TROY METHODIST CHURCH

REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

NOVEMBER 2026
VOLUME 38 · ISSUE 11

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from Pastor Andy	P. 2
Strategic Stats	P. 2
Serve	P. 3
Serve & Connect	P. 4-5
Troy Methodist Kids	P. 6
Troy Methodist Students	P. 7
November Schedule Highlights	Back Page





MADE FOR MORE

Last month we concluded our series, *Long Story Short*, where we journeyed through the six Acts of the Bible. We discovered that we have a part to play in this grand story of redemption. This November, we will dig deeper into our role. We are not merely spectators in God's grand story of the world. We were made for more!

Between now and Thanksgiving, we will discover that we were made for a purpose! You were made to be a priest. That's right! Every Christ follower is a minister called to use his or her gifts to build up the body of Christ. Where do you fit in the body of Christ? How will you use your priestly gifts to make disciples? You were never meant to watch from the seats. You were made for so much more!

November 1 – Made to Be a Priest – *1 Peter 2:5, 9-10; Ephesians 4:11-12*

November 8 – Made to Be Part of the Body – *1 Corinthians 12:7-26; Ephesians 4:13-16*

November 15 – Made to Take the Stage – *1 Peter 4:10-11 (both services in the Family Life Center)*

November 22 – Made to Love – *1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13*

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

FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TOP 10

We made it back safely and intact! It seemed like everyone had a hiccup along the way – a tumble, a broken toe, a cold, seasickness, a canceled flight, etc. But overall, we had an amazing trip following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey. I've compiled my top 10 list from the trip but encourage you to ask the other travelers about their experiences!

10. The Food – Stuffed grape leaves (dolma) for breakfast? Yes please! The Greek food was amazing, although my body needs to readjust after 2-3 buffets per day.
9. Our Guides – Although some were better than others, our trip would not have been nearly as meaningful without the care and knowledge of our guides. They were fantastic.
8. The Majesty of Creation – Between the beauty of the Greek Isles of Mykonos and Santorini and the sheer grandeur of the monasteries in Meteora, we were blessed with God's majesty!
7. Paul's Bema in Berea – In Veria (ancient Berea), stands a monument with three steps of the ancient synagogue where Paul preached the message of Christ to the Bereans. It was our first truly "Pauline" stop on our journey.
6. The Governor's seat in Corinth – In the Bible, the Corinthian church had many problems. Paul had some in Corinth too. It felt powerful to stand on Gallio's judgment seat, surrounded by ruins of various temples, looking down on where Paul would have stood to receive sentencing. As it turns out, Gallio refused to judge Paul, saying it was a Jewish religious matter.
5. Ephesus – Wow! This was the largest of all the ancient cities, and I could have spent days there. I could see in my mind's eye all the many people Paul encountered as he made and sold tents with Aquila and Priscilla. I felt fear thinking of the riot Paul narrowly escaped. This was a grand city, and I could imagine Paul feeling small and insignificant, but God did great things!
4. Walking the Via Egnatia – This 700-mile ancient Roman Road connected Albania on the Adriatic Sea with Byzantium (now Istanbul) and passed right through the marketplace of Philippi. While visiting Philippi's ruins, I envisioned Paul walking on those same stones.
3. Baptism outside of Philippi – Lydia was the first convert on European soil and was baptized just outside the city of Philippi. Sixteen in our group took the opportunity to remember their baptisms, and one of our travelers was baptized in the chilly waters of the Zygaktis River.
2. Preaching in John's Cave on Patmos – I had the unique privilege of sharing a sermonette in the cave of the Apostle John, where he received a "Revelation" from God while in exile for starting churches. It was an awe-inspiring moment for me.
1. Sitting on Mars Hill – There wasn't a single place where I felt more connected to the Apostle Paul's experience than sitting on the very stones where he shared the gospel contextually with the philosophers of Athens. The site itself was majestic – overlooking the ancient ruins of the Athenian marketplace and overshadowed by the Acropolis with the towering Parthenon.

