



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

OCTOBER 2026
VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 10

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LONG STORY *Short*

THE 6 ACTS OF THE BIBLE



LONG STORY SHORT

This October, we will conclude our six-week study of the Bible using the book Long Story Short! It's not too late to join in! We've only covered the first two acts of the drama of Scripture and there are four more to go! Our hope for this series is to provide a framework for understanding the overarching story of the Bible. Act 1 – Creation – we were created from community for community. Act 2 – The Fall – wow, did we mess that up, and there's nothing we can do to fix it! You won't want to miss the rest of the plot as we journey through the final four acts of this story of redemption. The best part is knowing where we are in the story today, what our part is to play, and the great things we have to look forward to in the future!

Invite a friend to join you on this journey with Jesus through the Bible.

October 4 – Long Story Short: Israel (Genesis 12:1-3)

October 11 – Long Story Short: Jesus (Luke 24:13-25)

October 18 – Long Story Short: The Church (Genesis 12:1-3,
Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

October 25 – Long Story Short: New Creation (Revelation 21:1-5)

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

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

By the time you receive this, I will be somewhere in Greece with 30+ other members of Troy Methodist Church, following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Here is some of our exciting itinerary on a day-by-day basis:

- **Sunday, September 27** – meet in Athens
- **Monday, September 28** – tour the historic monasteries in Meteora
- **Tuesday, September 29** – visit Veria (Berea) and Thessaloniki (Thessalonica)
- **Wednesday, September 30** – remember our baptisms in Philippi at Lydia's baptistry
- **Thursday, October 1** – learn about the historic Battle of Thermopylae
- **Friday, October 2** – begin a 3-day cruise on the island of Mykonos
- **Saturday, October 3** – tour the archeological site of Ephesus in Turkey and visit Patmos, the island where John was exiled and received a "revelation"
- **Sunday, October 4** – relax on the islands of Crete and Santorini
- **Monday, October 5** – visit Corinth and tour the Acropolis in Athens
- **Tuesday, October 6** – head home!

I have been looking forward to this trip for many months now. You see, there is something powerful about encountering Scripture in the places where its stories actually happened. We can read about Paul preaching in Philippi, Lydia being baptized, the church in Corinth, or John receiving the Revelation on Patmos, from the comfort of our homes – but standing in those places can give those words a new depth and texture. Geography, history, culture, and even the physical landscape can help us imagine the people and events we have read about for years. The Bible becomes not just something we read about but something we can begin to see and experience.

That is one of the reasons travel can be such a meaningful part of faith formation. We aren't traveling simply to see interesting places or check destinations off a list. We are traveling as disciples – curious, prayerful, and attentive to what God might teach us. My hope is that this journey will help all 30+ of us encounter Scripture in a fresh way and return home with stories, memories, and a deeper faith that continues to be extended into the lives of the people around us.

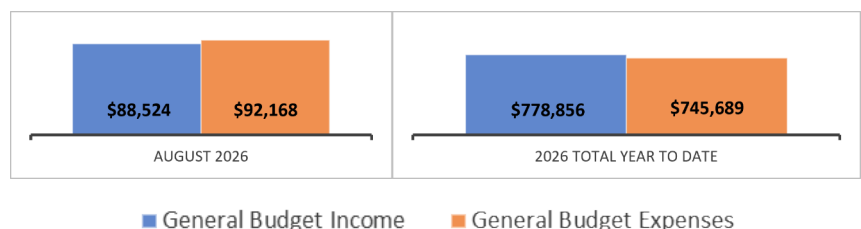
Stay tuned in the coming months and years for other travel opportunities that can grow us as disciples as we encounter Jesus through experiencing the people and places of history that have made us who we are today. We may have future opportunities to travel to the Holy Land, and one I'm especially excited about, a John Wesley tour in England.

Faithfully, *Andy*

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	September Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In person	128	126
9:00 a.m. - Online	174	186
10:30 a.m. - In person	179	176
10:30 a.m. - Online	123	141
Sunday Children	66	70
Wednesday Youth	66	53
Average Weekly In-Person	413	416
Average Weekly Online Worship	297	327

General Budget



SERVE & CONNECT



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Collection Sunday: November 15

It's one of our favorite times of the year! The holidays are just around the corner, and soon it will be time to pack shoeboxes full of special gifts that will bring joy to children around the world. Each one is prayerfully and uniquely packed full of toys and other fun items by YOU so that a child can delight in the season of Christmas and feel the love of Christ.

