

TROY
METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

MARCH 2025
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 3

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SECOND EXODUS: THE STORY OF OUR DELIVERANCE

The Exodus, God delivering his people from slavery in Egypt to make them his treasured possession, is the foundational, identity-defining event for God's people in the Old Testament. Throughout their history, particularly during difficult times, God's people continued to look back and reflect on what God had done to save them. But they also looked forward, longing for a greater deliverance and knowing that God had greater plans for them. That hope and longing is the backdrop for God's *Second Exodus* – Jesus, the promised suffering servant who came to be faithful when Israel had not, and lay down his life as a Passover lamb, to deliver all people from the bondage of sin and death. As we journey to the cross during the Lenten season, we will explore this hope and longing and the ways Jesus leads a *Second Exodus: The Story of Our Deliverance*.

March 9: A Lament with Hope – Psalm 77

March 16: Second Chances – Isaiah 40:1-5

March 23: Jesus, Our True Deliverer – Matthew 3:1-4:22

March 30: A New Way of Life – The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7



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*

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM *April 6 at both Sunday Worship Services*

A *Jews for Jesus* missionary will recreate the Exodus Seder meal and show how it all points to Jesus. We'll weave the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery together with the messianic hope realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY



GOD PROVIDES IN THE WILDERNESS

Over the last two months we have done a deep dive into The Exodus, the story of God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. On our final Sunday of this series, March 2, I will share how it was always God's desire to deliver his people **FROM** slavery **FOR** a purpose: the purpose of being his treasured possession, that Yahweh would be their God, and they would be his people, a reflection of his character to the world. But you don't just go from being a slave one day to reflecting God's character the next day. That doesn't just happen overnight. You can be delivered from Egypt in a day, but it takes a lot longer to deliver Egypt out of you. So how would God get the slavery mindset of Egypt out of his people so they could live in trusting obedience to him?

That's where the wilderness comes into play. God used various wilderness experiences to mold and shape his people into his trusting children. God used the wilderness to transform them from slaves to a people who reflected his character. But it wouldn't happen easily. Just as we do, the Israelites needed a lot of work, and they often failed to learn. In fact, it took them 40 years before they even got close.

Wilderness experiences are not uncommon. We all go through them. They could involve a season of spiritual dryness, a health crisis, or a time of trial where life seems to fall apart. Regardless of the specific situations that induce the wilderness experience, they serve a common purpose for the spiritual life: to humble us, test us, and grow us. These experiences strip us down and make us vulnerable. They measure our willingness to trust God when life gets hard. And if we hold on to faith in the struggles, they deepen our relationship with God.

While the Israelites were in the wilderness, Yahweh provided 1) his presence in the cloud, 2) water, manna, and even meat for their physical needs, and 3) Sabbath rest – a radical departure from their days of slavery in Egypt. The LORD met their needs in the wilderness even though the circumstances were harsh and unyielding. And yet, as Pastor Bonnie shared in her sermon on February 16, the Israelites complained. They grumbled against God and against Moses, his servant. Their complaining was an external expression of an internal ungratefulness. It wasn't prayerful. It revealed a problem in their relationship with God. Their complaining revealed why God needed to lead them through the wilderness in the first place – to provide the ideal circumstances for their transformation into a people after God's own heart.

When you find yourself in a wilderness season, I hope you remember a few things: 1) God has not abandoned you. 2) If you trust God, you will grow. 3) There is a difference between complaining to others about God and complaining **TO** God in prayer. (Do the latter, not the former.) And 4) the number one way God provides for you in the wilderness is with the gift of himself: You will know that I am Yahweh your God. (Exodus 16:12) Never forget, God will provide in the wilderness.

Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	January Average
9:00 a.m. - In Person	102
9:00 a.m. - Online	188
10:30 a.m. - In Person	165
10:30 a.m. - Online	116
Sunday Children	60
Wednesday Youth	50
Average Weekly In Person Worship	377
Average Weekly Online Worship	304

General Budget



■ General Budget Income ■ General Budget Expenses

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 Days (not including Sundays) of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time of repentance from those things that often distract us. This Ash Wednesday we will take a look at one of the biggest themes from The Exodus, Pharaoh's hard heart. Together we will ask God to soften our hearts so we can put our full attention on Jesus this Lenten season. Join us for worship, scripture reflection, a message, and the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary on March 5, at 6:30 p.m.

SERVE

MIDWEST MISSION FOOD PACK EVENT

Saturday, March 29 in the Family Life Center

You've marked your calendars and now it's time to sign up! On Saturday, March 29, you will have multiple opportunities to come to the Family Life Center and be a part of this event that is for all ages: toddlers to older adults! There is work available for every skill level – whether you can stand for the whole two hours, or if you want to sit and seal bags. **Time slots include: 9:00, 11:00, 1:00.** Each time slot is 110 minutes with a 10-minute transition period to clean and reset for the next shift. To sign up you can email bonnie@troymc.org. You can sign up as an individual or with your family, band, small group, etc. If you'd like to sign up for more than one time slot, please do! This is a great opportunity to invite others into our church for something meaningful! Sign up today!

