

**TROY**  
METHODIST CHURCH

# REACH

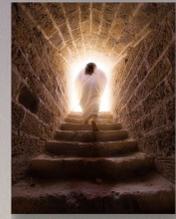
INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

**MARCH 2026**  
**VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 3**

## 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
March Schedule Highlights	Back Page

## ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF JESUS



## A HOLY WEEK JOURNEY

### ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF JESUS: A HOLY WEEK JOURNEY

The heart of Jesus is on full display during Holy week – the most impactful week of the Christian calendar. So much happened to Jesus in those seven days. He was hailed as a king as he entered Jerusalem. He instituted the most celebrated meal in history at the Last Supper. He sweat blood as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before being arrested, held on trial, endured great suffering, and died a gruesome death on a cross. But these events are not just history, they reveal the heart of Jesus for the world and for you. As we walk through some of the key events of Holy week in the Sundays leading up to Easter, we will be encountering the heart of God in a powerful way. Join us for this journey with Jesus.

**March 15:** Celebrating Palm Sunday and Jesus' Heart of *Compassion*  
- Luke 19:28-44

**March 22:** Celebrating The Last Supper and Jesus' Heart of *Sacrifice*  
- Matthew 26:36-48

**March 29:** Celebrating Good Friday and Jesus' Heart of *Forgiveness*  
- Luke 23:32-34

**April 5:** Celebrating Easter Sunday and Jesus' Heart of *Hope*  
- John 20:1-18



### 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

### Easter Services

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 & Children's Ministry (online)

10:30 a.m. - Modern Worship in the Family Life Center & Children's Ministry (online)

Also join us for our **Good Friday Service of Shadows**,  
April 3 – 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## A BIG STEP FORWARD

We had an exciting Saturday in early February! Our Adaptive Leadership Team (ALT) of nine people grew and expanded to 25 with a day of “Loving, Learning, and Leading” together. Because this purposeful team culture is something we want to permeate our entire church, I want to share the basics with you AND introduce you to our **E4 Leadership Teams**.

Our Adaptive Leadership Team was commissioned by our Church Council to prayerfully discern God’s leading to develop a Ministry Action Plan (MAP). You’ve heard it all by now – we articulated our core values, researched our context, reiterated our mission, discerned our vision, and redeveloped our discipleship system. That was all important work but it only came about because we invested a full day each month, creating a new culture – **L3 Culture** of Loving, Learning, and Leading. In order to have Spirit-led output, we must have a culture that fosters a community of trust, spiritual formation, and growth...that’s what our **L3 Culture** does. So when we invited our newly formed E4 Leadership Teams to join us and learn their purpose, we passed on this important culture.

- We spent time **Loving** God and each other in worship and prayer. Our teams had an exercise of listening for God’s leading in their own spiritual lives and shared how God is nudging them to grow. We also enjoyed a great meal together!
- Then we spent time **Learning** the WHY behind our work. We want to overcome isolation by building teams so there is no solo, heroic leadership. We want to create Ministry Action Plans so we can overcome distractions and non-mission focused endeavors. And we want to create systems of accountability, so we don’t mistake busyness for progress.
- Finally, we commissioned each team to do **Leading** work beginning with formulating their team covenant and first draft of their area MAP before we reconvene in 90 days.

I can tell you that there was great excitement and buzz around each table as we took this big step forward as a church sharing leadership and mission-driven purpose with some wonderful people. I invite you to pray for and encourage them in their work!

Faithfully,

*Andy*

ENGAGE	ENCOUNTER	EQUIP	EXTEND
Stephanie Lawson *	Marissa Rushik *	Rick Lechner *	Deb Inman *
Dan McLeod *	Barb Buck *	Bonnie Abel *	Carl Inman
Vic Mitchell	Beth Repp	David VanMiddendorp	Tami Buchwalter
Ellie Mitchell	Kelly Kennett	Tom Finley	Brian Hepfer
Ron Knudson	Mark Kleindorfer	Rebecca Hepfer	Deb Ellis
Tyson Graham	Anthony Karas	Heather Wickersham	

\*Adaptive Leadership Team members along with Eric Brault and Andy Adams

## STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	January Average
9:00 a.m. - In Person	112
9:00 a.m. - Online	252
10:30 a.m. - In Person	157
10:30 a.m. - Online	217
Sunday Children	69
Wednesday Youth	64
<b>Average Weekly In Person Worship</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>Average Weekly Online Worship</b>	<b>469</b>
*1/25 Sunday online only due to snow	

