



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

MAY 2024
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You Asked For It!

the sermon series you designed



This month we continue our message series responding to the questions you have! We've already covered a lot of ground in April and will tackle three more questions in May. Invite a friend to join you as we wrestle with each topic from a biblical perspective!

May 5 – Why does God sanction killing in the Old Testament?

Many people are turned off by the violence sanctioned by God and carried out by God's people in the Old Testament. This week we will seek to understand part of Israel's role in the Old Testament and how Jesus' death on the cross changes everything!

May 12 – How is it okay for women to be pastors?

Our Methodist doctrine supports women in ordained roles, but not every faith tradition believes the same. Each side uses Scripture as their basis. Who's right? This week we will investigate some of the Scriptures in question and share our church's stance!

May 19 – Why do bad things happen to good people?

How can God be good if there is so much pain in the world? Sadly, wrestling with these questions has led people to abandon their faith and turn their backs on God. This week we will briefly reflect on our theological understanding of the problem of evil, but more importantly we will spend extended time in prayer and worship – turning to the only one who can bring healing and hope to our pain.



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 19

(Read all about it on page two.)

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

WHAT IS PENTECOST AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Pentecost is one of the many feasts and festivals prescribed in the Old Testament Law for the people of God to observe annually. Specifically, it commemorates the beginning of the early wheat harvest and was a time of thanking God for his provision. In Judaism it is sometimes referred to as the "Feast of Harvest" or the "Feast of Weeks" because it occurs seven weeks (a week of weeks) after the Passover celebration which coincides with Christianity's observance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Therefore, Christians observe Pentecost (the Greek name for this Jewish feast) seven weeks after Easter Sunday. This year that falls on May 19!



But Pentecost isn't celebrated by Christians because God provides through a bountiful harvest. No, Christians celebrate Pentecost because God provides his followers the Holy Spirit! You see, it was when the Jewish believers were gathered in Jerusalem, celebrating the Pentecost Feast of Harvest with Jews from many other places that God's Spirit descended upon them. They supernaturally spoke each other's languages and Peter, filled with the Spirit, shared the gospel with all of them and, as Acts chapter 2 describes, over 3,000 were baptized into the faith. This marked the birth of God's new people, the Church!

The Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Jesus, is the third person of the Godhead along with God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God dwelling in his holy temples – people who have been cleansed and purified by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. We have been forgiven and made new through Christ are therefore able to be filled with the power and presence of Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit in us who convicts us of sin and leads us to ongoing repentance as we continue to be transformed into the image of Christ. It is also through the power of the Holy Spirit in us that we can live holy lives and boldly serve as Jesus' representatives in this world.

Sadly, the Holy Spirit is often overlooked in the Church or simply ignored. But our Methodist heritage is rich in its understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This September we will be doing a five-week, six-Sunday church-wide discovery of this Third Person of the Trinity because we want to be a people who live in the ongoing presence and power of the Holy Spirit!

This Pentecost, May 19, 2024, as we conclude our series *You Asked For It*, we will spend extra time in prayer and ministry to one another through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is only God's presence with us that can minister to and heal us from the brokenness and pains of this world. Would you join me in praying now for God to show up and minister to our church community this month? I can't wait for us to experience our own outpouring of God's Spirit!

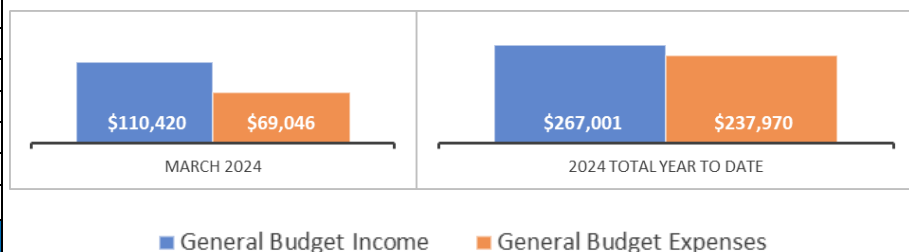
Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	March Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	127	115
9:00 a.m. - Online	136	157
10:30 a.m. - In Person	196	173
10:30 a.m. - Online	106	111
Sunday Children	69	59
Wednesday Youth	42	39
*Good Friday Service (3/29)	124	
*Sunrise Service (3/31)	108	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	480	415
Average Weekly Online Worship	242	267