Additionally – we will have a **STUDENT FOOD PACK SET UP PIZZA PARTY on Friday, March 28 at 4:30 p.m.** Students and families are encouraged to come and help set up the Family Life Center for the Food Packing Event and then enjoy pizza together. For more information reach out to Pastor Bonnie.



JOIN THE TMC SINGERS!

We're a new group - Join us!

Do you enjoy Christmas caroling? Come join the TMC Singers, a new group that will perform periodically at area nursing homes and senior living centers. Led by Tom Wilkerson, this group will sing some hymns but also familiar popular songs and oldies. We will be performing on Thursday afternoons beginning Thursday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. We will have an optional rehearsal on Thursday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Have questions? Contact Tom at tom.wilkerson@charter.net.

HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

Each Sunday morning, we have a team of fifty-plus volunteers who provide hospitality for our members, attenders, and guests in a variety of ways. From greeting people with a smile to making coffee for the masses, we work to make Sunday mornings an experience where the love of Christ is experienced in all we do.

Now is a perfect time to try out a serving opportunity! Whether you are extraverted or would rather work behind the scenes, there is something for everyone. Each volunteer commits, on average, to help once a month, or you could volunteer extra if you would like to do more! But to start - just reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org; she would love to help you find just the right fit!



ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK!

As we enter into the month of March, we thought it was the perfect time to have our first all-church potluck of the new year! So, pull out the recipe cards and find a favorite dish to share for a great time of food and fellowship together!

We will meet in the Family Life Center right after the 10:30 a.m. service. The church will provide all paperware & utensils, drinks, and rolls; you provide a dish:

Families/Individuals:

Last name A - H – bring a main course (meats/casseroles)
Last name I - N – bring a hot side dish (beans/veggies/potatoes)
Last name O - S - bring a salad (lettuce/jello/coleslaw)
Last name T - Z - dessert (anything yummy!)

Please bring food that will serve 10 - 12 people. There is no need to register, just bring a dish - it's a potluck so anything goes! If you have questions or you'd like to help set up/clean up: contact our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

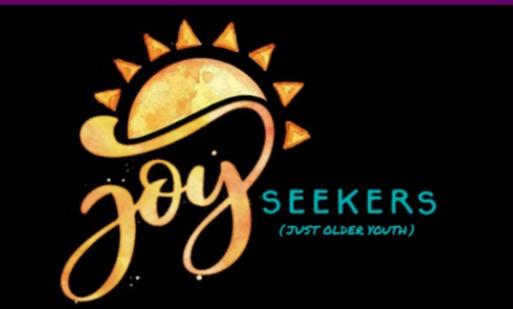
TROY METHODIST WOMEN

The Troy Methodist Women will meet Thursday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

We are excited to welcome Afton Spriggs with SAFE Families as our guest speaker. We will also be discussing plans for our Saturday, May 10 Spring event titled, "A Celebration of Motherhood".

If you have any questions about our ministry, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or call (618)954-6263.

Thank you to the leaders and children of our church for providing the Valentines that were delivered to two senior living facilities last month.



J.O.Y. SEEKERS (ADULTS 55+) Tuesday, March 25

On March 25, we will meet at noon in the Family Life Center for our lunch and program. The theme will be a Spring/Easter. Our program will be given by Pastor Andy.

This month we are having a potluck. Ham will be provided. All attendees are asked to bring a dish to share.

Call the church office at (618) 667-6241 to register - March 12-20. Questions? Contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org.

(We ask for a \$10 donation to help cover food expenses.)



connect lunch

sunday, march 9 @ 11:45 a.m.

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, March 9, 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 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. 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.

Sign up by emailing Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.



Troy Methodist Church is hosting a Planting Healthy Churches workshop in March! Join pastors and church members from across the region as we learn the essentials of church ministry and catch a vision for starting congregations that reach new people with the gospel.

This will be amazing training and beneficial for all TMC leaders and members of ministry teams and journey groups, and it's offered for **FREE**. You only need to register at troymc.org/events. Although it is ideal to be present for both days, if you can only make it on one day, please register and share which days you'll be in attendance.

You are also encouraged to be part of providing **radical hospitality** for attendees from more than seven states by greeting, serving lunch, or helping throughout the training!

If you're willing and available, contact bonnie@troymc.org

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS, *By: Pastor Dan Perry, Care Pastor*

As we welcome the month of March, we are reminded of the beauty of transition. The cold grip of winter is beginning to loosen, making way for the hope and promise of spring. In much the same way, life itself is marked by seasons, each filled with its own unique purpose and blessings.

I want to take time to honor and celebrate the incredible wisdom, resilience, and grace of our senior members. You are the pillars upon which our community stands, offering guidance, sharing stories of faith, and demonstrating unwavering love and devotion to Christ and His Church.

