



TROY  
METHODIST CHURCH

# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

MAY 2026  
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### UNOFFENDABLE: BE EQUIPPED TO LIVE ANGER-FREE

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 your life and the world for the better.

On April 19, we will be launching a six-week series using Brant 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 a Journey Group to be equipped to live anger-free by practicing forgiveness.

**April 19** – The Myth of Righteous Anger

**April 26** – What Humans are Like

**May 3** – The Effects of Anger

**May 10** – What about Injustice?

**May 17** – How to Actually Do This

**May 24** – The Difference It Makes



### 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

## A GIFT TO TROY METHODIST

It's hard for me to believe that in just two months I will have my ninth anniversary as senior pastor of Troy Methodist Church. I still remember my first days, trying to wrap my mind around the wide-ranging ministry of our church. I recently found this picture of my first staff meeting with the team.



Looking back, much has changed. A couple of these fine people have moved on to serve in other churches. A couple of others remain on our staff but in new and different roles. A couple have retired. Besides me, only one of them remains in the same position held when I first arrived, and she is about to retire after nearly 20 years of serving our church.

Without a doubt, Sharie Meyer has been the one person on staff whom I have relied upon the most in my time at TMC. As the maker and keeper of countless lists, Sharie has continually informed me of important decisions that need to be made, deadlines that must be met, and details that cannot be overlooked. Whenever I asked for some obscure report, she would figure out how to generate the information. Whenever I wondered why things were done a certain way, Sharie would access her vast knowledge databanks to give me an answer. She kept minutes for numerous meetings, followed through on action plans for our church council, trustees, and finance teams, and simply made things happen. She never said “no” to new tasks that were added to her plate. She always kept confidences, and whether she knows it or not, has encouraged me at times when I needed it most.

It wasn't long into my tenure that I understood how important Sharie was to the operations of our church, so it always scared me to consider her eventual retirement – something she began talking about several years ago. I am glad that she waited until after Covid and denominational change before she got serious about her plans! It brought me tremendous joy when Sharie and her husband, Mark, became members of TMC in 2022, because now she will continue to be part of the life of our church even after she hangs it up. But the office simply will not be the same with her retirement, which becomes official on May 14, 2026.

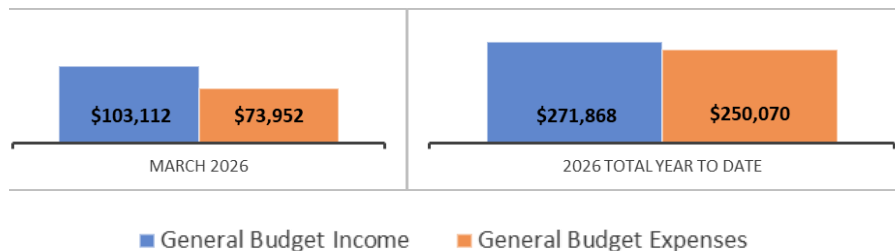
Our Staff Parish team will hold a special reception to honor and thank Sharie on **Sunday, May 31, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. (between services) in the Family Life Center**. If you know Sharie, you know she doesn't like to be the center of attention, but I encourage you to stop by the office and tell her thank you or write her a note sharing how much you appreciate her. Join me in thanking God for the great gift Sharie has been to everyone at Troy Methodist Church.

Faithfully,  
*Andy*

## STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	March Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	127	124
9:00 a.m. - Online	181	206
10:30 a.m. - In Person	199	177
10:30 a.m. - Online	141	162
Sunday Children	75	69
Wednesday Youth	64	64
<b>Average Weekly In Person Worship</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Average Weekly Online Worship</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>368</b>

### General Budget



# SERVE & CONNECT

## UPWARD - MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

Now that the Upward Basketball and Cheerleading season is over, and as we look forward to preparing for a new season in the next few months, it's a good time to evaluate the impact of this important outreach ministry of our church!

Here are some significant statistics. Of the 290 participating athletes (a few more than last season), 131 were first-time participants in our program. Furthermore, 52% (151 participants) come from a family with no church home! This statistic is very similar to last season and represents approximately 7,000 touchpoints of ministry to people without church homes, which our Upward program and our faithful volunteers made possible. Thank you for investing in such a great outreach ministry!

If you are interested in serving in some capacity in our 2026-27 season, contact Tyson Graham at [upward@troymc.org](mailto:upward@troymc.org).



