



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

MAY 2025
VOLUME 37 • ISSUE 5

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Message from Pastor Andy | P. 2 |
| Strategic Stats | P. 2 |
| Serve | P. 3 |
| Connect | P. 4-5 |
| Troy Methodist Kids | P. 6 |
| Troy Methodist Students | P. 7 |
| May Schedule Highlights | Back Page |



Prayer is an essential part of being human. We were created for relationship with God and a connection with a spiritual reality. And stepping into that reality through prayer opens us up to an adventure of a lifetime. When we avoid prayer, we're relegating ourselves to the sidelines of life and missing out on the amazing journey God has in store for us.

Join us in May as we begin this journey of prayer together and receive some necessary tools for the adventure.

May 4: Are You In? – Psalm 63:1-8

May 11: A Map for the Journey – Matthew 6:9-13

May 18: A Lifelong Journey – John 15:1-8

May 25: Navigating Through Distractions and Detours on the Journey – James 4:1-10

As part of this series, we are inviting everyone to join in 21 Days of Prayer beginning on May 5 and ending on May 25. Here's what's involved:

- Read a short devotion from the book, *21 Days of Deeper Prayer: Discover and Extraordinary Life in God*, and
- Pray along with the audio prayer available online for each day.

Pick up one of the companion books in worship on Sunday, April 27 or Sunday, May 4 or by stopping by the church office during the week.

Although not required, we suggest a \$5 donation for the book.



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

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

MINISTRY UPDATE: EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT TMC!

Easter – We had a very meaningful Holy Week this year! It began with a Spirit filled celebration and remembrance of Jesus' love for us on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Those services are always meaningful to me, and we could all feel God's Spirit moving, reminding us of his great love for us. Then Easter Sunday was powerful! We had over 600 people in attendance in person to experience the promise of new life that is possible because of Jesus' resurrection. I am especially thankful for those people who volunteered to share their cardboard testimonies! It never gets old witnessing the transformation Jesus brings to everyday people's lives! And another shout out to those who lived out our mission by inviting friends, family, coworkers, or neighbors to worship with you! We had many guests with us! What a great Easter Sunday!

Loan Paid Off – If you worshiped with us on Palm Sunday you heard some amazing news. Two years ago, our congregation took out a \$524,000 loan to pay the required fees to leave our former denomination. By doing so, our local church was then free to join the Global Methodist Church, and we also became the official owners of all our properties and assets (previously, we held them in trust for the denomination). It seemed like an overwhelming amount of money two years ago, and we were fortunate to find a lender. But the exciting news is that last month we paid that loan off in its entirety! Everyone contributed to make that possible, but significant progress was made with last year's sale of our Saint Jacob site and the hoped for but unexpected income from the Employee Retention Tax Credit we were eligible for from the government. Take a moment to thank God for providing!

Adaptive Leadership Team – Our team continues to meet for a full day each month. We continue to grow together in spiritual leadership and mutual trust as we work together to develop a Ministry Action Plan (MAP) for our church. Thus far in 5 meetings we've read a book together and started another one, developed a team covenant, articulated our mission, studied demographic reports, conducted our own research to understand our community context, and begun to identify our core values. Keep praying for our team as we work together to discern God's leading for our church!

Young People Coming to Christ – I've saved the best for last. Our student ministry continues to grow both in numbers and spiritual depth. From this time last year to this year, our student ministry has grown from a weekly average of 39 students to 51 (30% growth) including one week in March with 68 in attendance! Even more exciting is the move of God's Spirit amongst our youth. In the last couple of months at least 8 of our students have made first time professions of faith. Pray that this spiritual momentum is carried over to our various camps and mission trips this summer where students typically take even deeper steps of faith!

We have so much to praise God for, don't we?!

