



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

NOVEMBER 2024
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making change

Sometimes it's easy to be so inundated with societal norms that we forget what God's Word says about a subject. This is especially the case with money! As we head into the holidays it's vital to understand what God says about earning, saving, spending, and giving.

In this short, 2-week series, we will do just that. We will explore the value that God's Word places on money and consider several biblical principles for how to best manage money God's way. What we discover will likely lead us toward *Making Change*.

November 17 – The Value of Money

November 24 – Managing Money

THANKSGIVING SERVICE WITH SOUP & SALAD POTLUCK

Mark your calendars for this year's Thanksgiving Service, **Wednesday, November 27**. We will meet in the Family Life Center at noon for a time of worship including a homily and special music. Following the service, we will have a potluck lunch of soups, salads, and desserts so we can enjoy time together in community.

If your last name begins with A-L, bring a dessert to share

If your last name begins with M-S, bring a soup to share

If your last name begins with T-Z, bring a salad to share

(Drinks, bread, dishes and utensils will be provided.)

Additionally, there will be a **special offering during this service that will go towards our Financial Assistance Fund**. Over the past year we have helped families with assistance paying their rent, electric bills, water bills, groceries, car payments, gasoline, clothing, and so much more! This is all made possible by your generous support!

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

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN - LESSONS FROM THE GRIDIRON

I've been considering the problem of pain a lot lately. No, not because my knees hurt almost constantly (they do), but because it comes up a lot when thinking theologically about heaven, hell, and the afterlife. The problem can be simply stated like this: *How can a perfectly good God allow such pain and suffering in the world?* This is an age-old question that cannot be adequately answered in numerous volumes, let alone a newsletter article! But I pray some of what I share will encourage you.

One of the most helpful ways I've found of approaching the problem of pain (known as a *theodicy*) is to see the potential for evil, pain, and suffering as the necessary optimal conditions for moral and spiritual formation. This type of philosophical thought is referred to as the *soul-making theodicy*. In other words, a perfectly loving world where pain and evil and suffering are absent, would not produce the kind of person that God created us to be. To be conformed to the image of Christ (the end goal of moral and spiritual formation) we not only need free will to choose what is good and right, but we need to experience the possibility and even likelihood of adversity through pain and suffering. I can't say for sure if that is true, although I think it is entirely plausible, but I know that I don't want to hear it! I spend so much of my life trying to avoid pain and suffering!

But is that entirely true? Many of you know that I am an assistant coach on my son's high school football team. Our head coach said something recently that I found to be true. "Pain is inevitable. You get to choose between the pain of discipline and the pain of losing." It got me thinking that we do choose to endure pain for a greater purpose. When we have a reasonable assurance that the pain of our discipline will yield the kind of fruit we want, we are inclined to make that sacrifice. I've also heard it said that you stay stuck until the pain of staying the same outweighs the pain of change. Pain is inevitable, but by God's grace we get to choose what pain we endure.

But again, that isn't completely true either. Another football example: in back-to-back weeks, our team experienced the elation of a close, come-from-behind victory, and the devastation of a close, come-from-behind loss. In a matter of 7 days we ran the gamut of competitive sports emotions. To make matters worse, we felt our loss was the result of two significant unjust calls. (It's always the officials' fault, right? Just kidding!). We were suffering pain that we didn't bring upon ourselves.

Many things happen to us that we do not bring upon ourselves. Sometimes we experience pain and suffering that we don't choose, and we cannot avoid. But even then, God can use that pain for greater purposes. Although I don't attribute pain and suffering to God's intention, I do believe in his sovereignty to allow a world where pain and suffering exist because it provides the optimal opportunity for us to experience the greatest of end-goals – conformity to the image of Jesus. If you are experiencing pain and suffering remember to trust God – *for we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