## REGISTRATION CLOSING FOR FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL TRIP WITH PASTOR ANDY *September 27 - October 6, 2026*

Don't miss this opportunity to join Pastor Andy & Amy Jo Adams this fall as they walk in Apostle Paul's Footsteps through Greece, Turkey & the Greek Isles. **REGISTRATION CLOSES THURSDAY, APRIL 30**, and only \$250 holds your spot.

Open to couples & solo travelers, this unique tour offers 5 nights on land at fine hotels, plus 3 nights at sea aboard the Celestyal Discovery. "I can't wait to be the spiritual host on this journey to Greece and Turkey this September," said Pastor Andy. "Walking in the same places those in the Bible walked brings the Scriptures to life in new and transformative ways. I'm thrilled to invite you to share this bucket-list trip with Amy Jo and I."

Scan the Trip QR code below or contact Betsy Forman, TMC Trip Coordinator, at (618) 708-6443 or [eforman@dreamvacations.com](mailto:eforman@dreamvacations.com).

*Can't attend this time, but interested in future TMC faith trips? Information will be shared in early summer about 2027 & 2028 group travel opportunities, domestic and international. Stay tuned!*

**FEWER THAN 5 SPOTS REMAIN!**



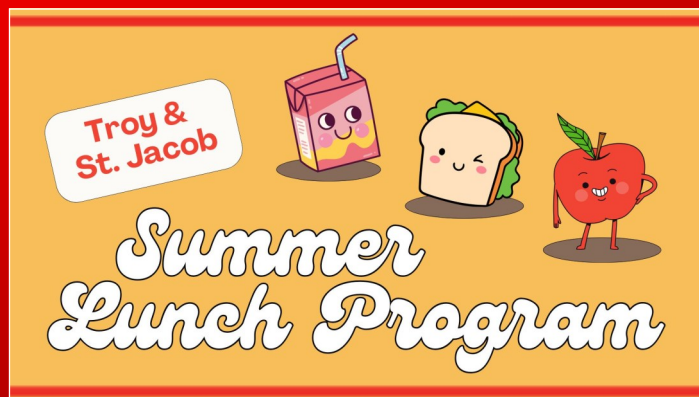
# CONNECT

## TROY & ST. JACOB SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

This summer, we will again be participating in the summer lunch program in both the Troy and St. Jacob communities. This program provides meals Monday through Friday, in addition to a backpack program to cover weekend meals, so that the children and youth in our community have access to food all summer long.

This program intentionally starts the day after school ends and runs until the day before school starts. The hope is that no child goes without a meal on any given day!

Our church family will be volunteering on Mondays at both Troy locations and at the St. Jacob location. If you would like to volunteer, you can find the sign-up links in the upcoming weekly eReach. If you have questions or need help signing up, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).



## J.O.Y. SEEKERS (55+) LUNCH & PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 26, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For our May J.O.Y. Seekers gathering – we're hitting the road!!! We're taking a trip to Marcoat Jersey Creamery in Greenville, IL. We'll have a guided tour of their entire operation, and the **cost is \$5 per person.**

We will sample cheese, tour the milking parlor, and learn about the whole process. The tour will last between 1 and 1 1/2 hours, with time to do a little shopping, too! (**HEADS UP!!** They only have one restroom).

Following our tour, we'll head to Kahuna's for lunch. Check out their website to see their menu <https://kahunasburgers.com/menu.html>

**We plan to leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp (please be on time) and return to the church around 3:00 p.m. Bring \$10 to ride the bus and \$5 for the tour.**

**(Please bring \$15 cash that will be collected when you board the bus) and cash or card to pay for your lunch at Kahuna's.**



"Where the Luau Meets the Grill"  
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Since 2011

## JOURNEY GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Save the date! Coming this summer, on Thursday, July 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pastor Andy and Pastor Bonnie will lead a training opportunity for all current journey group facilitators, apprentices, and anyone interested in learning what it means to lead in this capacity. We will explore topics such as having a vision for your journey group, inviting new people to your group, the roles of facilitator and apprentice, and many other themes. There will also be ample time set aside for questions and answers.

RSVP to Pastor Bonnie at [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org) by July 1. If you have questions about journey groups or how to get connected to the community at TMC, reach out to Pastor Bonnie TODAY!

