



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS

SEPTEMBER 2026
VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 9

IN THIS ISSUE

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

ENCOUNTERING *Community*



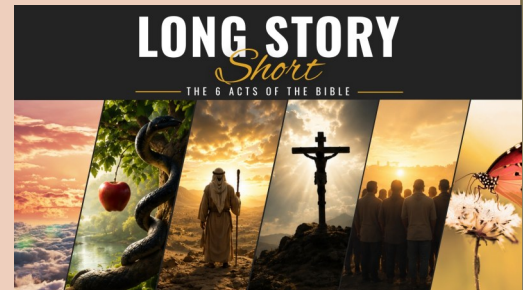
learn our model for community at Troy Methodist Church and remember “the why.”

ENCOUNTERING COMMUNITY

We begin this September with a 2-week mini-series, *Encountering Community*, meant to remind us of the powerful way God calls us to encounter Jesus through a transformative relationship with a church family. In this series, we will

LONG STORY SHORT

Then, you won't want to miss a great opportunity to get connected to community for a six-week study of the Bible based on the book *Long Story Short*. The Bible is ancient, enormous, and sometimes challenging to understand. This series will provide a framework for understanding the overarching story of the Scriptures. Everyone is encouraged to join a journey group for this six-week study where we will discover the Bible's simple plotline to better understand how the little stories of Scripture fit together into a seamless whole and invite us into the drama to be part of the performance! Learn more about how to get connected to a journey group on page 4.



September 6 – *Encountering Community: Up, In, and Out* – Acts 2:42-47

September 13 – *Encountering Community: The Why* – John 17:20-23

September 20 – *Long Story Short: Creation* – Genesis 1-2

September 27 – *Long Story Short: The Fall* – Genesis 3-11



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

MEMBERSHIP CLASS & LUNCH

Sunday, September 20, 11:45 a.m., Upper Family Life Center

Ever wondered about what it means to be a member of Troy Methodist Church? If so, this class is for you! Whether you're a long-time attendee or newer to our church family, this lunch is an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about membership. Our next Membership Class is Sunday, September 20, at 11:45 a.m. in the Upper Family Life Center, and we would love for you to attend! Lunch and childcare are provided upon request. Simply RSVP via email to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

LOOKING FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS!

Every member is vital to our church! Many of our members sacrificially volunteer their time, talent, and energy for the important work of leading and supporting our church's ministry. Our lay leadership team will meet on Tuesday, October 13 to pray for, discuss, and deploy potential leaders onto the following roles:

- **Church Council** – the highest decision-making body of the church – gifts of leadership, administration, and/or discernment
- **Staff Parish** – the “Human Resources” group of the church – gifts of administration and encouragement as well as experience in HR is helpful
- **Trustees** – tasked with overseeing the management of the church building and property – gifts of administration, helps, and/or craftsmanship
- **Finance** – overseeing the church's finances – gifts of administration and faith, as well as experience in bookkeeping, accounting, or other financial fields
- **Mission** – administering our mission budget; maintaining mission partnerships – gifts of administration, mercy, and/or discernment, as well as a passion for missions
- **Lay Leadership** – helps assess and deploy church members to serve on the above teams – gifts of discernment and wisdom, as well as a knowledge of many members helps
- **1st Step Board** – supports the director, sets policies, and evaluates the preschool ministry. Administrative gifts are helpful along with a love for the pre-school

Gifts and experience are beneficial but of greater importance is a heart for God and strong character. Please consider some of these biblical qualifications for servant leadership to help you make recommendations for our church: Not a brand new believer (1 Timothy 3:6); Displays growing spiritual maturity (Titus 1:8); Humble, self-controlled, and hospitable (1 Timothy 3:2); Generous with finances (1 Timothy 3:3); Stable and respectable home life (1 Timothy 3:4-5); Exhibits a tamed tongue (James 1:26; Titus 3:2)

Part of your responsibility as a member is to help with the important task of identifying potential servant leaders for these teams. If you know of a member (including yourself) whose gifts and experiences make her or him a good fit for one of these roles, **please submit names along with your rationale to me before the end of September.** Browse our leadership roll on the following page as you consider your recommendations!