General Budget



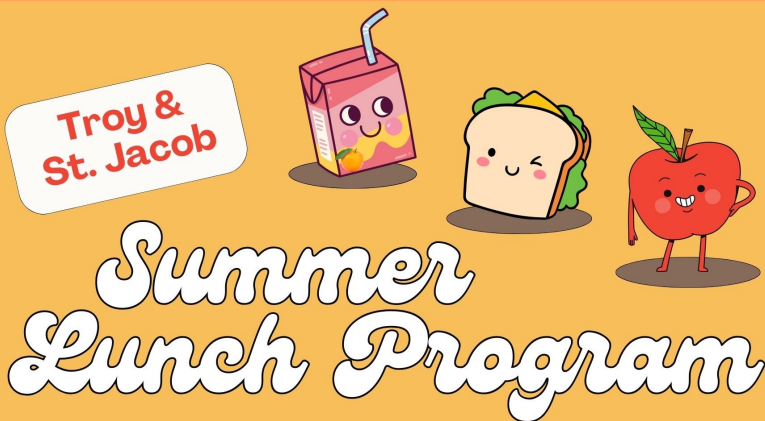
CHURCH NEWS

UPDATE FROM OUR SAINT JACOB PROPERTY TEAM

A team appointed by our church council on March 12 has been working to gather information and create a plan for the disposition of the Saint Jacob property. An appraisal will be conducted soon, and the contents of the facility are being assessed. The team invites any former members of the Saint Jacob Methodist Church to come to the property on Saturday, June 8, from 10:00 a.m. to noon to collect any memorialized items of personal value. Our office will attempt to contact those who have indicated a desire to save particular items. The team will share a more detailed report to the church council at our next meeting on May 14, 2024.



SERVE



TROY & ST. JACOB SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This summer we will again be doing a summer lunch program in both the Troy and St. Jacob communities for the children in our towns to have access to free lunches. This program is something that you can do on your own, with a friend, or with your family! All are invited! A sign-up genius form will be coming to the eReach mid-May. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor at bonnie@troymc.org.

2024 INTERNATIONAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Our church family is connected to multiple missionaries who serve international. These wonderful relationships provide us with a variety of opportunities to be on mission around the world. Below you will find an overview of upcoming trips with Matt Henson, from *Living the Adventure Ministries*. If you are interested in knowing more about any of these trips or would like to know about future opportunities reach out to Bonnie, our Discipleship Pastor at bonnie@troymc.org.

- Guyana: June 24-July 2
- Malawi: August 29-September 9
- India: September 25-October 11

LIVING THE ADVENTURE
MINISTRIES



SPOTS STILL OPEN FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

1st Step Learning Center is gearing up for another fun year! Our preschool runs from mid-August through mid-May, Tuesday through Thursday 8:25-11:45 a.m. We still have two spots left in our 3's class and 3 spots left in our 4's class. If you, or someone you know is interested in a Christ-based preschool that feels like family, please call the office today at (618) 667-6241 and ask for Lisa or Amy.

Serving Opportunity!

We are also looking for subs for our preschool classrooms! If you love children, have some experience working in a preschool or daycare, and would like to join our team, reach out today!

Membership Class & Lunch

Sunday, May 5 @ 11:45 a.m.
Upper Family Life Center



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP CLASS & LUNCH

Our next Membership Class will be Sunday, May 5 following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Upper Family Life Center. This class is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about our church family and what it means to become a member of Troy Methodist Church! If you are a long-time attender and want to find out about what it means to be a Global Methodist congregation, we would love for you to attend this lunch and learn more. If you are a new visitor to our church, this lunch is for you! If you have questions, or would like to sign up, email our Discipleship Pastor at bonnie@troymc.org. You can also RSVP for childcare if needed.

UPWARD – MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

Now that the Upward Basketball and Cheerleading season is over and as we look forward to preparing for a new season in the next few months, it's a good time to evaluate the impact of this important ministry outreach of our church!

Here are some significant statistics. Of the 237 participating athletes, 130 were first time participants in our program. Furthermore 53% (125) come from a family with no church home! That represents nearly 6,000 touchpoints of ministry to people without church homes which our Upward program and our faithful volunteers made possible. Thank you for investing in such a great ministry outreach!

If you are interested in serving in some capacity in our 2024-25 season, contact Tyson Graham at t.graham_13@att.net



TROY METHODIST MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST & PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.