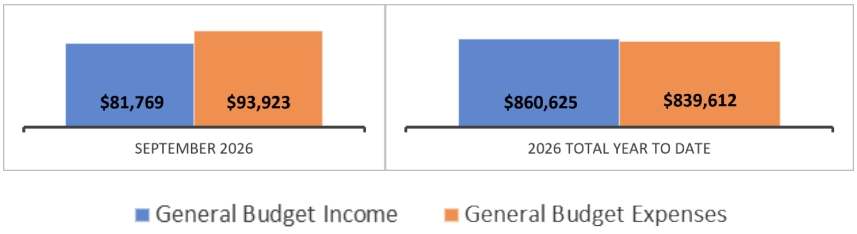
Something that transcended each entry on this list deserves special mention – the companions on this journey. One of the special joys of this trip was traveling with my wife and getting to know many of our fellow travelers on a deeper level! Maybe you will consider joining us on whatever travel opportunities come next.

Faithfully, Andy

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	September Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In person	113	125
9:00 a.m. - Online	193	187
10:30 a.m. - In person	167	175
10:30 a.m. - Online	135	140
Sunday Children	68	70
Wednesday Youth	70	54
Average Weekly In-Person	418	424
Average Weekly Online Worship	328	327

General Budget



SERVE

SHARE THANKSGIVING 2026

Share Thanksgiving is a great opportunity for each of us to help individuals and families in our community share in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. By donating a full meal or one or more meal components, you will assist those who are not able to purchase these holiday foods on their own.

FIRST STEP:
On Nov. 1, 8, and 15, you can sign up to bring an entire meal, or one or more meal components, by filling out a sign-up form, which will be distributed each week. On Sunday, November 22, all items need to be brought to the church so we can compile and deliver the meals that day.

WHAT DO I BRING?
The idea is that you bring items that you enjoy cooking for your own Thanksgiving meal. If you usually make pumpkin pie for dessert, we suggest a can of pumpkin pie mix (including spices), a pie crust mix, and Cool Whip or Dream Whip. Some of you have used your creativity to include a favorite casserole recipe with all the ingredients, as a side dish.



SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS
Vegetables/side dishes: potatoes (fresh bag of potatoes or box of mashed potatoes mix), gravy (glass jar or packet), canned vegetables, canned yams, your favorite recipe with ingredients (green bean casserole, candied yams, etc.)

Desserts: pie mix, crust mix, Cool Whip, cookies, cake mix, your favorite recipe with ingredients

OUT OF TOWN?
Will you be out of town the Sunday before Thanksgiving? You can still arrange to get your items to the church by dropping them off during office hours the week prior.

HOW MANY PER MEAL?
While it is difficult to predict the sizes of the families to whom items will be provided, we ask that you bring enough to feed a family of four. We can make adjustments as we compile the meals.

HOW CAN I HELP?
- **DELIVER MEALS!** Deliverers head off in their own vehicle with addresses in hand.
- **BRING FOOD!** Either meal components or an entire meal
- **PRAY** for the families receiving meals

QUESTIONS?
Got questions? Want to sign up to deliver or volunteer the weekend of Share Thanksgiving? Email our Associate Pastor, Bonnie, at bonnie@troymc.org.