Scripture often highlights the importance of the wisdom gained through years of experience. Proverbs 16:31 reminds us, *"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."* Your journeys of faith, the lessons you've learned, and the love you share are gifts that strengthen and encourage us all.

I'd like to encourage everyone to take time this month to connect with our senior members. There is much to learn from their stories—tales of God's faithfulness in times of joy and challenge. Let us seek to foster relationships that bridge generations, allowing us to grow together as a united body in Christ.

Some upcoming events involving seniors and other church members are March 5- Ash Wednesday Service, March 9- First Sunday of Lent, March 25- J.O.Y Seekers Lunch & Program, and March 29- Food Pack Event.

To all our seniors, I want to thank you for your faithfulness and dedication. Your lives are a testimony to the goodness of God. You remind us that every season of life has its purpose and beauty. May we continue to cherish and celebrate the wisdom you bring to our Troy Methodist Church family.

TROY METHODIST KIDS

WHY DO YOU SERVE?

Meet Jeff and Sue Hewitt! They have been an integral part of the TMC community for many years. Even with their busy lives, filled with time spent with their seven kids and nine grandkids, they always find time to serve in children's ministry. They love being with their family, being outdoors, and when they're not outside, you'll probably find them with their noses in a good book!

Their passion for the church fuels their mission to ensure kids have a strong biblical foundation and develop a love for church that lasts a lifetime. As a dynamic husband-and-wife duo, Jeff and Sue currently teach Kindergarten and 1st grade, with Sue also working behind the scenes to prep lessons. Jeff's involvement doesn't stop there – he's also an active member of the school board and volunteers in other ways around town. For Jeff and Sue, the joy of serving in children's ministry often goes beyond what they teach. They've discovered that they receive just as much – if not more – than the kids they're helping to shape.

Their service is driven by a deep love for the church and a desire to nurture the faith of the next generation.

So, why should you serve? Whether you have a heart for kids or just want to be part of something bigger than yourself, serving at church is a great way to make a meaningful difference – both in others' lives and your own. Like Jeff and Sue, you might just find that the rewards of serving bring more joy, growth, and deeper connections than you ever expected!



VBS 2025

Registration is now open... for kids and volunteers!

Sign up at troymc.org/kids

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

@troymethodistkids

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

SPECIAL GUEST TEACHERS

On March 5, the student ministry will participate in the Ash Wednesday service for the evening. (See page 3 of this newsletter for details.)

The rest of the month, we're looking forward to guest leaders/teachers in student ministry!

March 12 - Sue Busler
March 19 - Ron Finnian
March 26 - Jenn Dilliberto

Student Ministry takes place on Wednesday evenings with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship, teaching, small groups, and activities. Thanks to each of these special guests teaching during March and to our entire leadership team who helps teach the entire school year.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

May 4

We're celebrating our graduates on Sunday morning, May 4. We are now collecting graduate information for a Sunday morning bulletin insert.

Please submit your graduate's information to Karen Wimmer at karen@troymc.org. This applies to any and all high school and college students connected to our church.

Please include name, graduating from where, future plans, favorite scripture verse, and a digital photo.

SCENES FROM A WEDNESDAY NIGHT



SUMMER DATES

Summer ministry dates are on the website at www.troymc.org/students.

If you would like to explore the possibility of serving as a camp/mission trip sponsor, please contact Tim Price.

Text
TROYSTUDENTS
to 94000 to stay in touch and get student ministry updates!

STUDENT SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Food Pack Set Up & Pizza Party

On Friday, March 28, all students and families are encouraged to help with the Food Pack Event set up from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. This will take place in the Family Life Center. Pizza will be served to all volunteers! Plan to join in the fun!

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org

Ryan - ryan@troymc.org

Courtney - courtney@troymc.org

Wenifer - wenifer@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	Lisa Rayle
*Director of Traditional Worship Music	Rebecca Koebbe
*Director of Modern Worship	Marissa Horning
*Children's Ministry Leader	Jenn Dilberto
*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



MARCH SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
March 2	All-Church Potluck (page 4)
March 5	Ash Wednesday Service (page 3)
March 9	Connect Lunch (page 5)
March 13	Troy Methodist Women Meeting (page 4)
March 20	TMC Singers Visit Community Senior Centers (page 3)
March 21-22	Planting Healthy Churches Workshop (page 5)
March 22	TMC Kids - Shine Kids Conference (page 6)
March 25	J.O.Y. Seekers Lunch & Program (page 4)
March 29	Midwest Mission Food Pack Event (page 3)



TROY
METHODIST CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION

SEEKING PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Troy Methodist Church is seeking to hire a part time Administrative Assistant to work 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning immediately! A great attitude, welcoming personality, and basic office administrative aptitude are musts.

Go to troymc.org/jobs for more information about the office responsibilities and beginning pay. Email jobs@troymc.org with a cover letter and resume to apply, or for other inquiries.

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REACH

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