor Dan. Bring a copy to the church office or send to Dan via email at dan@troymc.org. All photos must be labeled.

If you would like to help this program in any area, we are always looking for volunteers with table decorations, kitchen help, greeters, devotions, or program ideas. Please contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org or (618) 830-5589.

The next JOY Seekers Planning Team meeting is Tuesday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

TROY WOMEN'S MISSION GROUP *(formerly Troy United Women in Faith)*

***Ring those Christmas Bells!
Join the Shouts and Yells!***

Then as 2024 begins to fade and the last few Christmas carols are played, remember all who need our aid and join the new Troy women's mission group (now independent of UWF) as we decide on a new name and plan for a New Year in service to God!

We will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the TMC Family Life Center. 2025 Officers will be installed. Refreshments will be provided by 2024 Officers. Rev. Bonnie Abel, TMC Discipleship Pastor, will be our program speaker.



NEXT STEPS TO CONNECT

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

On Sunday, January 12, we will have a Connect Lunch following the 10:30 a.m. service. Starting at 11:45 a.m. and going until 1:30 p.m., we will enjoy lunch from Fire and Smoke, 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 here at TMC. 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.

CONNECT

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY *New Study starting January 9*

Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. starting on January 9 in the Upper Family Life Center to take a deep dive into the book of Exodus. Together we will learn how the story of the exodus shapes our understanding of the whole Bible, and its themes, reverberating all the way to Revelation. In fact, Exodus is the birth narrative of a nation unmistakably guided by the Great Deliverer.

Explore with us this 10-session, verse-by-verse, study of Exodus 1–18 where author, Jen Wilkin, shows us that Israel's story is our story: the same God who delivered Israel also delivers all those He loves and who put their trust in Him.

All women are welcome to attend. For more information contact Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



NEW SUNDAY MORNING JOURNEY GROUP STARTING IN THE NEW YEAR

Beginning on January 5, there will be a new Sunday Morning Journey Group at 10:30 a.m. This will be a sermon-focused group, and it is open to everyone! We will spend time discussing the sermon and praying together. This group is a great opportunity for you to find community in the New Year!

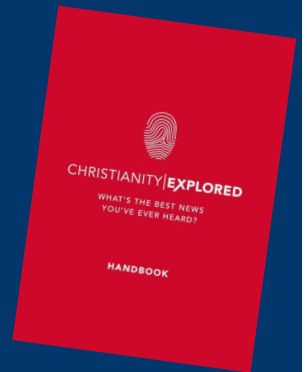
If you have any questions, reach out to Tom Finley at tomfinley@aol.com. The first meeting will be in room 241, located behind the Sanctuary.

We hope to see you there!

COLLEGE-AGED JOURNEY GROUP - NOW FORMING

Are you a college student or young adult looking for community? Do you have children or grandchildren in this age range that want to find a group of like-minded Christians to live life with? If so, we would love to invite you to join the College-Aged Journey Group! Led by Erin VanMiddendorp and Alex Brault, this group is starting a new study in January, Christianity Explored. In this study we will get to the heart of the gospel through a study of Mark.

To find out more details and get involved, reach out to Erin at littlevme@gmail.com or Alex at icyphnx@gmail.com.



EMBRACING THE NEW YEAR: START FRESH

Pastor Dan Perry, Care Pastor

As a New Year is about to unfold, it can be a time begin a journey of renewal, growth, and joy. Below are a few ways to embrace the New Year, setting the stage for a chapter filled with positivity, purpose, and well-being.

- 1. Reflect on the Past Year:** Take a moment to reflect on the past year's successes and challenges. Acknowledge the strength that brought you through and celebrate things that brought joy and fulfillment.
- 2. Set Attainable Goals:** Consider setting realistic and attainable goals for the New Year. Begin or develop a hobby, stay connected to your loved ones, or focus on your well-being. By doing so, you create a sense of accomplishment.
- 3. Prioritize Health and Wellness:** Make improving your health a priority in the New Year. Schedule regular check-ups, stay active through walking or gentle exercises, and maintain a healthy diet.
- 4. Stay Connected:** Nurture your connections through in-person visits, phone calls, and staying connected with friends and family. This promotes a sense of belonging and combats feelings of isolation.
- 5. Explore New Hobbies:** Cultivate curiosity and joy by exploring new hobbies. For example, picking up a musical instrument, trying your hand at painting, or delving into a new genre of literature. Engaging in hobbies adds richness to life.
- 6. Take Time for Self-Care:** Dedicate time for self-care. Whether it's reading a good book, taking a leisurely bath, or enjoying a cup of tea. Moments of self-care contribute to your mental attitude.
- 7. Celebrate Big and Small Milestones:** Acknowledge and celebrate every achievement. No matter how minor, it's a step forward. Take pride in your journey and the progress you make.
- 8. Express Gratitude:** Develop an attitude of gratitude. Take time every day to reflect on the things you are grateful for. Expressing gratitude can shift your focus towards positivity and appreciation.

As we begin a New Year, reflecting on the past, setting realistic goals, and prioritizing health and connections can help produce a year that will bring fulfillment, joy, and meaningful experiences. Here's to the New Year and the possibilities it holds.

TROY METHODIST KIDS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

We want to take a moment to thank you for faithfully praying for our kids and students since August. Your prayers have made a difference as they navigated their studies, relationships, and personal growth in the first part of the school year. As we step into the new year, we invite you to continue lifting them up in prayer. Here are some specific areas to pray over:

Prayer for Guidance and Wisdom

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight."*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we lift up our kids and students starting a new season. Give them wisdom and clarity as they navigate their studies and decisions. Help them trust in You and obey Your guidance in all they do. May You make their paths smooth and straight according to Your perfect plan.