SERVE & CONNECT

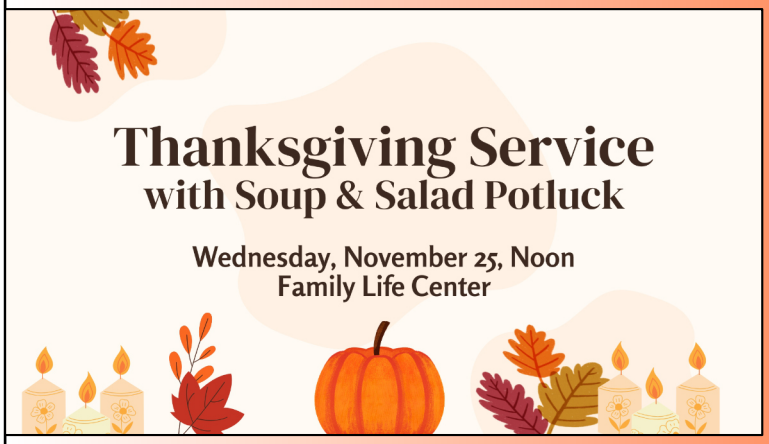
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Collection Sunday: November 15



Each year, we have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with children all over the world through the Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Boxes go out on Sunday, October 25, and soon the packing fun will begin! You are invited to grab a box (or a few boxes!) and pack it full of toys and other fun items! Each box will include a label and a handout that offers a list of suggested items you might include for your child.

Display tables will also include starter items for you to grab to get you started packing! Be sure to return your shoebox by Sunday, November 15, packed full of toys and other fun items! Remember that soap is no longer allowed in the shoeboxes (for a full list of restricted items, go to the Operation Christmas Child website). As you pack your box, take time to pray for the child who will receive it, that they might accept the greatest gift, the gift of Christ's love! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE, POTLUCK, & SPECIAL OFFERING
Wednesday, November 25, noon, Family Life Center



Mark your calendars for this year's Thanksgiving Service! On Wednesday, November 25, we will meet in the Family Life Center at noon for a time of worship, including a homily and special music. Following the service, we will have a potluck lunch of soups, salads, and desserts. Last Names A-L bring a SOUP, M-S bring a SALAD, and T-Z bring a DESSERT. Let's come together for a time of thanksgiving!

Additionally, there will be a special offering during this service that will go towards our Financial Assistance Fund. This fund helps our community in so many ways! Over the past year, we have helped families with assistance toward paying their rent, electric bills, water bills, car payments, groceries, gasoline, clothing, and so much more! This is all made possible by your generous support!

UPWARD CHEERLEADING & CO-ED BASKETBALL
Registration & Evaluation Day Serving Opportunities

Registration is open, and we're already up over 80 participants! We expect up to 300 athletes participating before all is said and done! Register today or share with a friend! Visit www.troymc.org/upward-sports.

We hope that all of Troy Methodist Church joins together to welcome and serve our community through this great ministry that connects with hundreds of people without a church home. Please consider helping during our Evaluation dates: November 2 or 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. or November 22 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Serving opportunities include greeters, check-in, uniform sizers, and several folks willing to test the players' skills (don't be intimidated - it's easy!). Sign up using our Upward website above and select "EVALUATION DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES." For any questions, please contact our Upward Coordinators, Tyson and Erica Graham, at upward@troymc.org.

CONNECT

J.O.Y. SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+) NOVEMBER PROGRAM & LUNCH
Tuesday, November 17, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Family Life Center



For our November J.O.Y Seekers, we will meet on November 17 (date change due to Thanksgiving). The theme is "Count Your Blessings," and our program will be a music presentation by Kellie Frohnert, Libby and Audie Gregg's daughter. Kellie is a graduate of Washington University, where she earned her master's degree in music. She currently cantors and sings at her church in Edwardsville and enjoys performing locally with the Goshen Theatre Project. In the past, she has worked for Stages of St. Louis, Light Opera Works of Chicago, Union Avenue Opera, Caroling St. Louis, and Lyric Light Opera Chicago. She is a stay-at-home mother of three and enjoys singing at special events in the Metro East. Kellie will be singing a variety of selections that bring to light our focus on Thanksgiving and counting our blessings.

Our menu for the day will include fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and salad. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert. Please be sure to sign up for our gathering between November 2-12. To RSVP, contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org or call the office at (618) 667-6241. Remember, the cost is $10.