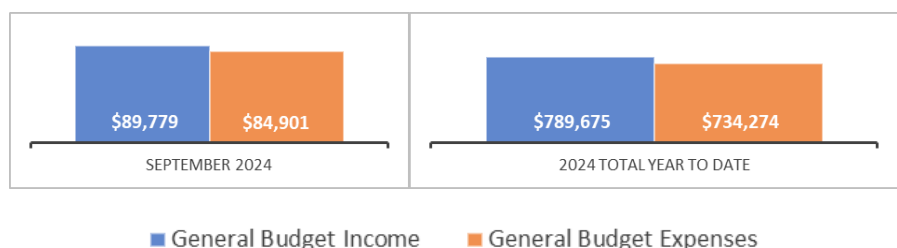
Faithfully,

Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	September Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	124	112
9:00 a.m. - Online	155	137
10:30 a.m. - In Person	150	160
10:30 a.m. - Online	125	104
Sunday Children	62	60
Wednesday Youth	44	37
Average Weekly In Person Worship	380	375
Average Weekly Online Worship	280	241

General Budget



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

2024 CONVENING GENERAL CONFERENCE – GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

By: Tom Finley

I was so privileged to be elected as a lay delegate to the convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, in San Jose, Costa Rica, which was held September 20 - 26, 2024. It was historic, exciting, encouraging, and Holy Spirit-filled. I served on the Finance & Admin Legislative Committee, helping craft that legislation for presentation to the entire body for ratification. Many committees came together to present the work of their committees for approval for inclusion in the new Book of Doctrines and Discipline, which as of the end of General Conference, is no longer provisional, but final until revised further at the next General Conference to be held in Central Africa in the fall of 2026. After that, the General Conference will be held every six years.

Each day had inspiring music and preaching services, with many in tears due to the miracles seen and the working of the Holy Spirit. It was a dream come true to watch God work in and through the delegates. The global nature of the church was on full display, with delegates from all over the world attending and voting. Those that could not get visas in a timely manner were present on zoom, and their voices and votes were counted. The fellowship was wonderful, an indication of what heaven will be like. I came away with a much deeper love for the Lord, the Global Methodist Church, and faith in the power of God. The fact that the conference came together quickly with so much unity, and the immediate growth of the Global Methodist Church was a testimony to the grace, power and presence of God. As was mentioned many times, the transition and disaffiliation process was not easy, but God never left us, and we are reaping the blessings of our convictions and obedience.

Highlights included:

- Six new part-time Bishops elected.
- Global Methodist Church Constitution ratified.
- General Church Committees established and members elected.
- Meeting and fellowship with the Methodist Church of Costa Rica. An offering was taken, and \$18K was raised for their mission and ministry.
- Meeting, fellowship, and hospitality at the Methodist School (K-12) of Costa Rica.
- Stories shared of what God is doing world-wide in the Global Methodist Church.
- Continuous prayer at the conference and world-wide during the conference by church members everywhere.
- New mission statement and vision statement approved.
- Presiding Elder title changed to Conference Superintendent. Our Great Lakes Conference Superintendent is Dr. Scott Pattison, covering Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

God is on the move! The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the Global Methodist Church. Be encouraged! You are part of a wonderful Wesleyan “movement” that will change the world and populate heaven. People are finding Jesus in this new church, and we want to pray for all the new churches being planted and birthed by the excitement and the power of the Holy Spirit. Please feel free to ask me any questions, and I would love to share more. See me at church or contact me - Tom Finley, 314-578-6957 voice/text, TomLFinley@aol.com

CONNECT

GRIEF SHARE - “SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS”

Tuesday, November 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Family Life Center

What happens at the Surviving the Holidays Seminar? You'll receive:

- Practical strategies and exercises to help grieving people face common challenges that come up during the holiday season.
- An outline to take notes during the video.
- Scripture and devotions filled with encouragement, support, and practical truths.
- Journaling ideas to help people sort through their emotions.
- A holiday gospel presentation.
- An introduction to the GriefShare program and encouragement to join a group.

Contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org or call the church office to sign up.



CONNECT



“JOY” SEEKERS - “JUST OLDER YOUTH” (55+ ADULTS) **Tuesday, November 19, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., Family Life Center**

On November 19 (*notice this is a week earlier than our usual day*), the Joy Seekers' guest speaker will be Care Pastor Dan Perry. Join us to hear more of his faith story and a couple of his original songs.