In the upcoming weeks, you will find shoeboxes when you arrive at the Family Life Center and the Sanctuary for worship. Be sure to grab a shoebox, and a label will be included inside! We will have items for you to grab, such as soccer balls and pumps, to start your packing fun! Collection Sunday is November 15 this year. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org. Happy packing!

NEXT STEPS TO CONNECT

Sunday, October 18, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.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, October 18, 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 Church
**connect
lunch**

sunday, october 18 @ 11:45 a.m.

UPWARD REGISTRATION & EVALUATION SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

We're gearing up for Upward Cheerleading and Co-Ed Basketball again this season! You can find all our 2026-27 information and a link to register on our website: troymc.org/upward-sports. Don't forget to share the link with a friend!

Our Upward ministry is also a tremendous opportunity to welcome and serve our community in a tangible way. 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.



SERVE & CONNECT

COMMUNITY GARDEN A SUCCESS!

The Community Garden was a big success this year. All the produce was donated to Ministries Unlimited in Troy and the Glen Ed Pantry. Here are the final numbers. Many thanks to all the volunteers that donated their time and energy to make this year's garden a success!

Cucumbers - 300 lbs.

Green Peppers - 50 lbs.

Potatoes - 50 lbs.

Onions - 30 lbs.

Tomatoes - 85 lbs.

Plus many bags of green beans and cherry tomatoes

THE MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

God certainly moved in mysterious ways. Consider the life of William Cowper who wrote the hymn, "GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY." His mother died when he was six. He was teased and ridiculed at school. His father prevented him from marrying the girl he loved. He was forced to study law but he didn't like it. When he learned he would have his bar exam before the House of Lords in London, he attempted suicide and was committed to an asylum. After a year, he was released into the care of a Christian couple and discovered his best therapy was writing poetry. He wrote many hymns, and his secular poetry is included in most collections of great English literature. He became one of England's finest poets.

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

William Cowper (1731-1800)

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs and works His sov'reign will.
His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour:
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.
Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain:
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

Perhaps you are walking through a season today that you cannot understand. You may look at your circumstances and wonder where God is; yet the Gospel assures us that God's grace is already at work - even in the places where His hand is difficult to see. His grace goes before us, meets us in our weakness, and calls us to respond in faith. We may not choose our circumstances, but by God's grace we can choose to trust Him. In the hands of God, suffering can become a school of faith: a place where perseverance is formed, character is deepened, and Christlikeness grows.

So, do not surrender to despair. Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep walking in obedience. And as we continue walking with Him, we can rest in this hope: **God is not finished with us yet. His grace is still at work, and He can bring beauty, holiness, and blessing from even the most mysterious chapters of our lives.**

In God's Grasp, by God's Grace, and for God's Glory,
Pastor Dan, Care Minister



J.O.Y. SEEKERS "JUST OLDER YOUTH" (55+) OCTOBER PROGRAM & LUNCH Tuesday, October 27, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., Family Life Center

For our October 27 J.O.Y. Seekers gathering, we're hosting a **Soup Cookoff**. Members, please bring soup and desserts, and the church will supply salad, crackers, drinks, and bread sticks.

Our program will be Amanda Couch, Certified Personal Trainer for over 20 years. Amanda completed her B.S. and M. Ed. in exercise Science at SIUE while also completing the Army ROTC program. Amanda currently works as a Personal Trainer and Spin Instructor at the Edwardsville YMCA and is in the process of expanding training services to serve in-home and virtually. She lives in Edwardsville with her husband, Tim, and three kiddos. She will be sharing exercises for seniors following our meal (*so don't eat too much soup*).



To register to attend and let us know what you're bringing, call the office at (618) 667-6241 or contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org. When you call, please let us know what soup and/or dessert you plan to bring (*and include your recipe when you bring your soup that day*).

TMW ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Friday, October 9, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, October 10, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m., Family Life Center

Troy Methodist Women are looking forward to hosting our Annual Rummage and Bake Sale on Friday, October 9 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 10 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. We will be collecting items on Thursday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and again on Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Please look over our flyer to see what we take and do not take for the sale. Except for the bake sale, jewelry tables, and specialty items, rummage items are offered by "donation only."

Troy Methodist Women's RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Troy Methodist Church - Family Life Center
Friday, October 9: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 10: 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Household items
Arts & Crafts
Decor
Clothing
Toys
& more



Donation Collection
Thursday, October 8: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 9: 8:00 - noon

All proceeds go to missions and charities we support. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this community outreach event!

For information, contact Libby Gregg at (618) 954-6263 or at lgregg129@gmail.com. (There will be no regular meeting of TMW in October due to sale being moved to second weekend in October).

