TROY METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

DECEMBER 2026
VOLUME 38 · ISSUE 12

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DON'T MISS JESUS: ADVENT 2026

It's possible to know the Christmas story without truly knowing Jesus. And sometimes the things we miss are the things that have been right in front of us all along. We can get so caught up in life's busyness that we overlook His presence, drift from a relationship we once cherished, or forget He's promised to return. The truth is, it's possible to celebrate Christmas and still miss Jesus. And that's something we desperately don't want for anyone - not in our church, not in our community, not this Christmas. This Advent, join us as we explore how we can miss Jesus - and, more importantly, how we can find our way back. Discover the grace of the God who came near, calls us to follow Him, and promises to come again. We hope you'll join us for this journey, and we encourage you to invite friends and family to come with you. You never know who might need to hear - or be reminded of - the good news of Jesus this Christmas.

November 29: *In the Story* – Matthew 2:1-12

December 6: *In the Moment* – Luke 2:8-20

December 13: *In Your Heart* – John 21:1-19

December 20: *When He Returns* – Titus 2:11-14

December 24 - 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.:
He Came For You – Luke 2:8-20, John 1:14

Candlelight Services:
2:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center and online
(Kids Ministry & nursery available)
6:00 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center
11:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary and online

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

EVERY MINISTRY MATTERS

On Tuesday evening, November 10, we had a wonderful opportunity to gather with our church's ministry leaders for a TEAM night dinner. It was a great time of encouragement, gratitude, and looking ahead together. We had 41 ministry leaders around the tables that evening, followed by another 35 ministry team members who joined us afterward for a time of ministry team planning. It was a wonderful reminder of just how many people give their time, energy, and gifts to serve God and others through the ministries of our church.

During both gatherings, I wanted to remind everyone of three important truths about why we do what we do. First, **ministry belongs to God.** In 1 Corinthians 3:5–9, the Apostle Paul reminds us that some plant, some water, but it is God who makes things grow. We are not building our own ministries or simply trying to keep church programs running. We are God's coworkers, invited to participate in the work he is already doing. That means we can serve with humility, knowing the results ultimately belong to Him, and with confidence, knowing that our work is part of something much bigger than ourselves.

Second, **the ultimate goal of ministry is that people become more like Jesus.** In Colossians 1:28–29, Paul describes his ministry as proclaiming and teaching Christ so that everyone might become mature in him. That's a helpful reminder that the goal isn't simply successful events, full classrooms, well-organized teams, or even growing attendance. Those things may be good and important, but our ultimate goal is transformed lives. We want to see people encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, and become passionate disciples who increasingly reflect his character.

And third, **every ministry matters because every ministry has a part in making passionate disciples who multiply passionate disciples.** Whether someone is serving children, welcoming guests, caring for our facilities, leading a journey group, organizing an event, or serving in any of our 20+ ministry teams, their contribution matters. Sometimes we can see the direct impact of our service, and sometimes we may never know this side of heaven and how God used a seemingly small act of faithfulness to make a difference in someone's life. But every act of service is an opportunity to participate in God's work.

I left both gatherings feeling incredibly grateful. I'm grateful for the 50+ leaders who faithfully give of themselves to lead and encourage others. I'm grateful for the 150+ team members who serve alongside them. And I'm grateful for a congregation that continues to put its faith into action through so many different expressions of ministry.

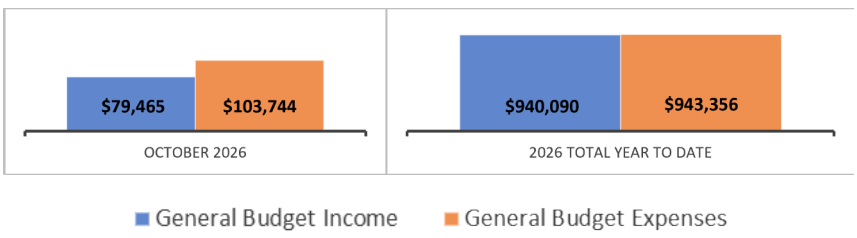
Our vision is to be a church of **passionate disciples multiplying passionate disciples**. That doesn't happen through one person, one pastor, or one ministry. It happens as all of us use the gifts God has given us, working together in the ministries he has entrusted to us. Thank you for being part of it. Every ministry matters, every person matters, and every act of faithful service matters. What a privilege it is to be God's coworkers!