### General Budget



■ General Budget Income ■ General Budget Expenses

## MIDWEST MISSION FOOD PACK EVENT

*Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Family Life Center*

You've marked your calendars, and now it's time to sign up! On Saturday, March 21, you will have multiple opportunities to come to the Family Life Center and be a part of this event that is for all ages: toddlers to older adults! There is work available for every skill level – whether you can stand for the whole two hours or if you want to sit and seal bags. Time slots include: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. Each time slot is 110 minutes with a 10-minute transition period to clean and reset for the next shift. To sign up, you can email Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

You can sign up as an individual or with your family, band, small group, etc. If you'd like to sign up for more than one time slot, please do! This is a great opportunity to invite others into our church! Perhaps it's the "empty chair" individuals your journey group has been praying for or a neighbor that you are trying to get to know better. Pray about who YOU can invite to this awesome event!



## Midwest Mission Food Pack Event

Saturday, March 21  
[troymc.org/events](http://troymc.org/events)

Additionally, we will have a **STUDENT FOOD PACK SET-UP PIZZA PARTY** on Friday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m. Students and families are encouraged to come and help set up the Family Life Center for the Food Packing Event and then enjoy pizza together.

**BONUS:** this year, we will also have a competition between the students who come to see who can pack the most bags in 20 minutes! For more information or to sign up, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## MISSION OPPORTUNITY *Written by Donna Reynolds*

Imagine, if you can, 2,220 tons of Bibles and Christian literature packed to the very top of 111 shipping containers! This is an annual reality happening just 45 miles from our church at Love Packages in Butler, Illinois. The shipping containers are sorted and packed by volunteers and then shipped all over the world to people seeking to know God better. There is such a great need for Bibles and Christian materials, and ministries like Love Packages help meet the need. But where does this life-changing material come from? It comes from people just like you sending Bibles and used study materials to their doorstep. Only God knows what will happen because of these gifts and what fruit it will bear, but we can be a part of the process.

So what can we at TMC do to help spread God's love? We can collect new or used study material, Bibles, Bible study guides, resource materials, Bible dictionaries, maps, and charts. As you do your spring cleaning in the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to set these items aside. Mission Team members Carl & Donna Reynolds are available to deliver these items to Love Packages for you! There are also volunteer opportunities available to help sort and pack the boxes and shipping containers. Prayers and financial support for shipping costs are also always appreciated. For more information about Love Packages, check out [Donate Bibles & Christian Literature | Love Packages](#). To donate items, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## SERVING OPPORTUNITY: LAWN CARE TEAM

If you love the outdoors, join our Lawn Care Team! We need help mowing and trimming around the church grounds. We form volunteer teams of around three people to mow 1-2 times each month, April through October. No experience necessary, we will train! If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Chris or Kathy at [admin@troymc.org](mailto:admin@troymc.org).



# CONNECT

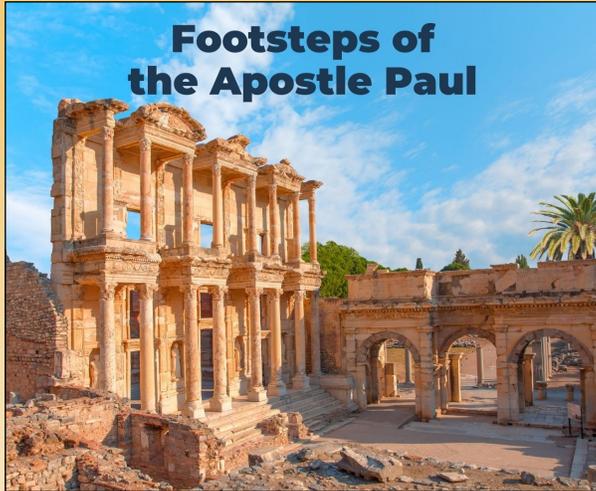
## JOURNEY WITH PASTOR ANDY TO TURKEY & GREECE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TRIP September 27 - October 6, 2026

**“For we Walk by Faith, Not by Sight,”  
wrote the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.**

Don't miss this unique opportunity to walk in the path of Apostle Paul with Pastor Andy! Join him, along with Amy Jo & others in our church family, on this land & sea trip to Turkey, Greece, & the Greek Isles this fall. The guided tour offers 5 nights on land at fine hotels along with 3 nights at sea, onboard the Celestyal Discovery.