TROY METHODIST KIDS

FALL FEST 2026

Sunday, October 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Family Life Center

FALL FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE • Rain or Shine

Grab your family, invite a friend, and come celebrate fall with us at **Fall Fest 2026!** This FREE community event is packed with games, treats, prizes, food, and plenty of opportunities to have fun together.

What's happening?

Fall Games: Test your skills with fun fall-themed games for kids and families.

Trunk-or-Treat: Come ready for candy, creative trunks and tables, and a few surprises along the way!



Cake Walk: Take a spin and see if you can walk away with a prize, including soda and Little Debbie snacks.

Food & Fellowship: Enjoy some food, spend time with friends, and make new ones!

Want to help make Fall Fest happen?

There are several ways you can jump in:

Volunteer: We need lots of help to run games, serve food, welcome families, or simply help wherever needed. Teens are especially encouraged to volunteer and serve alongside others!

Donate: We're collecting candy, cans of soda, 20 oz. bottles, 1- or 2-liter sodas, and Little Debbie-style boxed snacks.

Host a Trunk or Table: Decorate your tent or table, bring treats, and welcome the kids! Want to add a quick game? Even better! It's completely optional, and we're happy to help you come up with an easy idea.

Ready to help? Sign up at troymc.org/fall-fest-volunteers or contact jenn@troymc.org.

Mark your calendar and bring your people! Fall Fest is a great way to enjoy the season, connect with our community, and make some fun memories together.

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

FALL RALLY

Saturday, October 24, 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Students in 6th-12th grade, don't miss the Fall Rally held here at Troy Methodist Church on Saturday, October 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. We'll welcome other groups from around the region to join us for music, worship, preaching, and fun.

Harvest will lead worship, and Matt Vollmar from St. Matthew Church will be one of the speakers. We can't wait to be together! Register at troymc.org/students.

SMALL GROUPS FORMING

Student Ministry Small Groups will be joining with the church to go through the Long Story Short message series and discussion. We're praying with our students as we continue in the mission to experience Christ through His word, through study, through worship, and through community in the church!

It's the goal of the entire church to help raise up the next generation as disciples, and we're so grateful for the ways this is happening right before our eyes.

Student Ministry Bonfire and Cookout Party

Wednesday, October 28
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Behind the Church Building

HELP WITH KIDS MINISTRY FALL FEST October 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Family Life Center

All students are invited to help with the Family Fall Fest on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Please email Jenn Diliberto at jenn@troymc.org if you would like to help.

We ask you to arrive early to help set up and stay about thirty minutes extra to tear down. During the event, we will help staff game booths, welcome people, and have some time to enjoy the activities, too!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

October 8 - Student Ministry from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (and we will be investing the last 20 minutes of our time together that evening helping Troy Methodist Women's Ministry in setting up the rummage sale!)

October 14 - Regular Student Ministry from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

October 21 - Regular Student Ministry from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

October 28 - Fall Cookout and Bonfire Party (just behind our church building), 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

If you feel led to help in Student Ministry, talk with Ryan Froidcoeur at ryan@troymc.org or Courtney Froidcoeur at courtney@troymc.org. You can help serve through hospitality, leading, or subbing when team members are traveling.



Praise the Lord for the confirmation class that began a couple of weeks ago! Praying for this great group!

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

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

***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 1step@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!
@troymethodistchurch



OCTOBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	EVENT
October 9 & 10	TMW Annual Rummage & Bake Sale (page 4)
October 18	Connect Lunch (page 3)
October 24	Student Ministry - Fall Rally (page 7)
October 25	Kids Ministry - Fall Fest (page 6)
October 27	J.O.Y. Seekers Lunch & Program (page 4)
October 28	Student Ministry - Fall Bonfire & Cookout Party (page 7)

SHOP & SUPPORT OUR PRESCHOOL

Our Charleston Wrap Fundraiser is here!

*Gifts, home essentials, wrapping paper, candy,
kitchenware, stocking stuffers, home decor, etc.*

Shop Charleston Wrap and support 1st Step Learning Center at the same time! Scan the QR code below or visit <https://registercw.com/gateway?organizationMidasId=23436>. A portion of every purchase helps support our preschool and provides resources and opportunities for our students.



It's an easy way to get a little shopping done while making a BIG difference for our 1st Step families!

Shop. Share. Support!
Thank you for supporting 1st Step Learning Center!

Follow us on Facebook!

Scan to order:



REACH

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troymc.org

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