



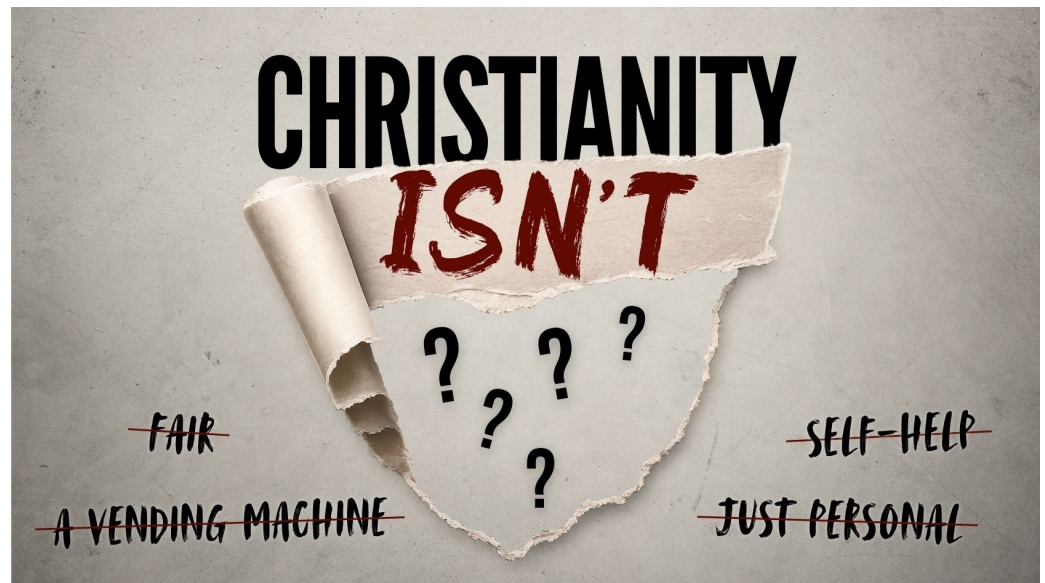
REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

AUGUST 2026
VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 8

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CHRISTIANITY ISN'T

It's common for people to make decisions in life based on myths or misunderstandings. But what if you made the most important decision in your life without the correct information? What if you already have? Countless people in our world today have basic misconceptions about Christianity based on their perceptions, upbringing, or simple miscommunication.

Join us and invite a friend this August for *Christianity Isn't* as we clear up some of those common misconceptions because we believe that if people know the truth about Jesus, they will want Him.

August 2 – Christianity Isn't a Vending Machine (Mark 10:17-22)

August 9 – Christianity Isn't Self-Help (Luke 15:11-32)

August 16 – Christianity Isn't Just Personal (Matthew 5:14-16)

August 23 – Christianity Isn't Fair (Hebrews 11:32-40)

August 30 – Christianity Is Jesus (John 14:1-9)

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

PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION OF TROY METHODIST CHURCH

You know our mission. It's painted on various walls in the church building. We mention it often in worship. From what I understand, it's been the stated mission of our church for over 20 years. What is it? Everyone together!

OUR MISSION: TO INVITE PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Our mission is why we exist. It's what we do. At Troy Methodist Church, we are all about inviting people on a journey with Jesus. A few things this means for us:

- **We each have something to do:** Invite people. We invite people on a journey that we are also on ourselves.
- **This is discipleship.** We understand this journey with Jesus to be a discipleship journey. As we journey with Jesus, we are becoming more and more like him. Our mission statement is our own way of articulating Jesus' command to make disciples (see Matthew 28:19).
- **This is a lifelong journey!** Because this is a journey, it is not about a destination. We never stop journeying with Jesus. Nobody ever "arrives" or "completes" this journey.
- **There is room for everyone** on this journey – from the person who is considering Jesus' claims, to a new believer just beginning his or her discipleship journey, to a growing believer who has journeyed with Jesus for a long time, to a mature believer whose heart has been perfected in love (and everyone in between).

A serious question for you AND an opportunity. First, the question: **When is the last time you have invited someone to worship or another church event?** If this is the mission of our church, are you participating? I don't ask this to cast any judgment or shame your way but to have you seriously consider why you may not be participating in our mission. There are people in your life who you uniquely have the opportunity to invite to TMC – people who aren't regularly attending any other church. Even if they live far away, you can invite them to join you online!