We are planning a **potluck** and ask everyone to **bring a side dish or dessert to share**. The church will provide the ham for our meal. We're also encouraging each person to bring a canned good to donate to the local food pantry.

We hope you can join us for a wonderful lunch and positive message of faith.

Watch the weekly eReach for RSVP instructions. For more information, contact Care Pastor Dan at (618) 830-5589 or dan@troymc.org.



United
Women
in Faith

Troy United Women in Faith is grateful for all who supported us at the fall rummage sale. Your donation of items, time, and money will be passed on to women and children in need.

Nut orders are still being accepted (\$12 per bag). You may contact Betsy Middleton at kgmb1m@hotmail.com.

This month, we meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, in the Family Life Center to make important decisions for next year. Join us in a World Thanks Offering program as we celebrate our place at the world's dinner table.

FILL MY CUP, LORD

This Advent season, join us for a morning of community, inspiration, and refreshment!

Along with a delicious brunch, the event will be filled with beautiful music by our very own Jane Scott and an inspirational message by special guest speaker Laura Hunter from Wilmore, KY.

Tickets will go on sale this month and will be available to purchase after church services on November 17 & 24 and December 1.

Watch the weekly eReach and the church website for additional details.



Save the date...

Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 7
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

SERVE

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Our Angel Tree giving tradition continues! The first Sunday of Advent, you will find Christmas trees in both the Family Life Center and Sanctuary foyers adorned with three types of angel ornaments to choose from. These include:

- Bulk items for gift bags for residents at area nursing facilities.
- “300-500 piece” puzzles for area nursing facilities and our homebound community members. (These can be new or gently used – if all the pieces are present.)
- \$25 gift cards for Safe Families Host Families, including: Chick-fil-A, Target, McDonalds, Walmart, Panera, and Walgreens.

We will be making individual gift bags for nursing facility residents (these were so appreciated last year!), along with collecting puzzles for those facilities and for our homebound community members. Additionally, we will be collecting gift cards for Safe Families. More details will come in the upcoming weeks, but feel free to reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org with any questions.

The deadline to get all the gifts dropped off at the church is Thursday, December 12.

SHARE THANKSGIVING 2024

Share Thanksgiving is a great opportunity for each of us to help others in our community share in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. By donating a full meal, or one or more meal components, you will assist those who are not able to purchase these holiday foods on their own.

FIRST STEP

On Nov. 3, 10, and 17, you can sign up to bring an entire meal, or one or more meal components listed below by filling out a sign-up form which will be distributed each week. On Sunday, November 24, all items need to be brought to church. We will compile meals for delivery that morning.

Meal Components: turkey (frozen), rolls and stuffing, vegetables and sides, dessert, and drinks

WHAT DO I BRING?

The idea is that you bring items that you enjoy cooking for your own Thanksgiving meal. If you usually make pumpkin pie for dessert, we suggest a can of pumpkin pie mix (including the spices), a pie crust mix, and cool whip or dream whip. Some of you have used your creativity to include a favorite casserole recipe with all the ingredients as a side dish.

SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS

- *Vegetables/Side Dishes:* potatoes (fresh bag of potatoes or boxed instant mashed potatoes), gravy, canned vegetables, canned yams, your favorite recipe with ingredients (green bean casserole, candied yams, etc.)
- *Desserts:* pie mix, crust mix, cool whip, cookies, cake mix, your favorite recipe with ingredients

OUT OF TOWN?

Will you be out of town the Sunday before Thanksgiving? You can still arrange to get your items to the church by dropping them off during office hours the week prior. We do ask that you carefully label your items with your name and whatever meal components you are providing.

HOW MANY PEOPLE PER MEAL?