TMW NOVEMBER MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Family Life Center

The Troy Methodist Women will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 12, in the Family Life Center from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mattilyn Carrillo with African Vision of Hope, located in Glen Carbon. We also look forward to enjoying refreshments and updating everyone on the success of our Fall Rummage and Bake Sale. We plan to have order forms for purchasing pecan pieces, pecan halves, and cashews at still $12 a bag (info in this Reach). We will also update you on the status of our cookbook. It is now in the process of being published, and plans are for them to arrive in early December. This special cookbook will cost $25 and will be a legacy for many of you. Think about how many you can order for gifts for family and friends! More information will follow in the December Reach!

The Troy Methodist Women want to thank our church again for the incredible turnout and help at the Fall Rummage and Bake Sale. Our mission of giving to the charities we support is most important to us. We made over $4,000 to continue our support. If you want more information about TMW, please contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618) 954-6263.



NEXT STEPS TO CONNECT
Sunday, November 15, 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, November 15, 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.

TROY METHODIST KIDS

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION: MORE THAN A MINISTRY

This past October, a few of us attended the KidzMatter Conference, where we were challenged to think more intentionally about how we reach the next generation with the life-changing truth of the Gospel. One question stood out: **Are we simply creating meaningful experiences for children, or are we intentionally helping them become lifelong followers of Jesus?**

Studies and ministry reports have highlighted a sobering reality: many young people disengage from church and faith after high school. While the exact percentages vary, the concern is real. Consider this: if up to eight out of every ten children in **our** ministry walked away from their faith, would we be satisfied with that outcome? Every child matters to God, and every child deserves the opportunity to know Jesus and grow in Him.

In Matthew 18:12-14, Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep, reminding us of the Father's care for every individual. Our ministry cannot be measured by attendance or successful events alone. We must also ask if children are learning who Jesus is, growing in their faith, and discovering what it means to follow Him.

As we look toward the coming year, this is shaping our approach to Children's Ministry. Events and activities remain valuable because they build relationships and create opportunities to share God's Word. **But our goal is not simply to bring children to church; it is to help them build a faith that lasts beyond childhood.**

And we cannot do that alone. In Deuteronomy 6:6-7, God's people are instructed to teach His commands to their children throughout the rhythms of everyday life. Discipleship happens not only on Sunday mornings but also at the dinner table, in the car, at bedtime, and in the everyday moments when parents model a life of faith.

Our focus will be on partnering with and equipping parents to disciple their children. Through practical resources, meaningful conversations, and consistent encouragement, we want to help families make faith a natural part of everyday life. Parents do not have to know all the answers; they simply need to be willing to walk alongside their children as they discover God's truth.

As we enter the holiday season, we have wonderful opportunities to keep Christ at the center of our lessons, events, and family communications. Every interaction can point children toward Jesus and encourage families to grow together in faith.

We are not just filling classrooms; we are investing in eternity. Our prayer is to see children become devoted followers of Jesus who, in time, make disciples of their own. The next generation is not merely the future of the Church. They are part of the Church today, and we have the privilege and responsibility of helping them know Jesus, follow Him, and share His love with the world.





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

WEBSITE
troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM
@troymethodistkids

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

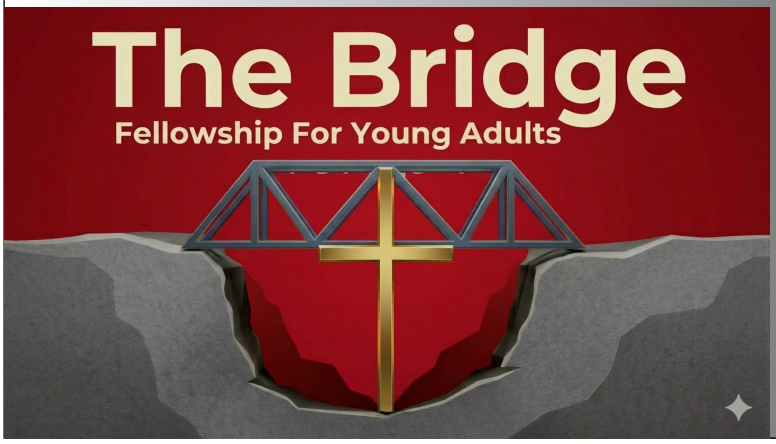
November 20-22, Camp Jericho, Goreville, IL