Prayer for Strength and Perseverance

Scripture: Philippians 4:13 – *"I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength."*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we ask You to give our kids and students the strength they need to face challenges and overcome obstacles. Remind them that by Your power, they can do all things. When they feel weak, renew their energy and encourage them to keep moving forward with perseverance.

Prayer for Focus and Productivity

Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24 – *"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."*

Prayer: Father, help our students to remain focused and diligent in their studies. May they approach their work with a wholehearted attitude, doing it as if they are working for You. Remove distractions and cultivate a spirit of discipline in their lives. May their efforts reflect Your glory.

Prayer for Peace and Confidence

Scripture: Isaiah 26:3 – *"Lord, you will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in you. You will keep all those whose thoughts are fixed on you."*

Prayer: Lord, grant peace to the hearts and minds of our kids and students as they face new responsibilities. Help them to trust in You completely and keep their thoughts fixed on Your promises. Fill them with confidence and assurance that You are with them in every situation.

Prayer for Relationships and Community

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25 – *"Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope."*

Prayer: Father God, we ask that the kids we are praying for find meaningful friendships and community that inspire them to grow in love and kindness. Surround them with people who encourage and support them. May they also bring hope and encouragement to others, reflecting Your love in every relationship.

JINGLE JAM JOY!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Jingle Jam! It was a fantastic evening filled with fun, family, and the uplifting message of the Gospel. Kids had a blast building gingerbread houses, sharing snacks, and joining in the show, making it even more special.

A huge thank you to our incredible volunteers; your hard work and dedication made this event unforgettable. From activities to welcoming families, you were amazing!

To all the families, we're so grateful you celebrated with us. We hope the joy, love, and memories of Jingle Jam stay with you for years to come!

JOIN US FOR THE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

We're excited to kick off the Baby Bottle Campaign again this year! This impactful, life-affirming event is one of the highlights in the Metro-East, providing essential resources to support women, share the Gospel, and protect unborn lives.

In honor of **Sanctity of Life Sunday on January 21**, we invite you to partner with us in making a difference. Here are the important dates for this year's campaign:

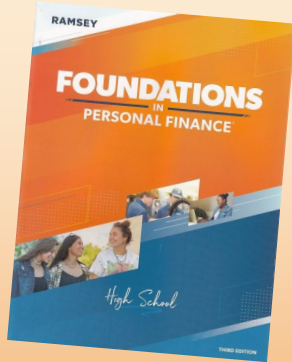
- ✦ Bottle Distribution: Sunday, January 12, 2025
- ✦ Bottle Collection: Sunday, February 16, 2025

Bottles can be picked up and returned to the Children's Ministry area. Bottles can also be dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to stand for life and share God's love.

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

PERSONAL FINANCE CLASS FOR STUDENTS

Beginning Wednesday, January 15, high school students are invited to join an all-new Foundations In Personal Finance class led by David and Jenny VanMiddendorp.



This group will meet Wednesday evenings from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. for eight weeks.

During this class, students will learn foundational, Biblical principles for managing money in a God-honoring way.

Please RSVP with David at davidvm78@gmail.com.

MISSION DAY - STUDENT FIELDTRIPS

On Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, both student ministry groups will be spending the day in service and mission.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

MT. JOY CHURCH, EDWARDSVILLE, IL

Meet at Troy Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m. to ride the bus to Mt. Joy Church. There will be a program at 10:00 a.m., an opportunity to participate in a service project, and enjoy lunch (covered by student ministry). Contact wenifer@troymc.org to sign up.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MIDWEST MISSION, CHATHAM, IL

Meet at Troy Methodist Church at 7:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch, wear jeans and closed-toe shoes, and be ready for a full day of volunteering. Our shift is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We should arrive back to Troy by 5:30 p.m. Contact Ryan ryan@troymc.org or Courtney courtney@troymc.org to sign up.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Thank you to everyone who helped provide a meal for the student ministry on a Wednesday night this past fall!

We're currently setting up the dinner schedule for the spring semester, and if you would like to reserve a date, contact Janie Davidson at djd1952@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH IS BACK! *Beginning January 8*

Weekly Wednesday-evening Student Ministry resumes on January 8, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. During the month of January we will begin a new series, *From Now On*.

If you're in 6th-12th grade, you're invited to join us each Wednesday evening!

**Stay in the loop
for
Student Ministry**
**Text
TROYSTUDENTS
to 94000**

FIRE UP 2025

Fire-Up High School Conference is February 21-23. High School Students, clear your calendar for the weekend, and go ahead and register online at www.fire-up.org.

If you're an adult, and would like to volunteer to serve during the weekend, contact Tim at 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

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

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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**
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

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JANUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
January 5	New Sunday Morning Journey Group Kickoff (page 5)
January 8	Troy Methodist Students - Wednesday Night Kickoff (page 7)
January 9	Thursday Women's Bible Study - New Study Kickoff (page 5)
January 9	Troy Women's Mission Group Meeting (page 4)
January 12	Connect Lunch (page 4)
January 15	Troy Methodist Students - Personal Finance Class Kickoff (page 7)
January 20	Troy Methodist Students - Mission Day Fieldtrips (page 7)
January 23	1st Step Learning Center Open House (see below)
January 25	Spiritual Leadership Generator Kickoff (page 3)
January 28	Joy Seekers Lunch and Program (page 4)

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY,
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1 & 2**



1st Step Learning Center is now registering for the 2025-26 school year with our current students and church family. Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 19. Currently, there are 47 students enrolled for the 2025-26 school year. There is only 1 opening in the 4's class. (No other spots are open at this time.) 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 Thursday, January 23 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.



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