I also wanted to share a recent decision of our church council to realign the ministry representation on our council, beginning in 2027, to what is shown on the following page. These former council positions will now be represented under a larger ministry umbrella in the following ways:

- Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Bookkeeper (Finance Chair and Executive Director)
- 1st Step Chairperson and Scouting Coordinator (Engage Team Rep)
- Troy Methodist Men (Encounter Team Rep)
- Troy Methodist Women and Missions Team (Extend Team Rep)
- Youth Representative (Next Generation Team Rep, accompanied by an active student).

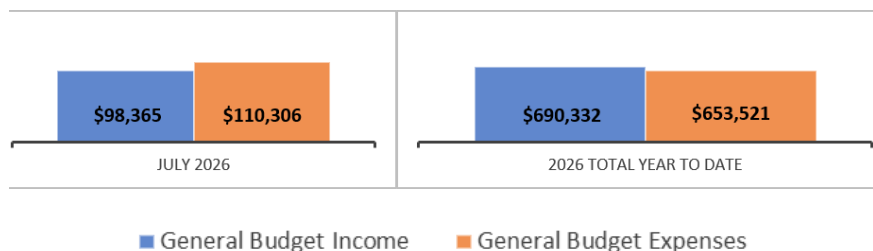
We believe this new representative framework better aligns with our ministry structure and will mean all our ministry areas have a voice at the table. Let's thank our church council for their great work!

Faithfully, *Andy*

STRATEGIC STATS

Worship Services	July Average	Year to Date Averages
9:00 a.m. - In Person	117	126
9:00 a.m. - Online	183	188
10:30 a.m. - In Person	157	176
10:30 a.m. - Online	131	144
Sunday Children	70	71
Wednesday Youth	19	51
Average Weekly In Person Worship	362	426
Average Weekly Online Worship	314	332

General Budget



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

TROY METHODIST CHURCH 2027 Administrative Committees

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Chairperson	Betsy Forman
Vice Chairperson	
Recording Secretary	
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tom Finley
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Deb Ellis
Lay Member of Annual Conference	
Adaptive Leadership Team Rep - Lay Leader	
Engage Team Rep	
Encounter Team Rep	
Equip Team Rep	
Extend Team Rep	
Next Generation Team Rep	
Staff Parish Relations Chairperson	
Finance Chairperson	Jason Wickersham
Trustees Chairperson	Dale Storey

Staff Members (ex-officio, without vote):

Senior Pastor	**Andy Adams
Associate Pastor	**Bonnie Abel
Executive Director	**Brittany Smith

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Alison Shubert	Sheila Hall	
Mickey Jackson		

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Heather Wickersham	Anna Yarger	
Gary Reed	Susan Kleindorfer	
Rita Brandt	Rich Wright	

Chairperson: **Andy Adams

MISSIONS TEAM

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Carl Reynolds	David VanMiddendorp	
Donna Reynolds	Joanne Miller	
Sue Blumberg	Lisa Bracamontes	

Associate Pastor: **Bonnie Abel

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Rick Lechner	Kelly Kennett	
Tara Whitt	Doug VanWiggerin	
	Tony Karas	
	Pam Kaltmayer	

Senior Pastor: **Andy Adams

Executive Director: **Brittany Smith

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Jim Ford	Jim Hall	
Zach Hewitt	Kraig Harris	
*Dale Storey		

Senior Pastor: **Andy Adams

Executive Director: **Brittany Smith

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairperson	Jason Wickersham
Senior Pastor	** Andy Adams
Church Council Chairperson	Betsy Forman
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tom Finley
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Deb Ellis
Lay Member of Annual Conference	
Adaptive Leadership Team Rep - Lay Leader	
Treasurer	Becky Rushing
Financial Secretary	Julie Bernreuter
Bookkeeper	Greg Symons
Trustees Chairperson	Dale Storey
Executive Director	**Brittany Smith

COMMITTEE ON FIANANCE MEMBERS AT LARGE

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
*Jason Wickersham	Bob Freshour	
Connie Fair	Art Newton	

1st STEP LEARNING CENTER PRESCHOOL BOARD

<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
*Bridget Taylor	Jeanette Roundcount	
Barb Burk	Brittany Reynolds	

[*chairperson **non-voting member]

GRIEFSHARE - FALL SESSION!