While it is difficult to predict the sizes of the families for whom items will be provided, we ask that you bring enough to feed a family of four. We can make adjustments as we compile the meals, if needed.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Be a deliverer! Deliverers head off in their own vehicle with addresses in hand, and we have maps of Troy available if needed. We also have instructions should you not reach someone at home.
- Bring in meal components or an entire meal
- Pray for the families receiving meals

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Sharie Meyer or Bonnie Abel at (618) 667-4241. To sign up to deliver or to help put together boxes on Sunday, November 24, email Bonnie, our Discipleship Pastor, at bonnie@troymc.org.



UPWARD EVALUATIONS SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Our Upward basketball and cheer ministry is a tremendous opportunity to welcome and serve our community in a tangible way.

Please consider helping during our evaluation dates: November 5 or November 14 from 5:45-8:00 p.m. or December 1 from 2:45-5:00 p.m. Serving opportunities include greeters, check-in, uniform sizers, and several folks willing to test the players' skills (don't be intimidated - it's easy!).

Please sign up for one or more spots online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ABAA28A3F9C52-52290665-upward#/> or by contacting our Upward Coordinators, Tyson and Erica Graham at upward@troymc.org.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes are going out on Sunday, October 27, and soon the packing will begin! Grab your Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and label from the Family Life Center or Sanctuary foyer and return by Sunday, November 17, packed full of toys and other fun items!

If you have questions about what to pack, check out the packed shoeboxes on display for ideas. You can also pick up a handout to see additional suggestions or see the Operation Christmas Child website. Remember that each shoebox is a chance to show the love of Christ to a child. Giving to others is one of the greatest gifts of Christmas!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Bonnie, our Discipleship Pastor, at bonnie@troymc.org



TROY METHODIST KIDS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: KIDMIN LESSON PLANNING

Are you passionate about helping young minds grow and learn? We're seeking a dedicated volunteer to assist with getting lessons ready for Sunday mornings.

Responsibilities:

- **Lesson Preparation:** spend an hour or so each week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday) gathering supplies and organizing them for Sunday's classes.
- **Organization:** keep materials tidy and well-stocked for a smooth learning experience.

If you're interested in making a positive impact on the lives of children and enjoy a hands-on approach, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jenn at jenn@troymc.org.

INCREDIBLE IMPACT: SHOE DRIVE SUCCESS!

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that our recent shoe drive was a resounding success! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we collected over 625 pairs of shoes, and that's not even counting the additional donations from our recent rummage sale!

The shoes we collected and donated will be repurposed through Safe Families to support microenterprises in developing nations like Haiti, Cambodia, and Ghana. By providing these communities with recycled footwear, we're helping to create sustainable jobs and improve their economic well-being.

***Your kindness and compassion is truly touching.
Thank you for making a difference in the world!***

BOOKMARK PRAYER UPDATE

It's hard to believe that it's been 2 months since we started specifically praying for our students. Thank you to everyone who picked up a bookmark with a child's name on it. Your prayers truly make a difference in their lives. Your prayers do matter, even if you can't always see the immediate impact.

Let's continue to lift these youths up in prayer. This is so important because it helps us to intercede and ask the Lord for guidance and protection for the child on your bookmark. It can help them overcome challenges, make good choices, and build a strong faith in God, even in a world that can be confusing.

***This endeavor is so worth it!
Thank you again, and keep it up!***

CONTACT

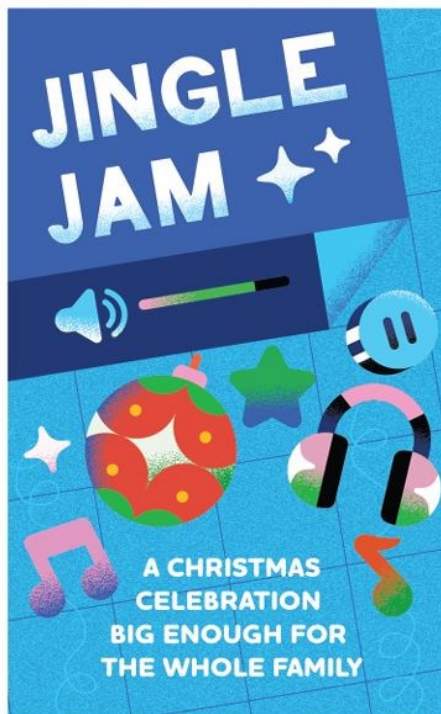
Tim - tim@troymc.org
Jenn - jenn@troymc.org

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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



Looking for something exciting for the entire family to do this holiday season?

