

TROY
METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

APRIL 2026
VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 4

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EASTER SUNDAY *Sunday, April 5*

Invite a friend and join us on Easter Sunday as we hear a message of *Hope!*

- 7:00 a.m.** - Traditional Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary (abridged 9:00 a.m. service)
- 7:45 a.m.** - Free buffet breakfast in the Family Life Center
- 9:00 a.m.** - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (online) & Children's Ministry
- 10:30 a.m.** - Modern Worship in the Family Life Center (online) & Children's Ministry

April Worship Schedule:

- April 3:** Good Friday Service of Shadows - 6:30 p.m., Family Life Center
- April 5:** Easter Sunday
- April 12:** Confirmation Sunday (Confirmands introduced at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and confirmed at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center)
- April 19:** Join us for our new series, *Unoffendable: Be Equipped to Live Anger-Free!*

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

UNOFFENDABLE: LIVING ANGER-FREE

A few years ago, when I was in a season of great stress, my wife gave me a book she thought might help me: *Unoffendable* by Brant Hansen. At first, I wasn't interested, but she persisted. Eventually, I read the first couple of chapters and gathered the premise of the book: We have the choice to be unoffendable, to live anger-free, and in doing so, we can experience great joy and freedom in Christ.

To be honest, I didn't really want to hear that message. There were several instances I could point to where I was unjustly accused of ridiculous things and had my character personally attacked. Shouldn't that offend me? Surely these sorts of injustices (and many more) anger God and should anger me too! Not only did I feel entitled to be angry at the injustices I was experiencing, but I also felt that God would actually want me to be offended at the bad behavior of others – after all, Jesus himself turned over the money changing tables in the Temple in his own righteous anger. I put the book down.

I don't know what made me pick it back up again. Maybe it was the book's promise: "One change can make all of life better." I finished reading it, then I listened to it on audiobook twice! I began to buy what Hansen was selling. Even my questions about righteous anger were answered. (They were answered very simply by reminding me that God is righteous and can therefore be angry, but I am not God!) I saw how anger had become too familiar a companion of mine, and I began to try to live my life unoffendable. I certainly am not to the point of living anger-free. I am a work in progress, but I can say that my outlook has changed, and I have new ideals to strive for and tools to help me change. My understanding of anger's place in the Christian life has changed. My expectations of people have slowly changed. I find it easier to let go of offense and forgive. And when I do so, I experience freedom and joy. And I've become more aware that when I fail, and I do harbor anger, that it harms me and others. Furthermore, I've shared this book with others, and they have experienced a similar change!

We live in a world full of anger, and it spreads like wildfire. It burns everything around it, including ourselves. But what if you were able to live anger-free by being unoffendable and practicing the radical forgiveness that Jesus taught? In short, it would change our lives and the world for the better. Therefore, two weeks after Easter, we will be launching a six-week series using Hansen's book, *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better*, to lead us closer to emulating Jesus. Join us at Troy Methodist Church on Sunday mornings and go deeper in your journey group to be equipped to live anger-free by practicing forgiveness.

Faithfully,

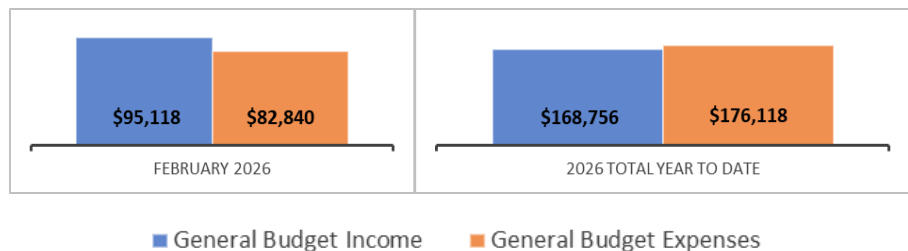
Andy



STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	February Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	128	121
9:00 a.m. - Online	189	221
10:30 a.m. - In Person	164	161
10:30 a.m. - Online	134	175
Sunday Children	61	64
Wednesday Youth	65	64
*Ash Wednesday (2/18)	164	
Average Weekly In Person Worship	459	422
Average Weekly Online Worship	323	396

General Budget



SERVE & CONNECT

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Sunday, April 12

After a full year of learning and growing in their faith, the 2025-2026 confirmation class is excited to celebrate their confirmation on Sunday, April 12. Starting last September, the students have met on Sunday mornings to learn more about the Christian faith, understand the history of Methodism, and confirm their personal beliefs. The students also served together and grew closer in Christian community. The students have grown so much and are excited to be confirmed, surrounded by their family, friends, and church community!