The Fall session of GriefShare began on August 20. We meet for 13 weeks, every Thursday evening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Family Life Center. Each session is a stand-alone session, so you're able to join anytime during the 13 weeks.

If you want to join us, please sign up, at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups>. Click on "register for this group," type in your email address, and you will receive an invitation to officially join our group.

If you have questions, contact Care Pastor, Dan Perry, at (618) 830-5589 or dan@troymc.org.

JOURNEY GROUPS

LONG STORY SHORT JOURNEY GROUP

In partnership with the sermon series, journey groups will be studying the Long Story Short books together this month! **This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to join a journey group!** Whether you are coming back to group life or joining for the first time, this six-week series gives you a chance to see what journey group life is all about! We are excited to have groups with childcare provided this fall and will make that available for additional groups when possible. Reach out to Pastor Bonnie if you have questions, and take the next step to join a group now! Books will be available for purchase on Sunday mornings in September!

SUNDAY

10:15 - 11:30 a.m. – Rehearsal Room
Start Date: Sept. 20
Leader: Jeff Johnson
Email: jeffjane627@gmail.com
All Are Welcome

10:15 - 11:30 a.m. – Room 241
Start Date: Sept. 20
Leader: Tom Finley
Email: tomlfinley@aol.com
All Are Welcome

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. – Upper Family Life Center
Start Date: Sept. 13
Leader: Marissa Rushik
Email: marissa@troymc.org
Young Adults – Childcare Provided!

MONDAY

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Sanctuary
Start Date: Sept. 14
Leader: Debbie Rakers
Email: debbieakers@gmail.com
Women's Group

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. – Off-site in Highland
Start Date: Sept. 28
Leader: Ellie Mitchell
Email: elliemitchell1981@gmail.com
Women's Group

6:15 - 8:00 p.m. – Rehearsal Room
Start Date: Sept. 14
Leader: Beth Barbour
Email: bbarbour67@gmail.com
Women's Group

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – Off-site in Troy
Start Date: Sept. 21
Leaders: Barb Buck & Julie Ford
Email: bbuck8181@gmail.com
All Are Welcome

WEDNESDAY

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – Off-site in Highland
Start Date: Sept. 23
Leader: Vic Mitchell
Email: vic_56@msn.com
Men's Group

6:30 - 7:45 p.m. – Children's Ministry Area
Start Date: Sept. 16
Leader: Beth Repp
Email: elizabeth.repp@yahoo.com
All Are Welcome – Childcare Provided!

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. – Off-site in Highland
Start Date: Sept. 23
Leaders: Dan Perry & Scott Buchwalter
Email: dan@troymc.org
All Are Welcome

THURSDAY

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. – Upper Family Life Center
Start Date: Sept. 10
Leader: Bonnie Abel
Email: bonnie@troymc.org
Women's Group

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. – Off-site in Swansea
Start Date: Sept. 24
Leaders: John & Lisa Bracamontes
Email: kingmontez@yahoo.com
All Are Welcome

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. – Room 241
Start Date: Sept. 24
Leaders: Tom Finley & David VanMiddendorp
Email: tomlfinley@aol.com
Men's Group

SATURDAY

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. – Rooms 161/163
Start Date: Sept. 19
Leaders: Carl Inman, Jordan Buck, Rich Lechner
Email: cri2000@gmail.com
Men's Group

SERVE & CONNECT

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT & MATCHING OPPORTUNITY

This month we are highlighting Hope Hangout, a ministry in Granite City that is a collaboration of multiple churches coming together to provide a safe and wholesome youth hangout every Friday night from 6:30-8:00 PM for students between the ages of 6th – 12th grade. Every Friday, the students come and play games, drink lots of soda, and spend time in Bible study together. In support of this ministry, the mission team would like to purchase Bibles so that every student who attends Hope Hangout can walk away with their own Bible to take home, and we want YOU to be a part of the excitement!

If you would like to join in, simply write a check to the church with the MEMO: "Hope Hangout Bibles," or give a monetary donation with the same notation on your offering envelope. For every \$12 donated, one Bible is purchased, and for every Bible purchased, the mission team will match up to 100 Bibles! That's right, we could give 200 Bibles this month to students in our region who are seeking the Lord in community - some for the first time!

