



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

MARCH 2021
VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 3

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You're invited to worship at our church facility or online campus this Sunday!

9 a.m. Modern
10:15 a.m. Traditional

Safety Measures

We are following the safety guidelines below to make sure we can all worship in a comfortable and safe environment:

- Attendance is no more than 25% capacity of the worship space
- Masks are required
- Only the worship leaders will sing
- The seating is spaced out
- There is a receptacle for your offering
- The bathrooms are limited to one family at a time

Registration

If you plan to attend an indoor worship service, we ask that you register at troyumc.eventbrite.com. Pre-registration helps us prepare ahead of time, but you are welcome to attend or invite guests regardless!

Online Worship

As always, you are welcome to participate in online worship on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, or OnlineChurch. You can find these links at troyumc.org/worship.

Celebrate Holy Communion with Us on March 7

If you plan to worship online on March 7, you can pick up the prepackaged elements March 1-4 at the church office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. You'll need to provide the names of those who will participate in Communion as part of our worship service (please do NOT take the elements outside of the service).



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

The Wesleyan Covenant Association's Global Gathering

This time last year, I had just wrapped up the sermon series, *Holy Sexuality: The United Methodist Dilemma*. During those six weeks, I shared how disagreements about the authority and interpretation of the Bible around issues of marriage and same-sex sexual activity have deeply divided the United Methodist Church (UMC).

It is anticipated that whenever we can have our next General Conference, the highest decision-making body of the UMC, that there will be a legislative break-up of our denomination (the General Conference has been postponed from May 2020 to September 2021 and may be delayed even longer).

Also, in last year's sermon series I shared my own convictions of what the Bible teaches about human sexuality and marriage. I support the United Methodist Church's current doctrinal stance that states all people are loved by God and welcome in the life of the church but that same-sex sexual activity is contrary to the teachings of Scripture, and furthermore that marriage is designed by God to be exclusively between one man and one woman.

If you missed that series, I encourage you to watch it (available on our website) as I not only navigated us through the most pertinent Scriptures but did my best to articulate the rationale for differing viewpoints. I believe it's not only important to understand why others arrive at different conclusions, but to assume the best in them no matter how divergent our beliefs.

Since October of 2016, I have been a member of a group of (mostly) United Methodists from around the globe who believe that the best future for Methodism involves a robust biblical doctrine that emphasizes the need for deep personal and societal transformation made possible only through the grace of Jesus Christ. This group is called the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA – weslayancovenant.org).

The WCA has been working alongside other United Methodists who believe it is biblically faithful to maintain our doctrinal stance on human sexuality and marriage to lay a foundation for a "New Global United Methodist Church" to be birthed out of the existing UMC after the next General Conference.

We can all learn more about this hopeful future at the WCA's Global Gathering on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Our church council agreed unanimously to host a simulcast of this event in the Family Life Center while I am on-site in Montgomery, Alabama, as an elected representative of our regional chapter of the WCA.

Our church council and I both understand that some of you may not align with my (and the WCA's) understanding of the Bible's teaching about human sexuality and marriage. Our hosting of this event is to provide an opportunity for our leaders and others in our region to gain better understanding about one pathway forward for our church's future.

As General Conference 2021 approaches, we will continue to keep you informed about all the possibilities. Until then, please keep praying for our church as we continue inviting people on a journey with Jesus.

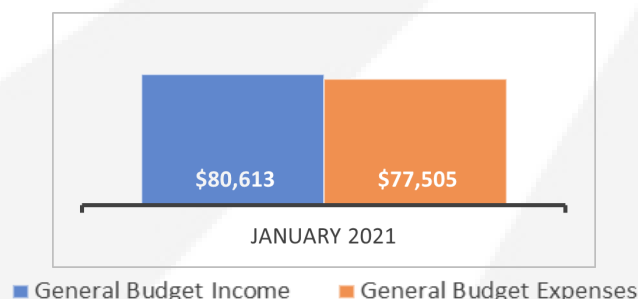
Faithfully,

Andy



Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Andy Adams

General Budget



Troy UMC Debt Repayment

In January, our Finance Team shared an end-of-the-year update and 2021 budget explanation sent out to our entire Troy UMC family. In that letter you may have noticed that we made a big stride in 2021 by eliminating our final outstanding member loan. These loans were made to our church by members at strategic times in the past to provide the cash flow needed for ministry.

Over the last few years, over \$170k in member loans have been paid back or generously forgiven. Praise God! Now our only remaining debt is the mortgage we acquired in January of 2017 when we purchased 15 acres of adjacent land to our property (10 of those acres are the recreation complex and another five acres are part of the farmland immediately east of the gravel parking lot).

At that time, we increased our mortgage debt from \$66k to \$541k. Since that time, we have not only paid down our principle by over \$75k, but we also made the significant step to incorporate the mortgage payment (\$3,213/month) into our general budget. We have much to be thankful for!