Faithfully,

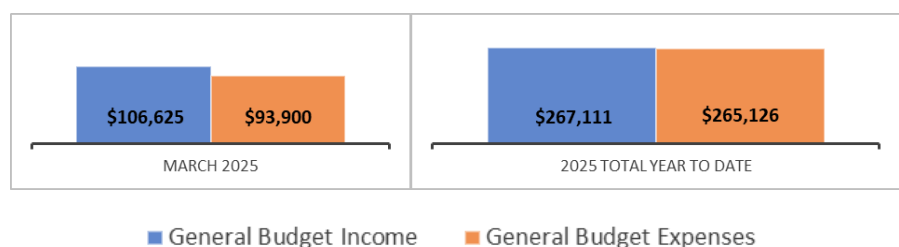
Andy



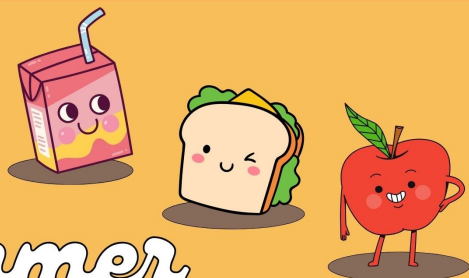
STRATEGIC STATS

| Worship Services | March Average | Year to Date Averages |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. - In Person | 118 | 110 |
| 9:00 a.m. - Online | 120 | 159 |
| 10:30 a.m. - In Person | 173 | 170 |
| 10:30 a.m. - Online | 122 | 130 |
| Sunday Children | 68 | 60 |
| Wednesday Youth | 51 | 51 |
| *Ash Wednesday (3/5) | 172 | |
| Average Weekly In Person Worship | 444 | 402 |
| Average Weekly Online Worship | 242 | 289 |

General Budget



Troy &
St. Jacob



Summer Lunch Program

TROY & ST. JACOB SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This summer we will again be participating in the summer lunch program in both the Troy and St. Jacob communities. This program provides meals Monday through Friday in addition to a backpack program to cover weekend meals so that the children and youth in our community have access to food all summer long. This program purposefully starts the week after school finishes and goes until the week prior to the start of school with the hope being that no child will go without a meal on any given day! Our church family will be volunteering on Mondays at both locations in Troy and the St. Jacob location. If you would like to volunteer you can find the links to sign up in the upcoming weekly eReach. If you have questions or need help signing up reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

JOURNEY GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Save the date! Coming this summer, on Tuesday, July 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pastor Andy and Pastor Bonnie will be leading a training opportunity for all current journey group facilitators, apprentices, and anyone who is interested in learning what it means to lead in this capacity.

We will explore topics such as: having a vision for your journey group, inviting new people to your group, the roles of facilitator and apprentice, and many other themes. There will also be ample time set aside for questions and answers.

RSVP to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org by July 1.

If you have questions about journey groups or how to get connected to community at TMC, reach out to Pastor Bonnie any time!



PENNY DRIVE IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SOLDIERS

The Veterans Honor Project is on a mission to place over one million pennies on veterans' graves across the country. Each penny carries a message of remembrance, respect, and gratitude—a small token with a big meaning.

Have you ever walked through a veteran's cemetery and noticed a coin on the grave? Here's what each coin left on a veteran's grave traditionally represents:

- Penny – Someone visited to show respect.
- Nickel – The visitor trained at boot camp with the veteran.
- Dime – The visitor served alongside the veteran.
- Quarter – The visitor was with the veteran when they died.

For our project, we are specifically collecting pennies—because each penny tells a story: You are not forgotten. Someone came. Someone cares. While we ask for pennies, we will gladly accept any coins or bills, which will be exchanged for pennies to carry out the mission. But this isn't just about remembering the fallen—it's also about helping the living. On average, 22 veterans die by suicide each day. Our goal is to raise awareness and funds for mental health support, so fewer veterans end up in a grave too soon.

We invite you to be part of this simple but powerful mission. Together, we can honor the legacy of those who served—and work to protect those who still do.

Would you help us collect pennies to honor America's veterans? Starting on Sunday, May 4, we will have boxes out for you to grab and take home with you. The goal is to fill your box with as many pennies as possible and bring your box back by Sunday, May 25. **Let's be on mission together!**



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 outreach ministry of our church!

Here are some significant statistics. Of the 286 participating athletes (49 more than last year), 163 were first time participants in our program (33 more than last year). Furthermore 54% (155, 30 more than last year) come from a family with no church home! That represents over 7,000 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 outreach ministry!

If you are interested in serving in some capacity in our 2025-26 season, contact Tyson Graham at t_graham_13@att.net



Membership Class & Lunch

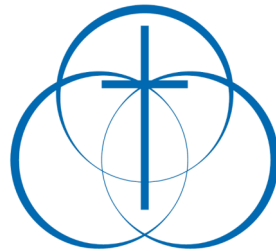
Sunday, May 18 @ 11:45 a.m.
Upper Family Life Center



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Our next Membership Class will be Sunday, May 18 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 also 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.



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

MAY FIELD TRIP
Thursday, May 8
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Troy Methodist Women are taking a trip to tour Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL on Thursday, May 8. Plans are to leave the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. with tour beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will then travel to Chatham to eat lunch at Chatham Cafe and return to church around 2:30 p.m.