# CONNECT

## GROWTH IN 2026!

As you look around on Sunday mornings, you may notice more people! Your senses are not fooling you. We have indeed been growing in worship attendance over the last year. Comparing March 2025 to March 2026, we have grown in each of our four main in-person attendance areas:

**9:00 a.m. 118 → 127 (+7.6%)**  
**10:30 a.m. 173 → 199 (+15%)**  
**Kids Ministry 68 → 75 (+10.3%)**  
**Student Ministry 51 → 64 (+25.5%)**  
**Total: 410 → 465 (+13.4%)**

We also had 61 more in-person worshipers on Easter Sunday this year, bringing the total from 592 to 653! Furthermore, our online worship numbers have been growing. Our first-quarter weekly average in 2025 was 289 compared with 368 in 2026 (+27%). Attendance numbers do not tell the entire story but they are indicative of our intentional efforts at inviting new people to attend. Keep it up, Troy Methodist Church!

## 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](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org).

## Membership Class & Lunch

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



## TMW LADIES' TEA & SILENT AUCTION

**Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m., Family Life Center**

### Ladies Tea



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

The Ladies Tea with Silent Auction is just around the corner on Saturday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m. Hopefully, you have purchased a ticket since only 120 seats are available. You can come and view our Silent Auction items beginning at noon that day.

Some of the items include Cardinal tickets, gift baskets, nice jewelry, spa sets, pottery, handmade quilts, baby blankets, assorted card sets, and artwork.

Our yearly trip to visit a mission we support will be on Thursday, May 14. We are going to Equipping the Called in Collinsville, followed by lunch at Fazzi's Restaurant.



If you have any questions about the Tea or Trip, please contact Libby Gregg at (618)964-6263 or email [lgregg129@gmail.com](mailto:lgregg129@gmail.com).

# TROY METHODIST KIDS

## VBS Is Coming... and It's Bigger Than You Think!

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine it: the sound of rushing waterfalls, vibrant colors everywhere, laughter echoing through the halls, and kids discovering who Jesus is in ways they'll never forget. That's what's coming this summer as we bring *Rainforest Falls* to life, July 6–10.

Now here's the part where many people quietly think, "*They've probably got it covered.*" Let me gently say...we don't. And that's actually a beautiful thing.

Just three years ago, we welcomed about 65 kids. The next year, 105. Last year? 167 kids filled our spaces with energy, questions, and wide-eyed wonder. God is clearly doing something incredible - and as your Kids Ministry Director, I want to steward that well. But doing it well doesn't mean doing it alone. It means inviting *you* into it. Whether you're 13 or 75+, there is a place for you in this story.

### Here's how you can jump in:

#### 1. Prayer

Nothing we do matters without it. From the earliest planning stages to the final day, we need people faithfully praying - for the leaders, the logistics, and the hearts that will be impacted.

#### 2. VBS Work Days (Starting May 20, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., occurs every Wednesday until VBS)

Wednesday nights will come alive with preparation - decor, organizing, crafting, laughter. All ages are welcome. In June, we add Thursday mornings too. Bring your kids, make it a family mission.

#### 3. Adopt a Prop

Keep an eye out in mid-June for simple projects you can take home and return. It's a great way to contribute on your own schedule.

#### 4. Leaders & Assistants

This is where we need people the most. No theology degree required - just a willing heart. If you can serve from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for the week, amazing. If you can only come a couple of days, we'll gladly plug you in. We don't just need more hands in crafts or snacks—we need people ready to love kids and show radical hospitality.

#### 5. Decor Team

It takes an entire week to transform our space into a rainforest adventure. If you enjoy creating environments that make kids say "WOW," we need you the week before VBS.



#### 6. Food—Yes, ALL the Food

Do you love feeding people? This is your moment. We want to bless 70+ leaders (and their kids) each morning with hearty breakfasts—casseroles, cinnamon rolls, breakfast pizzas, and more. Sign-ups will be available for Monday through Friday.

#### 7. Tear Down Crew

It's not glamorous but it's essential. Many hands make light work, and your help here is a huge gift.

#### 8. Encouragement Team

Help us follow up with kids by writing and sending cards after VBS. A simple note can leave a lasting impact.

This is just a glimpse of what it takes to make VBS happen. And the truth is, it's not just about putting on a great event, it's about showing kids - clearly and consistently - that they are seen, known, and deeply loved by Jesus. There's a place for you here! So mark your calendars. Save the dates. Step into something that matters. There is a place for you here—and together, we get to be part of something far bigger than ourselves.