CONFIRMATION



The students will be introduced at the 9:00 a.m. service, followed by the full confirmation service at the 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome to attend both services to support our confirmands.

MISSIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Troy Methodist Church proudly supports missionaries and their families in an effort to extend the love of Christ beyond our community and around the globe. One missionary that we support is Matt Henson, and his ministry is Living the Adventure! He has three mission trips scheduled this year and would like to invite anyone interested in learning more to reach out. The dates are as follows:

Jamaica (April 22 - May 1)
Jamaica (July 20 - 28)
Malawi (August 7 - 22)



If you would like to know more about these trips, please contact Matt at matt@livingtheadventure.net.

UPDATE ON NEW ROOM CHURCH IN BLOOMINGTON

Troy Methodist Church, you were so generous in raising funds to help launch New Room Church in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, over the last two years. New Room launched services in October 2025, but sadly, it never reached a critical mass of people to warrant continued investment. In January 2026, the New Room board, on which Pastor Andy sits, made the decision in consultation with the planting pastor to cease worship services after February 15 and return the remaining funds to the supporting churches. Nationally, research consistently shows that a significant percentage of church plants do not survive beyond their first three to five years. We entered this endeavor fully aware of that risk. Yet we believed then, and still believe now, that investing in church planting is worth it. Every new church represents an opportunity for gospel witness, discipleship, and mission in a community. We ask you to join us in prayer for the fruitfulness of future opportunities in Bloomington and other communities that do not have a Global Methodist Church.

FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL TRIP

Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime journey with Pastor Andy and your church family.

Walk in Apostle Paul's footsteps through Greece & Turkey this fall! This land and sea trip is open to all but hurry and sign up, less than 5 spots remain! Only \$250 holds your spot!

Scan the QR code or visit troymc.org/events for more information. Questions? Contact Betsy Forman, at eforman@dreamvacations.com or (618) 708-6443.

Footsteps of Apostle Paul

September 27 - October 6, 2026



JOURNEY GROUPS

“UNOFFENDABLE” JOURNEY GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

On April 19, we will be starting a sermon series called “Unoffendable: Be Equipped to Live Anger-Free.” Along with this series, there will be multiple journey groups studying the “Unoffendable” book and engaging in the six-week video study and workbook.

This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to join a journey group! Whether you are coming back to group life or joining for the first time, this six-week series gives you a chance to see what journey group life is all about! Reach out to Pastor Bonnie if you have questions or need more details. Take the next step to join a group now!

The following groups will be offering the Unoffendable study:



SUNDAY, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Open to: Men & Women

Start Date: April 19

Location: Room 241

Leader: Tom Finley

Phone/Email: 314.578.6957/tomlfinley@aol.com



MONDAY, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Women – All Ages

Start Date: April 20

Location: Choir Rehearsal Room

Leader: Beth Barbour

Phone/Email: 618.977.9323/

barbour67@gmail.com



MONDAY, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Open to: Young Adults

Start Date: April 20

Location: Home of Marissa - Caseyville

Leader: Marissa Rushik

Phone/Email: 309.224.9377/marissa@troymc.org



NEW GROUP OPPORTUNITY!

Open to: Men & Women

Date & Time: TBD based on group members

Location: Home of John & Lisa - Swansea

Leaders: John & Lisa Bracamontes

Phone/Email: 618.419.0095/

kingmontez@yahoo.com

THURSDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Open to: Women – All Ages

Start Date: April 16

Location: Upper Family Life Center

Leader: Bonnie Abel

Phone/Email: 314.496.0890/bonnie@troymc.org



NEW GROUP OPPORTUNITY!

Open to: Men & Women

Date & Time: TBD based on group members

Location: Zoom

Leaders: Bob & Christy Phillips

Phone/Email: 618.374.9414/

christyphillips@hotmail.com

THURSDAY, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to: Men – All Ages

Start Date: April 23

Location: Room 241

Leaders: Tom Finley & David VanMiddendorp

Phone/Email: 314.578.6957/tomlfinley@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

May 3, 11:45 a.m., Upper Family Life Center

Our Membership Class will be on Sunday, May 3, at 11:45 a.m. in the Upper Family Life Center. This class is open to anyone 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 or newer to our church family, this lunch is for you! We will have a meal together and lots of time for Q&A.