We have some seats remaining on the church van so please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com if interested in going. Cost? Just your time, lunch, and extras from the gift shop.

It will be a great way to see what, when, how, and why our donations both monetary and material are used all over the world.

Also, please remember our big event...
"Children's Celebration of Motherhood"
on Saturday, May 10 from noon till 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. See our flyer on the back page for details!



J.O.Y. SEEKERS (ADULTS 55+)

Tuesday, May 27
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

For our May lunch,
we're considering a
sports theme and

including outdoor games like washers and cornhole. With an emphasis on sports, our meal will include hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. We plan to eat inside and then move outside to play games (weather permitting). The church is supplying meat and sides including our dessert - cupcakes and ice cream. Please remember we ask for a \$10 per person donation to help with expenses.

Watch the weekly eReach for further details. Contact Pastor Dan with questions at dan@troymc.org.



MEET CHRIS BOEMECKE *Our new Administrative Assistant*

Originally from Louisville, KY, Chris moved to Troy in 2000. She has been married to her husband Chris for 38 years. They met in the Air Force and retired here in Troy. They have one daughter, Lauren, and one grandson, Granger

(14 months). She loves to read and scrapbook with a group of friends.

Chris will be in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We invite you to stop in, say "hi", and welcome Chris to the Troy Methodist Church family.

SENIOR CITIZENS – STAY ACTIVE!

By: Pastor Dan Perry, Care Pastor

Staying active and engaged is vital for senior citizens' physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Here are ideas to stay active:

Engaging Hobbies

Gardening – exercise + nature = win-win; **Painting/Drawing** – creative and stress-relieving; **Crafting** – knitting, scrapbooking, or quilting bring joy and a sense of achievement; **Playing Instruments** – learn guitar, piano, or another instrument at your own pace; **Cooking** – tasty, creative, and social.

Social Clubs & Groups

Join local or **interest-based clubs** (gardening, photography, etc.); Enjoy **group activities**: game nights, potlucks, classes, or trips (like J.O.Y. Seekers). *Benefits: friendship, mental stimulation, and community.*

Volunteering

Help churches, schools, hospitals, or community centers; Be a mentor or support staff. *Boosts purpose, reduces loneliness, and strengthens community ties.*

Fitness for Seniors

Yoga or Tai Chi – gentle, calming, and balance-boosting; **Swimming** – joint-friendly cardio; **Walking Groups** – active and social; **Strength Classes** – build muscle and bone health. Local centers often offer senior-friendly fitness classes.

Leisure & Relaxation

Read – mental escape and stimulation; **Watch Movies** – solo or with others; **Listen to Music** – uplifting and nostalgic; **Travel** – explore new places and make memories; **Puzzles & Games** – entertaining and brain-boosting.

Embracing Technology

Use **social media** to keep in touch and find groups; Take **online courses** for fun and learning; Make **video calls** to stay close with loved ones; Try senior-friendly **apps** for fitness, games, and more.

Lifelong Learning

Attend **lectures or community classes**; Join or start a **book club**; Participate in **workshops** (art, cooking, woodworking); Pick up **new hobbies** that challenge and inspire.

Final Thought

Being active and engaged enriches seniors' lives, boosting health, happiness, and a fulfilling sense of purpose. Whether it's trying a new hobby, joining a club, volunteering, exercising, or learning something new—there's always a fulfilling way to stay busy.

It's never too late to explore, grow, and enjoy life to the fullest.

TROY METHODIST KIDS

FINAL PRAYERS FOR OUR KIDS AND STUDENTS: FINISHING STRONG

As the school year wraps up and students face testing, transitions, and fatigue, it's more important than ever to cover them in prayer. Let's ask God to strengthen, guide, and give peace to every child finishing this season. Here are five focused prayers you can pray over your kids and students in this final stretch.

✦ Peace in Testing

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast..." – Isaiah 26:3

Prayer: Lord, calm any anxiety and cover our students with Your peace. Let them rest in Your presence, knowing You are with them every step of the way.

✦ Confidence and Focus

"God gave us... power, love and self-discipline." – 2 Timothy 1:7

Prayer: Fill them with confidence—not from themselves but from You. Help them recall what they've learned and stay focused through every challenge.

✦ Strength to Finish Well

"Let us not grow weary in doing good..." – Galatians 6:9

Prayer: Give our kids endurance and joy as they cross the finish line. Renew their energy and remind them how far they've come.