Last month, our Finance Team and Church Council agreed to pay off more mortgage principle with the remaining balance of money in our accounts that had been donated for debt reduction: a little over \$22k. That will bring our mortgage principle under \$440k by April.

We would love to see this number continue to go down, so if you feel moved by God to give offerings toward debt reduction you can always indicate that desire in the memo line of your check or choose “debt reduction” when giving online. We will be using those funds at the end of each year to further pay down our mortgage principle.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping us be good stewards of the ministry funds God has entrusted to us.

Dealing with Stress and Emotions During COVID-19

As the pandemic continues, many of us are finding ourselves dealing with anger, anxiety, depression, and fear. These are all normal responses to stressful situations.

Here are a few suggestions to help deal with these feelings:

- **Practice self-care.** Find ways to relax and unwind. Re-establish a hobby you enjoy that you can do at home.
- **Establish a buddy system.** It can be a spouse or a good friend. Find someone you can openly and honestly express your emotions to.
- **Need a friend? Be a friend.** Call and check on others' emotional and physical well-being. If possible, video chat with friends and loved ones.
- **Keep your mind occupied.** Don't let your thoughts become obsessed with fear, anger, or worry. Put together a puzzle, play Sudoku, work on crossword puzzles, etc.
- **Maintain or establish a healthy lifestyle.** Eat right, stay hydrated, and get some physical activity and fresh air, even if it's just walking around the yard or your block.
- **Stay informed, but don't overdose on the TV.** Watching non-stop news will just add to your stress. Be careful not to share information you can't prove to be true before posting things on social media. Don't inflict unnecessary fear or worry on others.
- **Don't worry. Trust God.** There is no point in worrying about things that you have absolutely no control over. We're encouraged in Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.”

Trusting Jesus,
Pastor Dan



Care Pastor
Rev. Dan Perry

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Spaghetti 2 Share!

Help us Feed Children and Families in Need

The Troy UMW typically holds our annual Spaghetti Dinner in March. Unfortunately, we cannot meet in person to share dinner with you this year. If you have purchased dinners in the past, provided a dessert, or volunteered your time at this important fundraiser, we ask that you consider making a monetary donation in the amount you would have spent on the spaghetti dinner.

Please mail your check to UMW at Troy United Methodist Church (407 Edwardsville Road, Troy, IL 62294).

100% of the spaghetti dinner funds will go to the ministries that the Troy UMW supports:

- **The Covering House:** Provides refuge and restoration, using the least restrictive environment, for sexually exploited and trafficked children and teens.
- **Cunningham Children's Home:** Provides support to children, youth, and families, including residential care and community-based services.
- **Equipping the Called:** Provides aid, comfort, and relief to children in crisis, which includes, but is not limited to, drug endangered children and those placed into foster care. It is our goal to provide the most basic items such as clothing, toiletries, and other personal care items to children who have become displaced or dislodged from their home.
- **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House:** A multi-purpose, faith-based community center in relationship with the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to empower individuals and families to move out of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency.
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** Provides opportunities for individuals and groups of all walks of life, denominational backgrounds, abilities, and ages to help provide disaster relief, education, and medical supplies to those in need locally, nationally, and internationally.
- **Ministries Unlimited:** A food pantry for less fortunate individuals in the Triad School District.
- **Oasis Women's Center:** Provides comfort and shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- **Red Bird Mission:** Red Bird Mission, Inc. and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. have been providing ministries in Appalachia since 1921. We strive to meet the needs of chronic poverty, lack of jobs, and poor housing through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.
- **Spero Family Services:** Provides child welfare services and community services to individuals and families in Southern Illinois.

SERVE

Join the Lawn Care Team

We'll need help mowing and trimming around the church grounds. We'll need teams of around three people to mow 1-2 times each month April through October. If you are interested in joining the lawn care team, please contact Sharie at sharie@troyumc.org.

Join the Hospitality Team

Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception of guests or strangers. Hospitality is such an important ministry in the church because we want newcomers to feel at home as they enter the building and meet new people.

From parking to a clean building to communication to kids ministry to next steps toward membership, every area of ministry is hospitality ministry. Members of Troy UMC or regular churchgoers might take these things for granted, but to a guest, they can all serve to make you feel welcome.

Take a minute and try thinking back to your first Sunday at Troy UMC. Who connected with you? Did you feel welcome? Were you invited? Was someone there to greet you?



Minister of Modern Worship Arts
Tim Price

We need strong hospitality teams to welcome everyone who walks through the doors (or logs on to the live-stream services!), but it's especially essential for those who are there for the first or second time.

As we transition back to more in-person ministry, as well as a continued online presence, there are numerous roles to which you may feel called to serve. If you have a gift of hospitality (like to talk with people, like to smile and greet others, would like to help schedule and set up teams, or like to greet others on social media), we'd love to get you plugged in!