Take a break from all of the baking, the shopping, the endless rolls of wrapping paper, and join us for an unforgettable Christmas experience complete with fun, games, music, and lights!

Join us for Jingle Jam on December 8.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

FALL RALLY fan the flame

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Saturday, October 19, 2024 | Troy, IL
9:30 am - 3:30 pm | For 6th - 12th Grades
harvestministryteams.com/fallrally

The Fall Rally was held this past weekend, and approximately 150 students, leaders, and volunteers from about twelve different churches participated in the event. **Fan The Flame** was the theme for preaching, decor, seminars, and groups; and we're praying for the next generation to do just that - to fan into flame the gifts God has given them to serve in kingdom work.

Thanks to the leaders, the Troy MC Hospitality team, the speaker Russ Williams, the donations of snacks and drinks, and to all the students who participated from Troy MC Student Ministry.



SR. HIGH FALL RETREAT

The Sr. High Fall Retreat is this month, November 8-10, and there's still time to register! The Fall Retreat is a time to meet (away from the church building), to grow closer to God, deeper in faith, and in friendship with other members of the student ministry. We're heading to Little Grassy Camp in Southern Illinois.

The registration information can be found at troymc.org/students.

CONFIRMATION CLASS RETREAT

The confirmation class is in full swing! We have a group of six students, along with student leaders and adults who are helping to teach and lead this year's class on a journey of understanding God's Good News!

The confirmation retreat, held on Saturday, November 16, will be a day of adventure, fun, community, and group building. Pray for this year's confirmation class!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

The Student Ministry, 6th-12th grades, meets every Wednesday evening for dinner, worship, small groups, and activities!

We'd love for you to join us! The best way to stay in the loop is to text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000 or visit troymc.org/students.

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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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

Connect with us!
@troymethodistchurch



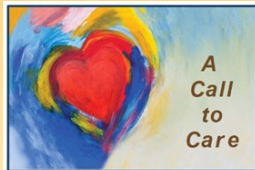
NOVEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
November 5	Upward Evaluation Night (page 5)
November 8-10	Student Ministry - Sr. High Fall Retreat (page 7)
November 12	GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" (page 3)
November 14	Troy United Women in Faith November Meeting (page 4)
November 14	Upward Evaluation Night (page 5)
November 16	Student Ministry - Confirmation Retreat (page 7)
November 17	Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due (page 5)
November 19	Joy Seekers November Lunch & Program (page 4)
November 24	Share Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Day (page 5)
November 27	Thanksgiving Service and Potluck Lunch (front cover)

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER: A CALL TO SENIOR ADULTS Pastor Dan Perry, Care Pastor

As we enter November, a month of gratitude and reflection, it's important to remember the vital role we play in caring for one another, especially within our senior adult community. In our latter years, life can bring unique challenges, such as health concerns, loneliness, and the loss of loved ones. However, it also brings opportunities for deep connections, wisdom sharing, and mutual support.

The Bible reminds us in Galatians 6:2 to "...carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." This verse speaks to the heart of what it means to be a community. Caring for one another is not just a nice thing to do; it's a command that reflects Christ's love in action.



For senior adults, caring for one another can be as simple as a phone call to check in on a friend, a visit to someone who may be homebound, or offering a listening ear to someone who needs to talk. These small gestures can have a profound impact, reminding others that they are not alone and that they are valued.

In this season of thankfulness, let us be intentional in our care for each other. Reach out to someone in your circle of friends, offer your time, and be the hands and feet of Jesus in their life. Our church is a family, and as senior adults, you have a powerful role in nurturing this family through love, kindness, and support.

May we ALL (not just senior adults) embrace the call to care for one another, living out the love of Christ in our daily interactions. Together, we can create a community where every member feels seen, heard, and cherished.

"...carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2



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