✦ Wisdom and Discernment

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God..." – James 1:5

Prayer: Grant them wisdom not only for their studies but for decisions, friendships, and next steps. Let their choices reflect Your truth.

✦ Rest and Renewal

"Come to me... and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

Prayer: As the year ends, bring deep rest to their bodies and minds. May they be refreshed and reminded that their worth is found in You.

A Final Thank You and Blessing

Thank you for faithfully praying for your child or student this year. Your prayers matter more than you know. God has heard every one—and He is working.

"The Lord bless you and keep you... and give you peace." – Numbers 6:24-26

You've prayed for them through every season—and God will carry them across the finish line.

Follow our social media accounts
for more photos of our kids!



CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/ INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

AWESOME NEWS!

Six students accepted Christ during student ministry a couple of weeks ago! We're praying for each of these specifically as well as all of our next generation as they encounter Jesus and grow in discipleship.



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

This year's Confirmation Class will be confirmed on Sunday, April 27. This group had their final classes and retreat a couple weeks back. It was a great time together as the group stayed at the church building over the weekend. Praying for these students.



THANK YOU TO GUEST TEACHERS!

Last month, we were excited to welcome guest teachers during the student ministry. Thank you to Sue Busler, Ron Finnan, and Jenn Diliberto.

PEANUT-FREE IN STUDENT MINISTRY

Due to severe allergies, we are making a change to create a peanut-free zone in the Student Ministry - meals, trips, events, snacks, and meals.

Graduation Sunday

May 4, 2025

PRAYING FOR OUR SENIORS

High school and college graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 4 at both services. Following the last service, we will host a lunch and a time to celebrate. Students, families, and friends are invited to RSVP for the lunch. There is also still time for graduates to submit their information for recognition. Use these QR codes to respond.



Lunch RSVP



Submit Grad Information

MAY CALENDAR

- May 7 -** Regular Student Ministry Night
- May 14 -** Regular Student Ministry Night
(*Last night of Small Groups*)
- May 21 -** End of semester party
- May 28 -** Break Week
- June 4 -** Student Ministry Lock-In

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Last fall, the congregation committed to praying for approximately 170 children and students, pre-k through high school. We're thankful for the ways God has been and will be at work through prayer.

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)

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 Diliberto
***Communications Coordinator**
Deb Ellis
***Production Coordinator**
Josh Case
***Administrative Assistant**
Chris Boemecke
***Middle School Ministry Leader**
Wenifer Greer
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Courtney Froidcoeur
***Senior High Ministry Co-Leader**
Ryan Froidcoeur
Custodians
Jacob Baum, Bruce Jackson

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

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

Connect with us!
[@troymethodistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/troymethodistchurch)



MAY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

| Date | Event |
|--------|--|
| May 4 | Graduation Sunday (page 7) |
| May 4 | Connect Lunch (see website) |
| May 8 | Troy Methodist Women Trip to Midwest Mission (page 4) |
| May 10 | Children's Celebration of Motherhood Event (back page) |
| May 18 | Membership Class & Lunch (page 4) |
| May 21 | Student Ministry - End of Semester Party (page 7) |
| May 27 | J.O.Y. Seekers May Lunch (page 5) |

A Children's Celebration of Motherhood

A MOTHER-AND-CHILD/CHILDREN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP, REFRESHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:



Saturday, May 10, 2025

Noon to 2 p.m.

*Troy Methodist Church - Family Life Center
407 Edwardsville Road, Troy*

TICKETS: \$10/ADULTS, \$5/CHILDREN UNDER 12

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!



Mother's Day
Gift Shop



SPONSORED BY TROY METHODIST WOMEN, BENEFITTING THE TMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, FIRST STEP LEARNING CENTER, & OTHER SUPPORTED MISSIONS.



"Children's Celebration of Motherhood" **Saturday, May 10** **Noon - 2:00 p.m.** **Family Life Center**

Troy Methodist Women are hosting an afternoon of fun for the entire family. The event will include arts and crafts, a photo booth, refreshments, a gift shop, silent auction, and children's music.

The price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12. (*Children must be accompanied by an adult.*)

Tickets will be available to purchase from the church office, members of TMW, and before/after worship services on May 4.

Proceeds from this event will go toward our children's ministry, 1st Step Learning Center, and the missions TMW support.

For more information, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618)954-6263.



REACH

Troy Methodist Church
407 Edwardsville Road
Troy, IL 62294
troymc.org

Non-Profit Org.
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Troy, IL
Permit #37

Return Service Requested