Family Life Center



Join us for a delicious breakfast of biscuits & gravy (and other goodies) prepared by our very own Dale Storey. Stay for an informational talk about the new Troy Community Garden given by Dottie Dexheimer.

This will be a great time of men's fellowship! Open to all!

For more information, contact Don Satterlee at keypad@proalarm.net.

 Troy United Women in Faith Fundraiser

Fashion Show Salad & Dessert Buffet Silent Auction

Saturday, May 4 - Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

"BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED" Troy United Women in Faith Spring Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday May 4, the doors open at 11:00 a.m. Elizabeth Grant is our Emcee for a Fashion Show featuring women's clothing from three entrepreneurial resale shops in the area. Bring your friends, enjoy a meal together, participate in a silent auction, and support area missions for women and children.

Advance tickets are \$15 per adult, \$10 for children age 12 and under. Tickets are available at the TMC office or from UWF members.

For more information contact Bethel Rogers,
rogersbethel@gmail.com.

Silent Auction Spotlight!

Here's a sneak peek at some of the exciting items you will find in the Silent Auction.

- ✦ Four tickets to a STL Cardinal's baseball game
(the tickets have room access to the outside)
- ✦ Hand-painted Christmas ornaments
- ✦ Handmade quilt
- ✦ Two bed comforter sets
- ✦ Guitar
- ✦ Precious Moments & other figurines
- ✦ Hand crafted greeting cards
- ✦ Dolls
- ✦ Lap desk

*You won't want to miss out on bidding
for these items plus a whole lot more!*



United
Women
in Faith

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Family Life Center and leave together to visit the local food pantry, Ministries Unlimited. We will work for about an hour helping to stock the shelves for summer. Bring items you wish to donate to the Family Life Center before 1:00 p.m.

Suggested donations are:

Boxed - instant oatmeal, mac & cheese, dried pasta, or potatoes Au Gratin

Canned - tomato sauce or tomato paste

Donations for the summer children lunch program:
Pudding cups, fruit cereal bars (no nuts), 5oz. pull-top canned chicken (*available at Walmart*)

Please contact Bethel Rogers with questions at
rogersbethel@gmail.com



CASEY, ILLINOIS

JOY SEEKERS are taking a field trip May 28
to Casey, IL to see
Big Things in a Small Town.

We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. and board the bus for a 2-hour trip to Casey. Once we arrive, you're on your own to view all the sights and enjoy lunch. We plan to arrive back at the church around 3:30 p.m. To cover bus expenses, we ask each person to donate \$10 cash at time of departure.

Watch the weekly e-Reach for more information.

TROY METHODIST KIDS



IT WAS A “GLOWING” SUCCESS!

Nearly 40 children and 15 volunteers enthusiastically took part in the Glow - One Day Easter Event! This event was centered around the truth that Jesus is the light of the world. All the activities and games were designed to help the children understand and appreciate this message. Through storytelling, arts, crafts, and games, the children were taught about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and how He is the ultimate light that guides us through life. We ended our event with a fun glow-in-the-dark Easter egg hunt!

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers for their unwavering dedication and effort in ensuring that the event was extraordinary and unforgettable for all of our kids!

TWEEN TIMES

The Tweens group is a wonderful initiative led by Jennifer Zahn. It's always great to see someone taking the time to invest in our youth and help them grow in their faith. It's inspiring to hear that Jennifer has created a safe space for tween girls to meet and enjoy activities centered around the Word of God. Kudos to Jennifer for her dedication and commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of these young girls. She is a wonderful example of discipleship.

A note from Jennifer:

Hello to Tween's participants and parents. What a wonderful experience our couple of months together have been for me! Right now we're winding down our spring meetings and our last will be April 24. I'm thinking of doing another series later in the summer or fall depending on interest and availability. Spending time with your girls has been a special blessing for me and I appreciate your commitment to faithfully bring them each week. Contact me with any questions at tierrgirl@gmail.com



HARVEST: ON A MISSION CONFERENCE

The Harvest Conference held in Marion, IL was a transformative event that left a lasting impression on fifteen children and three leaders. From the moment of arrival, we were captivated by the engaging activities, which included powerful worship sessions, insightful Bible time, fun recreational games, a delightful puppet show, and meaningful reflection and prayer time. We were able to reflect on the message that we are all called to share the gospel and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. The palpable energy and enthusiasm of the kids was truly inspiring. This experience will continue to have a positive and profound impact for years to come on the lives of those who attended.