Faithfully, Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	October Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In person	132	125
9:00 a.m. - Online	175	186
10:30 a.m. - In person	157	173
10:30 a.m. - Online	100	136
Sunday Children	72	70
Wednesday Youth	62	55
Average Weekly In-Person	423	424
Average Weekly Online Worship	275	322

General Budget



OPPORTUNITIES

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY



This year, our Angel Tree tradition continues with the following angels to choose from:

YELLOW ANGEL: Gift cards for Safe Families host families
RED ANGEL: Gift cards for Ministries Unlimited
PINK ANGEL: Gift cards for Eden's Glory

There are THREE deadlines this year:

1. **Ministries Unlimited gift cards are due back by NOON Thursday, December 10**
2. **Safe Families gift cards are due back by Christmas Eve**
3. **Eden's Glory gift cards are due back by Christmas Eve**

The first Sunday of Advent you will find Christmas trees in both the Family Life Center and Sanctuary foyers adorned with angel ornaments. Each ornament represents an individual or family that you can bless this Christmas season! This year, we will be collecting 25-dollar gift cards for Safe Families host families, Ministries Unlimited, and Eden's Glory. Each angel outlines where to purchase your gift cards from, but if you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org. Thank you for giving generously to bless families in our community!

COME OUT AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!
Monday, December 21, 12:45 p.m., Upper Family Life Center

Do you like to sing Christmas songs and share the joy of the season with others? Well, do I have an opportunity for you!

On Monday, December 21, we will be caroling at three area care facilities and spreading Christmas cheer! We will meet in the Upper Family Life Center and depart for the first location at 12:45 p.m. Music sheets will be given out that day of familiar songs we will easily be able to sing together. This event will take approximately 2-3 hours, but the joy you share will last for days to come! If you would like to come, just show up! Everyone of every age is welcome to be a part of this day!

If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

Each Sunday morning, we have a team of 50+ volunteers who provide hospitality to our members, attendees, and guests in a variety of ways. From greeting people with a smile to making coffee for the masses, we work to make Sunday mornings an experience where the love of Christ is experienced in all we do. The holiday season is a great time to join a team and be a part of sharing that love! Whether you are an extrovert or would rather work behind the scenes, there is something for everyone. Each volunteer commits, on average, to helping once a month, or you could volunteer extra if you would like to do more!

If you would like to sign up or have questions, please contact Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS VARIETY CONCERT

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m, Family Life Center

Come and join us as we kick off the Christmas season with a musical celebration of Christ's birth! The Christmas Variety Concert will take place in the Family Life Center on Tuesday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m., and many of the Troy Methodist Church ensembles will join together to perform festive selections. You will have the opportunity to hear from the Chancel and Bell Choirs, which both regularly sing and play at the 9:00 a.m. traditional worship services throughout the year. You will also hear from a group of modern musicians, who are only some of the many folks that lead music at the 10:30 a.m. modern worship services. And we have a very special kids choir that has been put together just for this concert!



This performance will be a bit different from Christmas concerts past, but we know you will enjoy the beautiful sounds of praises being lifted to Jesus Christ, the newborn King, from voices, hands, and hearts!

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

December 18 - 7:00 p.m. & December 19 - 5:00 p.m., Family Life Center

Come see *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play*! The Charles Dickens holiday classic comes to life in December at Troy Methodist Church, as a live 1940's radio broadcast, complete with vintage commercials for fruitcake (extra-fancy), and the magic of live sound effects and musical underscoring.



Over 20 actors bring dozens of characters to the stage, as the familiar story unfolds: Three ghosts take Ebenezer Scrooge on a thrilling journey to teach him redemption at Christmas. A charming take on a family favorite that takes us back to the days of radio drama on Christmas Eve, 1946.