Scripture will take on new meaning as we visit the ancient communities where Paul established churches – and to whom he penned his epistles, including the Thessalonians, Philippians, Corinthians, and Ephesians. Highlights include stops at the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Acropolis Athens, Ephesus, Meteora & the Paleo Christian & Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki.

Invite your family & friends to join you on this bucket-list trip. Those who book by March 4, 2026 will receive a \$50 discount on their trip registration (double occupancy). Limited space remains so scan the QR code or reach out to Betsy Forman, Trip Coordinator at [eforman@dreamvacations.com](mailto:eforman@dreamvacations.com) or 618.708.6443. Visit [troymc.org](http://troymc.org) to watch the 2026 webinar.



**Tour of  
Greece, Turkey  
& the Greek Isles**

**September 27 -  
October 6, 2026**



**Hosted by  
Pastor Andy**



**Directory Photo Shoot**  
*Sunday, March 29*

Don't miss this opportunity to get your picture taken to be included in the online church directory. Whether you want an updated photo or don't have one in the directory yet, stop by the backdrop after the 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services.

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

**TMW MEETING & PROGRAM**  
*Thursday, March 12, 1:00 p.m., Family Life Center*

Spring is in the air! The Troy Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, March 12 in the FLC from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be our own Care Pastor, Dan Perry.

Please come and spend a couple of hours with us and learn how our group provides for others through faith, mission, and service. Please contact Libby Gregg at [lgregg129@gmail.com](mailto:lgregg129@gmail.com) for more information.

**Mark your calendars to attend our Ladies Tea and Silent Auction on, Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the FLC! More details to come next month!**

**TROY**  
METHODIST WOMEN  
FAITH • MISSIONS • SERVICE

# CONNECT

## KIDS CONFERENCE - TUNE IN! Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Silver Creek Elementary - Troy

The Kids Conference, a one-day event for children in first through fifth grades, will be held in Troy, IL, on March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.! The event will take place at Silver Creek Elementary School.

Our group will attend together and we're looking forward to a great day! The theme is TUNE IN and we will look at three parables of Jesus, plus kids will love the music, recreation, Bible Buzz, Pizza lunch, and more!

You can register at [troymc.org/kids](http://troymc.org/kids).



## NEXT STEP TO CONNECT Sunday, March 22, 11:45 a.m., Upper Family Life Center

If you are new to our church family, we want to welcome you and provide you with an opportunity to connect! On Sunday, March 22, we will have a Connect Lunch following the 10:30 a.m. service.



Starting at 11:45 a.m. and going until 1:15 p.m., we will enjoy lunch from Fire and Smoke, spend time getting to know each other, and provide time to answer questions you might have about our church family. We will also take a tour of our church facilities so you can get to know your way around.

Childcare is available with RSVP. Your kids will be able to eat lunch with you and then go to the children's area with our staff for a fun activity. Sign up by emailing Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## J.O.Y. SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+) LUNCH & PROGRAM Tuesday, March 24, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Family Life Center

Our next J.O.Y. Seekers' lunch will be on March 24 in the Family Life Center.

Our program for that day will be a presentation by one of our own members, Carol Skaggs. She will be sharing her testimony about the miracles she has experienced in her life.



We're encouraging members to consider inviting a friend to attend J.O.Y. Seekers.

For our meal that day, we will once again enjoy food from Fire & Smoke. Please call the office (618) 667-6241 to sign up to attend and if you want to bring a dessert let us know what dessert you plan to bring when you register.

Please sign up between March 10-19. REMINDER: \$10 to help cover expenses.

# TROY METHODIST KIDS

## HOPE FOR 50 HOMES

### An Easter Outreach Experience for Kids & Families

This Easter, we're equipping kids to share the hope of Jesus right where they live—around the corner, across the street, and in their everyday world.

Kids will take part in a hands-on workshop to prepare an Easter outreach kit, pray for someone, and learn how to invite them to church. **The goal:** Kids live and share their faith.

### The Workshop

During this special workshop, kids will:

- Learn why we share hope
- Pray for one person or family to reach out to
- Assemble their Easter outreach kit
- Practice a kind, simple way to invite someone to church

### What Families Will Do Afterward

In the days leading up to Easter, your family will:

- Pray together for the person or family your child chose
- Secretly place the filled eggs and sign at their home
- Follow up with a friendly note, text, or conversation so they know it was from you
- Personally invite them to join you for Easter services

Simple. Meaningful. Not awkward.