From parking lot greeters to welcome center staff to online greeters to those who greet and check people in at the door, there is a role for you. Contact Tim (tim@troyumc.org) if you're interested in being a part of the team.

JOURNEY KIDS

The Troy UMC Children's Ministry is open! We are currently offering children's ministry during the 9 a.m. worship service. Nursery is also available during both the 9 and 10:15 a.m. services. Please pre-register your kids at troyumc.eventbrite.com so we can prepare the needed supplies.

We are taking the necessary COVID precautions to keep your kids safe; we're practicing physical distancing by taking a limited number of reservations and sitting in spaced-out hula hoops. Each child will wear a mask and have their own supply box and activities.

Unlike our last re-opening, we *will* be returning to small groups. You'll drop your child(ren) off at the large children's ministry area, but Preschool and Kindergarten kids will be in the small accordion room and grades 1-5 will be in the oak room. Groups will alternate to the large room for large group time and videos.

We are so excited to see you and your kids on Sunday mornings!

SAVE THE DATE!

- Easter *Rise Up!* family event: Thursday, April 1, 5-7 p.m.
- Vacation Bible School: July 12-16
- Beulah Summer Camps: July 2-3 for younger kids and July 23-30 for older kids

Please reach out if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering in Children's Ministry.

Christine Lippert

christine@troyumc.org



Director of Children's Ministry
Christine Lippert

NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

All 6th through 12th grade students are invited to journey with Jesus by participating in Wednesday Night Youth Group, monthly special events, and Sunday morning worship at Troy UMC.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP | 6:30-7:45 p.m. in-person and online via Zoom

Middle school study: *What I Really Want: A Series about Temptation*

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.” — Psalm 51:10, NLT

March 3	James 1:13-15	Dealing with temptation now can help you face it in the future.
March 10	Hebrews 4:15	Everybody faces temptation.
March 17	Romans 7:14-15; 18-20	Jesus helps us beat temptation.
March 24	Psalm 51:9-10	Giving into temptation isn't the end of your story.
March 31	1 John 4:7-21	Easter reminds us we're loved no matter what.

High school study: *Out of My Mind: A Series about Temptation*

“Watch and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” — Matthew 26:41, NIV

March 3	Matthew 3:17; 4:2	Let what God says about you influence what you do.
March 10	Matthew 4:1-11	Choose to believe that God will provide for your needs.
March 17	Matthew 4:5-7	Trust what God has labeled true.
March 24	John 3:17; Psalm 51:10	When you give in, you can start again.
March 31	1 John 4: 9-10; 16a	Because of the resurrection, John knew God is love.

MARCH SERVICE PROJECTS

Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Ministries Unlimited – Middle School Students | Saturday, March 6, 9-11 a.m. | No RSVP required

Meet at the local food pantry to sort and pack food and do some light housekeeping!

Address: 310 Collinsville Road, Troy, IL 62294

Book Packing Event – High School Students | Thursday, March 18, 6:30-8 p.m. | No RSVP required

Meet in the Family Life Center to support The Gathering's book packing of children's books featuring multicultural stories and characters for young readers.

2021 Confirmation Classes | Sundays, 5:30-7 p.m. | March 7, 14*, 21, & 28 | In-person and online via Zoom

*Sunday, March 14, we will meet 5:30-8 p.m. in lieu of the Spring Weekend Retreat.

The instructional sessions are themed: “Our Theology” and “Our Faith and Calling.”

SUMMER 2021 TRIPS

See troyumc.org/students for registration forms and trip details!

Middle School Students Summer Weekend Retreat — Midwest Mission Distribution Center | June 11-13 | \$125

High School Students Mission Trip — Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY | June 27-July 3 | \$425

SAVE THE DATE!

April 11 – Confirmation Sunday

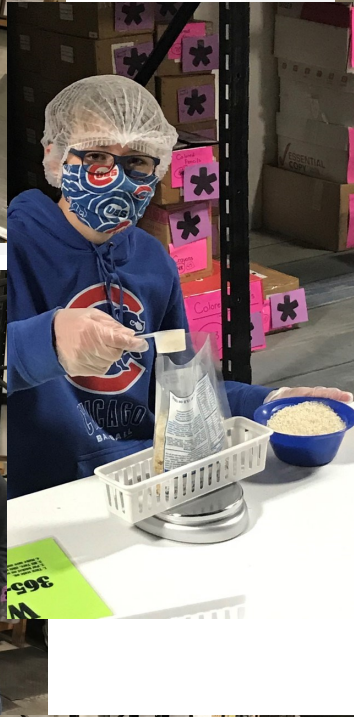
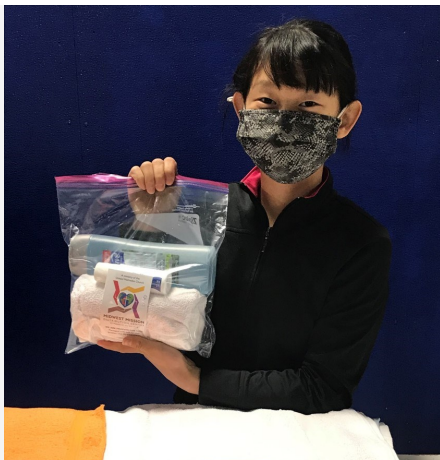
April 18 – 2021 Graduate Recognition