Performances are Friday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m. There's no admission fee but a free-will offering is an option. See or contact Mark Nelson at (618) 558-0624 for more information.

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 13

Join us on Sunday, December 13, at our 10:30 a.m. worship service for a special glimpse in to 1st Step Learning Center!

Our preschool students will share their songs with the congregation. You'll have an opportunity to learn more about our wonderful teachers and some of the exciting things happening each week. We invite you to join as we welcome our staff, students, and their families for a special morning of worship and celebration!



EVENTS

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Family Life Center

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 Kathy Hahn and message by special guest, Annie Schomaker, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Eden's Glory. Additionally, Annie is a Prayer Warrior!

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased after services on November 29 or by contacting Deb Ellis at debsellis@sbcglobal.net. Sale ends Thursday, December 3!



TROY
METHODIST WOMEN

TMW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 10, 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Bella Milano

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Troy Methodist Women will gather at Bella Milano on Thursday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m. for our annual Christmas luncheon. Brittany Smith, our church Executive Director, will be our special guest speaker. Make your reservations with Becky Rushing at (618) 792-0020 or rushing1@sbcglobal.net or call the church office. Seating is limited to 36 so get your reservation in now! Twenty dollars covers cost of everything! Please continue to purchase nuts at church or online. We're still hopeful that cookbooks are here soon! For more information about our group, contact Libby Gregg at (618) 954-6263 or lgregg129@gmail.com.

FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TRIP MEMORIES

Join us after worship (11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) in the Family Life Center on December 6 to hear more about our Footsteps of Paul trip as well as upcoming travel ministry opportunities.



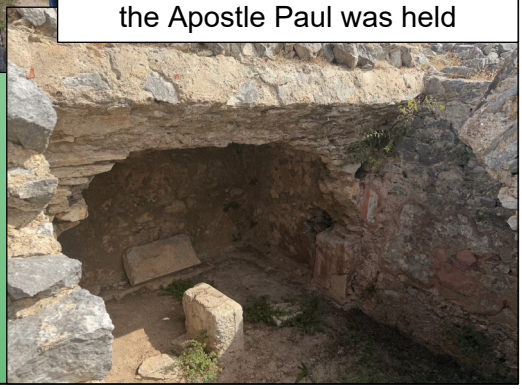
Entire group in the Minoan palace theater at Knossos,



The group on the Via Egnatia leading through Phillipi



Group at Patmos where St. John baptized many and we remembered our baptism



The prison cell in Philippi where the Apostle Paul was held

PRAYERS FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION

Every name represents a life. Every life matters to God.

In late August, we created a special table filled with the names of children, students, and college-aged young adults who had walked through the doors of Troy Methodist Church at least three times during the past year. Each person was invited to select a bookmark with a name and commit to praying regularly for that child or student.

A quarter of a year has passed, and hopefully you have continued to faithfully pray for the young person whose name you selected!

Why? Because we believe the next generation is worth investing in, not just through programs and activities, **but through intentional, faithful prayer.**

Behind every name is a story, a family, a set of challenges, questions, and opportunities. Some are growing in their faith, some are still discovering who Jesus is, and others may be navigating seasons of life when they need encouragement, wisdom, and a reminder that they are loved.

Our desire is to see every child, student, and young adult at Troy Methodist Church become a passionate disciple of Jesus. That begins with a church family that knows their names, cares about their lives, and faithfully brings them before the Lord.

As we enter the Christmas season, here are a few ways you can be praying:

- **A growing relationship with Jesus:** Pray that they would understand the true meaning of Christmas and grow in their love for Jesus. *(Isaiah 9:6)*
- **A strong foundation of faith:** Pray that they would develop a hunger for God's Word and continue to grow in their faith. *(1 Peter 2:2)*
- **Godly friendships and influences:** Pray for friendships that encourage wise choices and point them toward Jesus. *(Proverbs 13:20)*
- **Peace and encouragement:** Pray for those facing difficult family circumstances, loneliness, anxiety, or uncertainty, that they would know God's presence and love. *(Psalm 34:18)*
- **A heart to serve God:** Pray that they would discover how God has uniquely created them and use their gifts for His purposes. *(Ephesians 2:10)*



Thank you for investing in the next generation through prayer. You don't have to teach a class, lead a small group, or volunteer every Sunday to make a difference. Your prayers matter. Let's be a church that doesn't just welcome the next generation through our doors, but faithfully lifts them up in prayer.