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



CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS



WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBER OF TROY STUDENT MINISTRY!

Adelynn Rose was born March 30, 2024 to Ryan and Courtney Froidcoeur, our senior high ministry co-leaders.

Adelynn weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and measured 19 inches long.

Baby and parents are doing great, a little sleep deprived, but great!

One of the best ways to stay connected is to subscribe to the Troy Student Ministry texting!

TROYSTUDENTS
to 94000

PRAISE GOD FOR THE CONFIRMANDS

By Wenifer Greer

The word of God tells us to "Train children up in the way they should go; and when they are old, they will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. So we have done. And the journey begins. Praise the Lord!

I hope that each of you had an opportunity to share in the confirmation ceremony of the ten amazing students on Sunday, April 7. If not, please take a moment to view it on the church website. Five young men and five young women celebrated the culmination of their confirmation class that started this past fall. They invested months of their time and energy to learn and grow and understand how to move forward in their faith. Their beautiful journey began on Sunday by serving. Did not all our hearts burst with joy to see these young people serve? Communion never felt so good!

We, the church, gave birth on that glorious Sunday as the confirmands pledged their vows to the Lord and became members of the church. **Let us rejoice! Let us celebrate! Let us encourage!** Also, let us pray for these students as we continue to "train them up."

Again their names are: Callum Rose, Emmett Buck, Cache Warner, Quinn Stopka, Kane Stopka, Makayla Hout, Annaliese Skouby, Kallea Berg, Averie Stolle, and Brynna Cushing.

As the Lord prompts you, please call out these students by name, and let us pray.



STUDENT MINISTRY - MAY ACTIVITIES

April 24 - Regular Student Ministry Night

April 26 - Middle School Ice Skating Night

May 1 - Regular Student Ministry Night

May 8 - Regular Student Ministry Night

May 15 - Grand Finale of the School Year - potluck, worship, and fun night

May 22 - Break - No Student Ministry

May 29 - Break - No Student Ministry

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org

Ryan - ryan@troymc.org

Courtney - courtney@troymc.org

Wenifer - wenifer@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/students

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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
- Custodian**
Rex Repp

***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



MAY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
May 4	Troy United Women in Faith Spring Fundraiser (page 5)
May 5	Membership Class & Lunch (page 4)
May 9	Troy United Women in Faith May Meeting (page 5)
May 11	Troy Methodist Men's Ministry Breakfast & Program (page 4)
May 15	Troy Methodist Students - Grand Finale of the School Year (page 7)
May 19	Pentecost Sunday (page 2)
May 28	JOY Seekers Fieldtrip to Casey, IL (page 5)

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

By Rebecca Koebbe

Whichever service you usually attend on Sunday mornings, you are welcome to participate in special music at the 9:00 a.m. traditional services this summer!

I will soon be putting together small ensembles for this summer's services. Last year's vocal ensembles were a success, so I'll be taking a similar approach with men's and women's vocal ensembles this year. It has also come to my attention throughout the past many months that there are several flutists who are interested in participating in a flute ensemble, so I'm working toward that as well. If you're a vocalist, flutist, potential bell player, or any other type of instrumentalist, please reach out at your earliest convenience so I can try to involve you in our special music this summer. It's always delightful to get to know one another at rehearsals as well as explore the possibilities of small and mid-sized ensembles.

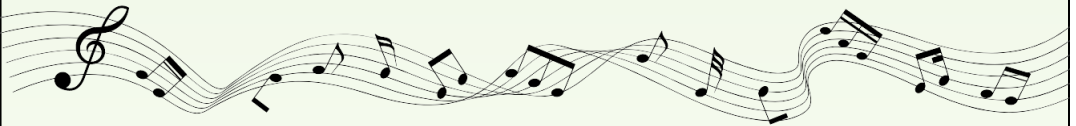


One other fun ensemble I'm planning for later this summer is a parent-child bell ensemble. The target is primarily middle school and above, and the parent needs to be capable of playing bells, too, so basic music reading skills are helpful — or at least a willingness to learn!

Additionally, mark your calendars for our kick-off events in August:
Bell Choir Boot Camp is August 3, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Kickoff is August 10, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Feel free to email me with any questions at: rebecca@troymc.org

Thanks so much, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



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