### How the Outreach Works

Families will "egg" a home in a fun, thoughtful way:

- Place or hide plastic eggs with candy, small toys, and a short Easter message in a yard
- Leave a sign that says: "**You've Been Egged by Troy Methodist Church!**"
- Include a personal invitation to Easter services

This is for a household with children your family is praying for - someone your child can intentionally invite and bless. We want kids to experience faith in action - praying, sharing the Easter message, and stepping into God's mission right in their neighborhoods.

### Sign Up & Questions:

Visit the resource table in the FLC or email [jenn@troymc.org](mailto:jenn@troymc.org) to help us prepare enough kits.



An Easter Outreach Experience for Kids & Families

## BOYS & GIRLS TWEENS KICKOFF!

Tween Boys and Girls have officially kicked off on Wednesdays at **5:00 p.m.** and we are off to a great start!

Each week, this group dives into a short devotional, hands-on activities, and intentional discipleship time designed to help kids grow in their faith in real and practical ways. Discipleship at this age means walking alongside kids as they learn how to follow Jesus not just with their words but with their everyday lives and relationships.

A huge thank you to our amazing leaders, **Loren, Alex H., Elaine, and Shirley**, for stepping up to invest in these kids and build meaningful connections that point them toward Christ. Their time, energy, and hearts for this next generation are such a gift.

### **CONTACT**

Tim - [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org)  
Jenn - [jenn@troymc.org](mailto:jenn@troymc.org)

### **WEBSITE**

[troymc.org/kids](http://troymc.org/kids)

### **FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM**

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

# TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

In addition to Wednesday evenings, all students are invited to join us in worship each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

At the 10:30 a.m. service, many students sit up near the front in the first couple of center rows.

All 6th -12th graders are invited to attend.



## SERVE IN KIDS MINISTRY

If you a student who enjoys working with kids and feel a tug to serve in children's ministry on Sundays, we welcome you to explore the possibility.

For more information, email Jenn Diliberto at [jenn@troymc.org](mailto:jenn@troymc.org) or Tim Price at [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org).



## WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

We will have four special Wednesdays in March - we meet each Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.! Dinner is from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m., followed by worship, the special guests during the lesson times, small groups, and activities until 8:00 p.m.

- March 4 - Fire-Up Testimonies
- March 11 - Student Leader Interviews
- March 18 - College Student Testimonies
- March 25 - Greenville University Pursuit Team will be here to lead in worship and share the lesson and other fun.



## STUDENT SERVING MINISTRY Friday, March 20, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

On Friday, March 20 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., all students are invited to come help unload the truck and help set up for the all-church Food Packing Ministry Event, which takes place the following day.

Come that Friday afternoon ready to work and we will have pizza for dinner.

For questions or more information, talk with Bonnie Abel at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## YOUVERSION BIBLE APP

If you haven't already, download the YouVersion Bible App to your phone.

The daily verse, Bible reading plans, and other encouragement is a huge boost to the daily rhythm of reading God's words and staying in tune with Him.



# YouVersion

## CONTACT

Tim - [tim@troymc.org](mailto:tim@troymc.org)  
Ryan - [ryan@troymc.org](mailto:ryan@troymc.org)  
Courtney - [courtney@troymc.org](mailto:courtney@troymc.org)

## WEBSITE

[troymc.org/students](http://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

### \*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](mailto:admin@troymc.org)

To contact 1st Step Learning Center, use  
[1step@troymc.org](mailto:1step@troymc.org)

If you would like to receive the Reach  
newsletter via email only, please  
contact [admin@troymc.org](mailto:admin@troymc.org)

### Connect with us!

[@troymethodistchurch](https://www.instagram.com/troymethodistchurch)



## MARCH SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
March 12	TMW Meeting & Program (page 4)
March 20	Student Serving Ministry - Food Pack Event (page 7)
March 21	Midwest Mission Food Pack Event (page 3)
March 22	Connect Lunch (page 5)
March 24	J.O.Y Seekers Lunch & Program (page 5)
March 28	Tune-In Kids Conference (page 5)
March 29	Directory Photo Shoot (page 4)

### WORSHIP MUSIC AND TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Have you ever wondered what goes into making our Sunday mornings happen? 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 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. If you are interested in our 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 heart for service and a love for worship are the best starting points. There will be a skill assessment and audition 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 ensuring our message reaches everyone, everywhere. Whether you want to sing, play, or click, there is a place for you here.

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



# REACH

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Troy, IL 62294  
[troymc.org](http://troymc.org)

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