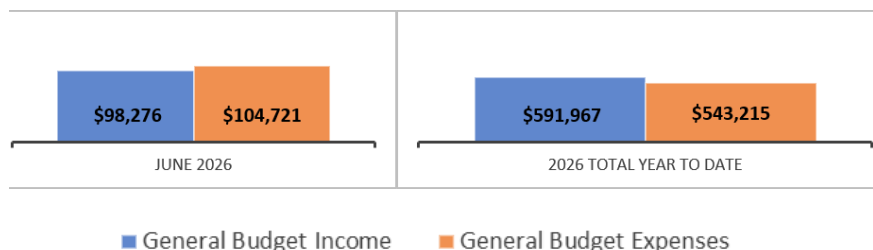
The month of August is a PERFECT opportunity to do so! Our series, *Christianity Isn't*, is designed with the outsider in mind. Those of us who are sold-out Christ followers will benefit too, but the entire series is designed to clear up common misconceptions about the Christian faith. Use this as an opportunity to invite someone in your life who may be searching! Grab a few invite cards at the resource table to have on hand and prayerfully INVITE someone to worship with you in August. It's a great way to participate in the mission of our church!

Faithfully, *Andy*

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	June Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	123	127
9:00 a.m. - Online	159	189
10:30 a.m. - In Person	159	179
10:30 a.m. - Online	116	146
Sunday Children	70	71
Wednesday Youth	29	57
Average Weekly In Person Worship	374	437
Average Weekly Online Worship	275	335

General Budget



SERVE & CONNECT

NEW ACCESSIBILITY PARKING!



I saw the sign...did you?

This past month, the NEW accessibility parking lot sign went out, and we wanted you to know what it's all about! Church staff and leadership regularly talk about ways to serve and support both new visitors and our regular church attenders, and in one of those conversations, the subject of accessibility parking was discussed.

We recognized that we are limited in our handicap spots, specifically for entry into the Sanctuary and office area. To help meet this need, we have now made the small parking lot (adjacent to the playground) accessible parking for Sunday morning. We

encourage you to utilize this lot and hope that it will be a blessing to you! (Please note that a handicap plate and/or placard is not required to park in this lot.)

WORSHIP MUSIC AND TECH MINISTRY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you feeling called to a new way of serving in our church community? Whether it's the Traditional service at 9:00 a.m. or the Modern service at 10:30 a.m., our Worship Music and Tech teams share the same mission:

To facilitate an environment for people to encounter God without distraction. We believe that when there is excellence and intention behind everything we do, it paves the way for everyone in the room (and online!) to focus entirely on encountering the living God! We're looking for a few more willing hearts to join us in this mission, and we'd love for one of them to be you.

If you have a gift for music, there are plenty of ways to share it. For our 9:00 a.m. Traditional service, we are looking for hymn leaders, special music contributors, pianists, and joyful voices or hands for our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir ensembles. At the 10:30 a.m. Modern service, we're searching for drummers, bassists, electric and acoustic guitarists, keyboardists, and vocalists - we're even open to auxiliary instruments if you play something unique! You don't need to be a professional; a humble heart for service and a passion for worshiping the Lord are the best starting points. There will be a skill assessment and process to ensure the right fit, but all are welcome to inquire!

Not a musician? No problem! The "unsung heroes" of our services are the tech team members who keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes for both services. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with audio, lighting, computer graphics, camera operation, and our live stream. If you're tech-savvy (or just willing to learn—we'll train you!), these roles are vital to both in-person and online worship participation.

If you're interested in any of these roles, reach out to Marissa Rushik, Director of Worship Arts at marissa@troymc.org.



1ST STEP CLASSROOM OPENINGS



Looking for a preschool for your 2, 3, or 4-year-old? We have a few openings left in each age group. Classes run Tuesday through Thursday, 8:25 - 11:45 a.m. and the first day is August 18.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Amy Burrelsman, Director of 1st Step, at 1ststep@troymc.org or (618) 667-7748 or check out our website at troymc.org/1ststep.