## 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

## THANK YOU STUDENT MINISTRY LEADERS!

Our church is blessed with an incredible team who serve each and every Wednesday, leading Student Ministry. With this kind of love, commitment and consistency, ministry is healthy and growing! We're praying for our students as the whole church backs up this crew that is currently leading the way each week:

- Carl Inman (Games & Activities Coordinator)
  - David VanMiddendorp (High School Small Group Leader)
  - Deb Inman (Registration, Check-In & Hospitality)
  - Del Henderson (Middle School Small Group Leader)
  - Diana Henderson (Wednesday Night Kitchen Follow-Up)
  - Erin VanMiddendorp (Middle School Small Group Leader & Worship)
  - Loren Fear (High School Small Group Leader)
  - Jaime Ingle (Middle School Small Group Leader)
  - Janie Davidson (Wednesday Dinner Coordinator)
  - Jenny VanMiddendorp (High School Small Group Leader)
  - Jim Davidson (Wednesday Dinner Coordinator)
  - Melinda Brault (High School Small Group Leader & Bus Driver)
  - Pat Barnes (High School Small Group Leader & Worship)
  - Rex Repp (Middle School Small Group Leader & Lighting)
- "We're grateful for you all!" - Courtney, Ryan and Tim*

**\*Special thanks:** a special note to every volunteer who has been a part of the weekly ministry by providing a meal this spring so far!

**\*\*Leadership Note:** A full team of leadership on Wednesday is 18-20 adults, which means there's space for you! If you love Jesus and love students, let's explore the possibility of you joining in this ministry. Talk with Ryan [ryan@troymc.org](mailto:ryan@troymc.org) or Courtney [courtney@troymc.org](mailto:courtney@troymc.org).

## MAY SCHEDULE

- 5/3 - Graduation Sunday
- 5/6 - Regular Wednesday program  
from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 5/13 - End of semester party for  
Student Ministry 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 5/20 - BREAK WEEK
- 5/27 - BREAK WEEK
- 6/3 - Summer Series Kick Off

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

There's still time to enter the name of your graduate into the celebration information. If you have a graduate this year, email their...

- 1) *name*
- 2) *school*
- 3) *degree*
- 4) *future plans*
- 5) *a photo to [admin@troymc.org](mailto:admin@troymc.org).*

We will be celebrating and praying for graduates at both Sunday worship services on May 3 (whichever service you attend will be the one we will pray for you during).

## SUMMER MINISTRY

Summer camps and mission trips will be here soon! High school students are going to Beulah Camp in June and on a mission trip to Denver in July. These kinds of experiences can be life-changing for students! Middle school students are also attending camp in June and going on a weekend mission trip to Springfield, IL area in July! Additionally, all students are invited to apply to serve as a student leader during VBS week, July 6-10. Questions or need help registering for summer events? Reach out to Tim Price, Ryan Froidcoeur, or Courtney Froidcoeur.

*\*Note: We promote grades in August, so current 5th graders will join the Student Ministry and current 8th graders will transition to High School Ministry at the end of the summer.*

## CURRENT STUDENT SERIES

Over the last couple of weeks, we have shifted our normal schedule a bit and have opened the schedule to allow students to spend more time finding out WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT... Topics have included: "What does the Bible say about Following Jesus, Money, Laziness, and Pride." We want students to keep opening God's word in their lives!

### 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](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](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)

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## MAY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
May 2	TMW Ladies' Tea & Silent Auction (page 5)
May 3	Graduation Sunday (page 7)
May 3	Membership Class (page 5)
May 13	Student Ministry - End of Semester Party (page 7)
May 20	VBS Work Days Begin (page 6)
May 26	J.O.Y Seekers Lunch & Program (page 4)

### WELCOME BRITTANY SMITH TO OUR STAFF TEAM

After reviewing over sixty resumes, as well as conducting ten Zoom and seven in-person interviews, our Staff Parish Team is excited to announce that **Brittany Smith has been hired to fill our new Executive Director** position, effective April 13, 2026.



Brittany brings over ten years of multi-faceted human resources experience in organizational leadership, administration, and people management. She has extensive familiarity with aligning strategy, finances, and staffing to achieve company goals.

Brittany earned a Bachelor of English degree from SIUE and a Master of Communication and Leadership from Eastern Illinois University. With her education, experience, and especially her love for Jesus, we believe Brittany will be the servant leader we need to oversee the business operations of our ministry.

Brittany is married to Matthew and lives in Granite City along with two children, Francesca (11) and Leo (5). You are encouraged to stop by the office and welcome Brittany to the team!

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# REACH

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