Childcare is provided upon request. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

Membership Class & Lunch

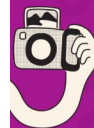
Sunday, May 3 @ 11:45 a.m.
Upper Family Life Center



Directory Photo Shoot

Sunday, April 12

Stop by the backdrop after the 10:30 a.m. service and we will take your picture



Did you miss your opportunity to get your picture taken for the directory? If so, we have a makeup date on April 12, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

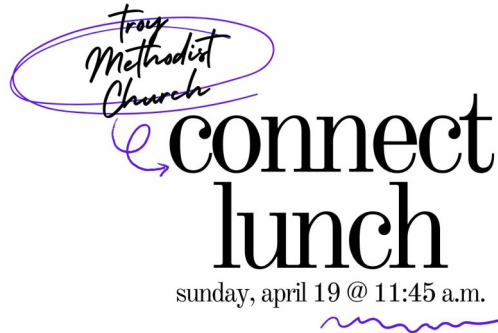
The online directory:
<https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

CONNECT

CONNECT LUNCH
Sunday, April 19, 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Upper Family Life Center

You are cordially invited to attend our upcoming Connect Lunch this spring! Our Connect Lunch on Sunday, April 19, at 11:45 a.m. will be in the Upper Family Life Center, and we will enjoy lunch from Fire and Smoke. Our time together will include sharing about the many ways you can connect, as well as answering questions you have about TMC. We will also take a tour of the building to help you get to know your way around.

Childcare is provided upon request. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



J.O.Y. SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+) LUNCH & PROGRAM
Tuesday, April 28, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Family Life Center



For lunch gathering on April 28, we are having a DERBY theme. **We're encouraging women to wear hats** in honor of the upcoming Kentucky Derby. As an added treat, we will be sampling a non-alcoholic version of the Derby's famous Mint Julep!

The meal will consist of ham, bread, cheese, green beans, and salad provided by the church. Sign up to attend starting April 13-23, by calling the office at (618) 667-6241. Members are asked to bring a dessert to share, and when you call to sign up, please share what dessert you plan to bring.

Remember: we ask for a \$10 donation to help cover the cost of food.

TMW MEETING & PROGRAM
Thursday, April 9, 1:00 p.m., Family Life Center

The Troy Methodist Women will meet Thursday, April 9, in the Family Life Center, with a program by a representative from the TWIGS Summer Lunch Program for children. At this meeting, we will continue our planning for the upcoming afternoon Ladies' Tea, which will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026.



Ladies Tea



Saturday, May 2, 2026
1 O'Clock in the Afternoon

TMW LADIES' TEA
Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m., Family Life Center

The Troy Methodist Women are hosting a Ladies' Tea on Saturday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m. Doors will open at noon to start viewing the beautiful silent auction items.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Christy Phillips. We will have delicious finger foods, a variety of teas, special music, plus door prizes, too! Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under age 12. Advance tickets will go on sale before and after services on April 12, 19, and 26. The church office will also have tickets during the week to purchase by calling (618) 667-6241.

It's been three years since our last Ladies' Tea, so please join us in supporting our mission of giving to the local and regional ministries we serve! For more information, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618) 954-6263. Hosted by TMW in support of missions for women and children.

TROY METHODIST KIDS

HOPE FOR 50 HOMES *A Big Success!*

A huge thank you to all the kids, parents, and leaders who helped “egg” homes this Easter! Because of you, our *Hope for 50 Homes* discipleship outreach was a success.

It was a powerful win to see our kids step out, practice their faith, and share the love of Jesus in a real and meaningful way.



LEVEL UP: BIG FAITH FOR IN-BETWEEN YEARS

Tweens: Level Up is going strong! Our girls have been growing together for over a year, and the boys are already six weeks in and building momentum. Each week is full of energy - games, laughter, meaningful friendships, and hands-on science experiments and object lessons that bring big truths to life.

But at the heart of it all, our tweens are diving deep into Faith Foundations and discovering the character of God. It's a beautiful blend of structured chaos and intentional discipleship, where kids feel safe to ask hard questions and explore what they believe.

We are so thankful for our incredible leaders who faithfully show up, guide conversations, and walk alongside our tweens during this important stage. Their investment is making an eternal impact.



SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is almost here! Registration is now open at troymc.org/kids.

Beulah Bible Camp (completed 4th–6th grade)

June 22–25 in Eldorado, IL

We'll carpool (leave Monday at 8:00 a.m., return Thursday around 5:00 p.m.), stay in our air-conditioned church cabin, and spend a powerful few days growing in faith together. Packing list available online.

Note: This camp includes current 4th–5th graders (Kids Ministry) and current 6th graders (Student Ministry).

Beulah Beginning Camp (completed 1st–3rd grade)

June 26–27 in Eldorado, IL

We'll carpool (leave Friday at 8:00 a.m., return Saturday around 4:00 p.m.) and stay in our air-conditioned church cabin. It's a fun and meaningful overnight experience for younger campers! Packing list available online.