CONNECT

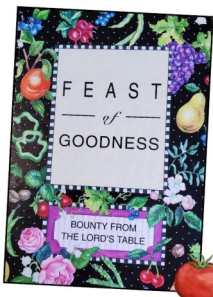
CHURCH COOKBOOK RECIPE COLLECTION



Recipe Card

Cook: Total:

DIRECTIONS:
BRING IN YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:




Please continue sending in your favorite recipes for our church cookbook. Forms can be picked up at the church office or from Sue Blumberg, Carol Block, or Libby Gregg. If you prefer, you can scan the QR code provided here to submit your recipe online.

This will be a memorable cookbook for our church family and beyond! For more information about Troy Methodist Women, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618)954-6263.



KIDS MINISTRY - LOOKING AHEAD!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Pop-Up Sunday & Back to School Bash on August 16, 2026!** It's a fun day as kids move up to their new grade-level classrooms and we celebrate the start of another exciting year together. We can't wait to see you there!



TMW ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MEETING Thursday, August 13, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Family Life Center



The Troy Methodist Women invite you to their annual Ice Cream Social and meeting on August 13 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship and a program by the Tri-Township Library Director, Elizabeth Fischer.



CONNECT

J.O.Y. SEEKERS (55+) AUGUST LUNCH & PROGRAM *Tuesday, August 25, noon, Family Life Center*

For our August J.O.Y. SEEKERS, we're planning something different – a taco bar! Once again, all the fixin's will be provided (tomatoes, guacamole, sour cream, shredded cheese, refried beans, salsa, shredded lettuce, taco meat, and shredded chicken). **Members are asked to bring desserts.**

We're also planning a paper airplane contest, so work on your airplane-making skills!

Please call the office between August 10-20 at (618) 667-6241 to sign up to attend and let us know what dessert you plan to bring.



TWEENS - KICKING OFF A NEW SESSION

Date TBD



As summer winds down, we're getting excited for a new ministry year! **Tween Times** will kick back off after the school year begins (date to be announced), so keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

TWEENS is open to all kids entering 4th – 6th grade. We meet every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. during the school year.

For more information, contact Jenn at jenn@troymc.org.

GRIEF SHARE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Starts August 20, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Fall session of GriefShare will begin on August 20. We will meet every Thursday evening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Family Life Center for 13 weeks.

Each week, the group will watch a GriefShare video covering topics such as loneliness, fear, anger, regrets, relationships, hope, and much more. These are essential to your recovery from the hurt of grief and loss. The videos feature interviews with grief recovery experts, mini-dramas, and real-life stories of people who have experienced a loss or the death of a loved one.

To sign up, go to griefshare.com. In the "find a group" box, type in TROY IL, click on Troy Methodist Church, click on "register for this group," type in your email address, and you will receive an invitation to join our group.

If you have questions, contact Care Pastor, Dan Perry, at (618) 830-5589 or dan@troymc.org.



TROY METHODIST KIDS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A SUCCESS!

Rainforest Falls VBS was an incredible week, and after months of planning, painting, building, organizing, praying, and maybe consuming just a little too much coffee, we welcomed **over 155 kids** through our doors!

The week was filled with laughter, science experiments, games, worship, memory verse challenges, and, most importantly, learning about Jesus.

Each day, we discovered something new about the nature of God. We learned that **God created everything, God knows everything, God is our safe place, God is love, and God is forever.** Our prayer is that these truths will stay with each child long after the decorations are packed away.

There are so many people to thank that we couldn't possibly fit every name into one newsletter article. To every volunteer who gave your time, shared your talents, brought the casseroles (**because ministry runs on food, too!**), took projects home, faithfully showed up week after week, or jumped in at the last minute when we needed an extra set of hands...thank you! You know who you are! Watching our church family come together to serve so joyfully was one of my favorite parts of the week. You truly showed up and showed out, and because of you, children experienced the love of Jesus in countless ways.



I also have to say this was one of my **favoritest** VBS's ever! Between Marissa keeping us singing and smiling, Dr. Flutterby (Tom W.) bringing his unforgettable energy and laughs, the incredible décor (that tree when you walked in...wow!), and seeing the passion on our leaders' faces as they taught each day, it truly felt like something special. Every corner of the building reflected the love, creativity, and heart of the people who made this week possible.

One thing that especially impacted us this year was learning that many of the children who attended do not have a home church. As we celebrate an amazing week, let's also continue praying for these families. Pray that they would return to Troy Methodist Church or find a Bible-believing church where they can grow in their faith, experience God's love, and discover the safe place that is found in Jesus.