CONTACT
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Jenn - jenn@troymc.org

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TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

December 2 - Regular Student Ministry 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

December 9 - Regular Student Ministry 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

December 16 - Student Ministry Christmas Party 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

January 13 - Student Ministry begins again!



SUMMER CALENDAR

The Christmas Break is a good time to pray for and get the major summer ministry events on your family calendar:

June 20-26, 2027 - Beulah Youth Institute (Current 7th-12th grades)

June 28-July 1, 2027 - Beulah Bible Camp (Current 4th-6th grades)

July 8-10, 2027 - Middle School Mission Trip (Current 6th-8th grades)

July 12-16, 2027 - VBS at Troy Methodist Church (Students can apply to be student leaders for this incredible kids ministry event!)

July 18-24, 2027 - High School Mission Trip (Current 9th-12th grades) Red Bird Mission, KY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST FEW WEEKENDS

Praise the Lord for the many opportunities students have had to serve, share, and experience the Love of Christ these last few weekends:

FALL RALLY - A day for about 160 students and leaders to worship, pray, and connect in the body of Christ. The theme was John 15: Stay connected to Jesus and abide in Him. We're praying for fruit from that event.

FALL FEST - Students shared God's love by leading and serving the kids and families who came through this awesome event!

FALL COOKOUT - Students met around the campfire on October 28 for food, fun, and testimonies! It was a powerful night.

Thanks to students, leaders, families, and the church for making these things possible!









CONTACT
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Church Information

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Staff

***Senior Pastor**
Andy Adams
***Associate 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

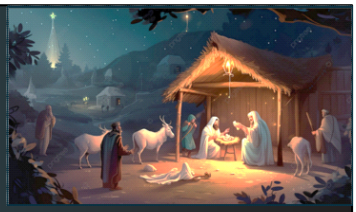
If you would like to receive the Reach newsletter via email only, please contact admin@troymc.org

Connect with us!
@troymethodistchurch

DECEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	EVENT
December 1	Christmas Variety Concert *(page 4)*
December 5	Women's Christmas Brunch *(page 5)*
December 10	TMW Christmas Luncheon *(page 5)*
December 16	Student Ministry - Christmas Party *(page 7)*
December 18 & 19	A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play *(page 4)*
December 21	Community Christmas Caroling *(page 3)*
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services *(page 1)*
December 28 - 31	Church Office Closed

CHRISTMAS: THE SEASON OF HOPE



Christmas is a time of cherished memories, familiar traditions, and joyful celebrations. Yet, for some, it can also be a season of missing loved ones, facing challenges, or wondering what the future holds. Whatever our circumstances or stage of life, the message of Christmas remains the same: **Because Jesus came, we have HOPE!**

Isaiah 9:2 declares, "*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.*" That light came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

As the years pass, many things change. Our health, circumstances, and even our family traditions may look different than they once did. But one thing never changes: God's faithfulness. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

For our senior members, and indeed for every generation, this is a wonderful assurance. We are never too old, too weary, or too burdened to experience God's love and find purpose in serving Him. Our hope is not in the things of this world, but in Emmanuel, our Savior, who promised to be with us always.

This Christmas, let us share that hope with others. Reach out to someone who may be lonely, encourage someone who is struggling, and remind those around you that they are loved. The greatest gift of Christmas is not found beneath a tree. It was laid in a manger, crucified on a cross, and raised from the grave so that we might have everlasting life.

May the hope of Christ fill your heart with peace, your home with joy, and inspire you to share His love throughout the coming year. Wishing our entire church family a blessed and hope-filled Christmas! - Merry Christmas, Pastor Dan

TROY METHODIST CHURCH REACH

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Return Service Requested