PARENTS

Please navigate to the NLSM webpage (troyumc.org/students) to complete a “Student Information and Communications Consent” form. Please submit one form for each student.

To receive New Life Student Ministry reminders from Pastor Kurt, please text ‘NLSM’ to 40650.

Rev. Kurt Stone is available via email, texts, and phone calls: kurt@troyumc.org or (618) 407-7586.



Photos from the Martin Luther King Day of Volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Church Information
Phone (618) 667-6241
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troyumc.org

Staff

*Senior Pastor
Andy Adams

*Associate Pastor, Student Ministry
Kurt Stone

*Care Pastor
Dan Perry

*Minister of Modern Worship Arts
Tim Price

*Director of Traditional Worship Arts
Emily Ottwein

*Director of Children's Ministry
Christine Lippert

*Director of Communications
Anna Belmonte

*Minister of Discipleship
Bonnie Abel

*Director of 1st Step Learning Center
Lisa Rayle

*Office Manager
Sharie Meyer

*Administrative Assistant
Marie Brown

*Fields Manager
Courtney Bettis

*Accompanist
Mike Rogier

*Production Coordinator
Josh Case

Worship Tech Coordinator
Nick Tipton

Custodians
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone,
Noah Durbin

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

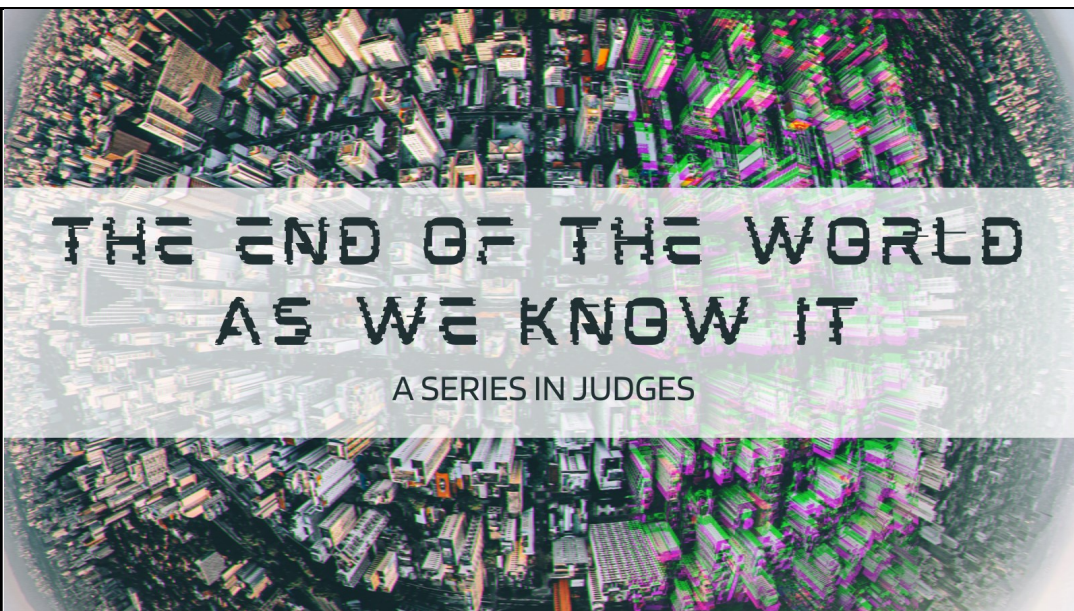
Connect with us!

@troyumc



MARCH SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
March 6	Middle School service project (see page 6)
March 13	Confirmation spring retreat
March 18	High School service project (see page 6)
March 28	Palm Sunday



Judges Reading Plan

As we continue the *End of the World as We Know It* series, we suggest you prepare for each Sunday's message by reading and meditating upon the accompanying Scripture passages:

- March 7 — Judges 3:7-5:31 (Sunday focus on Ehud, 3:12-30)
- March 14 — Judges 6:1-10:5 (Sunday focus on Gideon, 6:1-8:28)
- March 21 — Judges 10:6-16:31 (Sunday focus on Samson, 13:1-16:31)
- March 28 — Judges 17:1-21:25

REACH

Troy United Methodist Church
407 Edwardsville Road
Troy, IL 62294
troyumc.org

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