For more information about the amazing work of Jesus Saves Ministries and Hope Hangout, check out their website at: <https://jesussavesministries.net>. For more information or questions about ways to serve and be on mission, reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

A huge thank you to everyone who served and supported the work of the Summer Lunch Program this year! This program would not be possible without all of the volunteers, prayers, and financial support to our Financial Assistance Fund provided by YOU, the church! This summer we served 6,931 lunches at four locations (St. Jacob, Marine, Tri-Township Library, Troy Meadows Park). How awesome!! If you would like to learn more about serving opportunities or would like to give a financial donation to the Financial Assistance Fund, contact Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT LEADER WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 26, 8:00 a.m. - noon, Family Life Center

Are you a project leader or interested in helping or packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child? Register now for the Project Leader Workshop 2026. Project leaders and others interested in helping will get equipped with information through fellowship, presentations, and videos. Come join us and share your experiences and ideas!



And don't forget, free GO (GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY) boxes will be provided to each community/church group represented! Other free items are available as well! Please register here: <https://forms.gle/e6cHCrw82Pq95dh8A>

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

Tuesday, September 22, 11:45 a.m., Upper Family Life Center

The theme for our J.O.Y. Seekers gathering on September 22 is **NAME THAT TUNE**. Once again, we're blessed to have Clarence DeVore as our music guest. Clarence will play selections of his choice and then move into the fun part of our program we're calling **NAME THAT TUNE**. We had a request for our September gathering to be a potluck, so to ensure we have enough food covered, please call the office between September 7-18 to let us know 1) that you plan to attend and 2) what you plan to bring. Desserts are always appreciated.

Please call the office between September 7-18 to register to attend and to share what you plan to bring. Call (618) 667-6241 or contact Pastor Dan at dan@troymc.org.



TROY METHODIST KIDS

PACK YOUR BACKPACK BUT DON'T FORGET THIS...

It's back-to-school time, which means backpacks are packed, pencils are sharpened, new shoes are squeaky, and somewhere in your house there is a water bottle that absolutely does not belong to anyone anymore.

We spend a lot of time making sure our kids have what they need for a successful school year. Folders? Check. Lunch? Check. Supplies? Check. Emergency snacks? Obviously.

But as parents, there are some things we can't put in a backpack.
We can't pack courage.
We can't pack confidence.
We can't pack the ability to make good choices when no one is watching.
And we definitely can't pack a guarantee that every day will be easy.

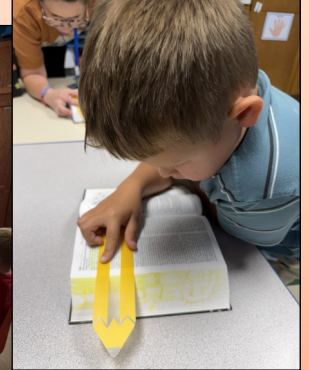
That's where Joshua 1:9 comes in. God tells Joshua, **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord, your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."**

Notice that God doesn't promise Joshua that everything will be easy. He promises something better: **He will be there.**

That's what I want our kids to know this school year. God is with you when you're excited about your new class and when you're nervous about walking through the doors. He's with you when you're making new friends, when you're sitting alone at lunch, when you get the answer right, and when you absolutely do not understand the math.

And parents, this promise is for us, too. We can't walk every hallway, solve every problem, or protect our kids from every hard thing. Eventually, we have to hand them their backpack, take the first-day picture, and watch them walk through the door.

But they never walk alone. So this year, pack the pencils, pack the snacks, pack the extra pair of socks because someone will absolutely need them. And then remind your kids of what they carry with them every single day: **God is with you wherever you go.** That's something no backpack is big enough to hold.



BACK TO SCHOOL AT 1ST STEP LEARNING CENTER!

The halls of 1st Step Learning Center are buzzing with excitement as we welcome our little learners back for another year! We are so blessed to provide a safe, nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We invite our Troy Methodist Church family to partner with us in supporting this special ministry.



Our teachers have put together a wishlist of classroom supplies, learning activities, and other items that will help make this year extra special. Want to help? Scan the QR code below to shop our wishlist! Every item purchased is a small way to make a BIG difference in the lives of our youngest learners. Thank you for supporting 1st Step!