All 9th-12th graders are invited to register for the Fall Retreat, November 20 - 22. From Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, students can step away from the rhythms of everyday life and rediscover God's still, small voice through worship, Bible study, devotions, hiking, games, food, and fun in community. Get all the registration info at troymc.org/students.



NEW GROUP FOR POST-HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Starts November 4, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



On Wednesday, November 4, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., we're inviting young adults to join a new group, The Bridge, for Bible study, community, and connection. This group will be led by David VanMiddendorp, and anyone who has graduated high school (18-23ish crew) is welcome to join us!

For more information about The Bridge, email David at davidvm78@gmail.com.

THANKFUL FOR OUR LEADERS

Shout-out to this incredible adult team that meets with students every Wednesday night!

Thank you, Deb and Carl Inman, Janie and Jim Davidson, Erica Graham, Jaime Ingle, Loren Fear, Pat Barnes, David and Jenny VanMiddendorp, Rex Repp, Declan Rose, Del and Diana Henderson, Erin VanMiddendorp, Melinda Brault, Tim Price, Ryan and Courtney Froidcoeur.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

October 28 - Bonfire at church 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

November 4, 11, & 18 - Regular Student Ministry, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

November 25 - Thanksgiving Break - No Meeting

December 2 & 9 - Regular Student Ministry, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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

December 23 & 30 - Christmas Break - No Meeting

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
***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

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	EVENT
November 12	TMW November Meeting *(page 5)*
November 12	Surviving the Holidays *(page 8)*
November 15	Membership Class & Lunch *(page 5)*
November 15	TMC hosts "Letters From Those Who Served" readings *(see eReach for more details)*
November 17	J.O.Y. Seekers Lunch & Program *(page 5)*
November 20-22	Student Ministry - Fall Retreat *(page 7)*
November 25	Thanksgiving Service & Potluck *(page 4)*

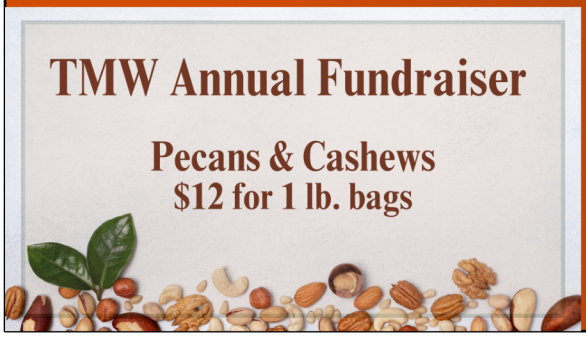
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
Thursday, November 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Upper Family Life Center

Surviving the Holidays is a 2-hour event, hosted by Troy Methodist Church, designed to support people facing upcoming holiday(s) after a loss. The program consists of a 35-minute video, small-group discussion, and a Holiday Survival Guide offering realistic coping strategies and Christ-centered comfort. The cost is $10. For more info, contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org or call the church office at (618) 667-6241.



TROY METHODIST WOMEN - ANNUAL NUT SALE

The TMW are now accepting orders for the Annual Nut Sale. All proceeds go to the many missions we support. The one-pound bags of mammoth pecans, pecan pieces, and toasted, salted cashews are $12 per bag. These nuts keep well in the freezer. Plan ahead and stock up for the coming year! Please contact Betsy Middleton at kgmblm@hotmail.com to place your order. We will be selling til they're all gone! And they go fast, so get your orders in now!



TROY METHODIST CHURCH REACH

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
Troy, IL
Permit #37

Return Service Requested