Interested in serving as a sponsor? Contact Tim Price.

Questions? Contact Jenn at jenn@troymc.org or Tim at tim@troymc.org.

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

STUDENT MINISTRY TRIP - ST LOUIS CITY MUSEUM

Saturday, April 18, 9:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun day of memories, friendship, and adventure! This event is for middle and high school students. On Saturday, April 18, we will meet at the church at 9:45 a.m., depart at 10:00 a.m., and head to City Museum.

Cost is \$20 and includes the ticket, bus ride, and lunch. Everyone must fill out a release form - available for pick up on Wednesday evenings. Register today!



REGISTER FOR BEULAH CAMP!

June 14 - 20



Beulah Camp
troymc.org/students

Beulah Youth Institute is June 14-20, 2026. All students (current 7th-12th graders) are invited to register for this incredible church camp week.

Registration information is on the church website at troymc.org/students. The full cost for the week is \$330, but Troy Methodist students pay half, \$165. If you register this month, you can save even more. We can't wait to have a great group of Troy Methodist students growing deeper in faith at Beulah Camp!

REGISTER FOR BIBLE CAMP – 6TH GRADERS!

June 22 - 25

Even though 6th graders are part of our regular Student Ministry, Beulah Camp has a special event called Bible Camp - only three nights! The dates are June 22-25. If you are currently in 6th grade (or 4th or 5th grade) this is the camp you want to attend! Registration is open for Beulah Bible Camp and you can get all the details at troymc.org/students. Cost is \$225, but Troy Methodist students pay \$125.



Beulah Bible Camp
troymc.org/kids

MARCH WAS TESTIMONY MONTH

The Student Ministry took a break from its regular curriculum to hear from others in ministry! On March 5, we heard awesome testimony from students who attended Fire-Up, an incredible evening. On March 11, we heard from two couples who serve in Student Ministry, Carl and Deb Inman, as well as Jim and Janie Davidson! Thank you for your weekly ministry and for sharing your heart! On March 18, we heard testimonies from past students who are now in college! So grateful for the continued and growing faith of students as they graduate. Praise the Lord!

SUMMER MINISTRIES COMING UP

Check the website for summer mission trips, camps, and other special events! We're preparing for and praying for spiritual impact this summer!

If you're an adult who would like to explore serving as a sponsor for a camp or special event, talk with Tim, Ryan, or Courtney!

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org

Ryan - ryan@troymc.org

Courtney - courtney@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
Amy Burrelsman
- *Preschool Liaison
Lisa Rayle
- *Director of Worship Arts
Marissa Rushik
- *Children's Ministry Leader
Jenn Diliberto
- *Communications Coordinator
Tracey Berkemeier
- *Production Coordinator
Josh Case
- Administrative Assistants
Chris Boemecke, Kathy Hahn
- *Student Ministry Co-Leader
Courtney Froidcoeur
- *Student Ministry Co-Leader
Ryan Froidcoeur
- Custodians
Jacob Baum, Bruce Jackson

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

To contact our Administrative Assistants,
use admin@troymc.org

To contact 1st Step Learning Center, use
1step@troymc.org

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

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



APRIL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
April 3	Good Friday (page 1)
April 5	Easter Sunday (page 1)
April 9	TMW Meeting & Program (page 5)
April 12	Confirmation Sunday (page 3)
April 12	Directory Photo Shoot (page 4)
April 18	Student Ministry Trip - STL City Museum (page 7)
April 19	Connect Lunch (page 5)
April 28	J.O.Y Seekers Lunch & Program (page 5)

EASTER: A SEASON OF HOPE

Easter is one of the most meaningful celebrations in the Christian faith. While it is joyful for every generation, it often holds special significance for seniors. The message of the resurrection speaks deeply of hope, renewal, and the promise of new life through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John 11:25 (NIV), *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."* Those words remind us that our hope is not limited to this life but rests in the victory of Christ over the grave.

For many seniors, Easter brings an opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness through the years. It is also a time to create meaningful memories with family and friends. For many seniors, holidays like Easter stir cherished memories of earlier years. They remember preparing special meals, attending sunrise services, helping children hunt for eggs, or singing beloved Easter hymns in church.

Easter also reminds us of the importance of community. Gathering for worship and fellowship encourages hearts and helps people stay connected. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) reminds us, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Above all, Easter proclaims that life triumphs over death. The empty tomb assures us that Christ is alive and that our future is secure in Him. No matter our age or stage of life, the resurrection reminds us that God is always bringing new hope. As we celebrate this season, may we rejoice in the good news that stands at the center of our faith: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Pastor Dan – Care Ministry



Troy Methodist Church
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