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

troymc.org/kids

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

TROY METHODIST STUDENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASS INVITATION!

Class starts Sunday, September 13, 9:00 a.m., Rehearsal Room

You! Yes, you! Are you a 7th grade student (or in 8th-12th grade and have never attended confirmation)? Well then, this is your invitation! The 2026-2027 Confirmation Class starts up on Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m., in the Rehearsal Room, and there is a seat with your name on it!

What is confirmation? Well, I'm glad you asked! It is an opportunity to learn about the Christian faith, ask questions, and grow in your relationship with Jesus. It's an opportunity to 'confirm' your faith for yourself. We will learn together, we will serve together, we will pray together, we will do life together. This is the moment to take your next step on your journey with Jesus. I hope you join in! Got questions?

Reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org!

FALL RALLY

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

Registration is open for the Fall Rally, which takes place on October 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. This one-day event is for students in 6th - 12th grades, and in addition to our Troy Methodist Church students, we will also welcome other student ministries from around the region.



You can register using this link
https://app.tickettailor.com/event/ev_8069213
and the discount code **TroyStudents26**.

Student
Ministry



FALL 2026

October 24 - Fall Rally
November 20-22 - High School Fall Retreat

SPRING 2027

February 26-28 - Fire-Up Conference

SUMMER 2027

June 20-26 - Beulah Youth Institute
June 28-July 1 - Beulah Bible Camp
July 8-10 - Middle School Mission Trip
July 12-16 - VBS
July 18-24 - High School Mission Trip - Red Bird

**Students and Families: Stay in the loop by texting
TROYSTUDENTS to 94000.**

NO PHONES DURING STUDENT MINISTRY

Our students have done a great job of keeping their phones put away during meals and ministry on Wednesday evenings. Thank you!

And thank you for continuing to remind your student to keep phones in their cars, bags, coat pockets, or out of sight for the two hours we're together on Wednesday evenings. We want to help each other be fully engaged and connected as we talk, share, learn, and grow in faith.

CELEBRATING THE SUMMER MINISTRY!

Praise the Lord for the incredible summer of ministry, serving, friendships, and growth in Christ! Take a look at the Troy Methodist Students Facebook Page to see some of the wrap-up videos and photos.



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
1ststep@troymc.org

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

Connect with us!

@troymethodistchurch



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
September 10	TMW September Meeting & Program (page 8)
September 13	Confirmation Class Begins (page 7)
September 13	All-Church Potluck (page 8)
September 20	Membership Class & Lunch (page 1)
September 22	J.O.Y. Seekers September Lunch & Program (page 5)
September 26	Operation Christmas Child Project Leader Workshop (page 5)

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

Sunday, September 13, 11:30 a.m., Family Life Center

As we move into the fall months, we thought it was the perfect time to bring everyone together for another all-church potluck! So pull out the recipe cards and find a favorite dish to share. This is always a great time of food and fellowship together! We will meet in the Family Life Center right after the 10:30 a.m. service. The church will provide all paperware & utensils, drinks and rolls; you provide a dish:

Families/Individuals:

Last name A - F – bring a salad (lettuce/jello/coleslaw/etc.)

Last name G - K – bring dessert (pie/cake/cookies/etc.)

Last name L - R – bring a main course (meats/casserole)

Last name S - Z – bring a hot side (beans/veggies/potatoes/etc.)

Please bring food that will serve 10 - 12 people. There is no need to register, just bring a dish - it's a potluck so anything goes! If you have questions or you'd like to help set up/clean, please reach out to Pastor Bonnie at bonnie@troymc.org.

TMW SEPTEMBER MEETING & PROGRAM

Thursday, September 10, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Family Life Center

The Troy Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, September 10 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Dawn Mushill, Director of the Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob, and Marine Chamber of Commerce.

We will also be collecting essential items for the Oasis Center in Alton and finalizing plans for our upcoming Rummage and Bake Sale on October 9 and 10. Please come join us for some refreshments as well!

For more info, contact Libby Gregg at lgregg129@gmail.com or (618)954-6263.



REACH

Troy Methodist Church
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Troy, IL 62294
troymc.org

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