From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making VBS such a success. We are already looking forward to next year!

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School 2027 will be July 12-16, 2027! Please note this is a different week than we've used in previous years. We can't wait to see what God has in store!

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

OUTREACH & SMALL GROUP NIGHT Wednesday, August 26, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, August 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., we will have dinner, meet with our new small groups, and get connected for the new school year!

Invite friends - this a great evening to bring someone new in order to start the school year off focused on Jesus through Troy Methodist Student Ministry.

Wednesday, August 26
6-8 pm
OUTREACH & SMALL GROUP NIGHT
Bring friends!

 **TROY METHODIST CHURCH**
text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000
facebook.com/troymethodiststudents
troymc.org/students
instagram.com/troymethodiststudents
Tim@troymc.org
Ryan@troymc.org
Courtney@troymc.org

FALL KICKOFF
6th-12th grade students,
parents, & leaders
August 19 from 6-8 pm

 **TROY METHODIST CHURCH**
text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000
facebook.com/troymethodiststudents
troymc.org/students
instagram.com/troymethodiststudents
Tim@troymc.org
Ryan@troymc.org
Courtney@troymc.org

FALL KICKOFF Wednesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Students - bring your families, siblings, and friends to the Fall Kick-Off on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

- Dinner: Let us know if you can make it! RSVP to the church office, admin@troymc.org
- Dates and plans for the fall and school year
- Registration forms
- Worship
- Activities
- 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

AUGUST STUDENT MINISTRY CALENDAR

August 5 - Break
August 12 - Break
August 19 - Fall Kick-Off - families, students, friends, and leaders
August 26 - Outreach Night - Small Group Formation

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

What an incredible joy to have so many teams, families, and individuals provide a meal for Student Ministry each Wednesday night through the school year. It's been a blessing for both the students and our church!

If you can join us this year to provide a meal for 60 people on a Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., email tim@troymc.org or text 618-541-8291. We're just getting started putting the schedule together, and you can choose any date from September 2 through December 2.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Take a look at Student Ministry social media to see updates about summer mission and ministry trips.

Follow us:   @troymethodiststudents

Text TROYSTUDENTS to 94000 to stay in touch!

G.O.S.P.E.L.

GOD created us to be with Him.
OUR sins separate us from God.
SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.
PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

CONTACT

Tim - tim@troymc.org
Ryan - ryan@troymc.org
Courtney - courtney@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

*Executive Director

Brittany Smith

Director of 1st Step Learning Center

Amy Burrelsman

*Preschool Liaison

Keri Hemker

*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
1ststep@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!

@troymethodistchurch



AUGUST SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
August 13	TMW Annual Ice Cream Social & Meeting (page 5)
August 16	Kids Ministry - Pop-Up Sunday (page 4)
August 16	Kids Ministry - Bubble Bash (page 4)
August 19	Student Ministry - Fall Kickoff (page 7)
August 20	GriefShare Fall Session Begins (page 5)
August 25	J.O.Y. Seekers Lunch & Program (page 5)
August 26	Student Ministry - Outreach & Small Group Night (page 7)

WELCOME KERI HEMKER TO OUR STAFF TEAM!

Keri Hemker officially joins the TMC staff this August as the 1st Step Preschool Liaison. But the 1st Step Preschool family has held a special place in Keri's heart for many years! Keri's two oldest children have completed the 1st Step program, and her youngest child will begin the program alongside Keri this fall!

Keri is married to Jon and lives in Troy along with their four children, Ethan (10), Emery (8), Deacon (6), and Hallie (3). The Hemker family started attending TMC on Palm Sunday in 2015. In her free time, Keri loves to travel with her family and go on new adventures. She also enjoys being creative, crafting, a good iced coffee, and spending her evenings on the sidelines cheering on her kids at their various activities. Keri earned a Bachelor of Computer Management & Information Systems from SIUE in 2009 and her MBA from McKendree University in 2015.

When asked what excites her about this role, Keri shared: "The teachers and director are so much more than a preschool staff – they are family. I am passionate about providing children with a strong foundation through Christ-centered, play-based learning. I am truly excited to serve as the preschool liaison and look forward to being part of this incredible ministry and the special 1st Step community!"

TMC staff is excited to have Keri join our team! Be sure to welcome Keri to this role as the 2026-2027 school year begins!



REACH

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

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