



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

DECEMBER 2021
VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 12

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The Nativity

Encounter the Real-Life People of the Christmas Story

Chances are you have a Nativity set — maybe two or three or more! Joseph and Mary are kneeling by the manger surrounded by animals. Shepherds stand by and look on with awestruck eyes. The magi are approaching bearing expensive gifts from afar. And of course, there is the Christ child himself. We are all too familiar with the Nativity, and the characters often take on larger-than-life personas in our minds! But these were each people with hopes and dreams and joys and struggles like you and me. Join us on this journey toward Christmas with the real-life stories of the real-life people of the Nativity.

November 28 — Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

December 5 — Mary (Luke 1:26-55)

December 12 — The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)

December 19 — The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12)

December 24 — Jesus (John 1:14)

December 26 — Simeon & Anna (Luke 2:21-38)

Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship!

Thursday, December 23

6:30 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center (children's ministry & nursery available)

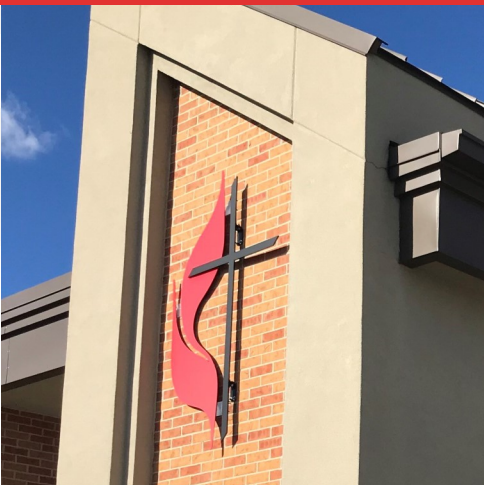
Friday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

2 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

4 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center & Online (children's ministry & nursery available)

6 p.m. Service in the Family Life Center

11 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary & Online



Worship Schedule

8 a.m. Sanctuary

9 a.m. Family Life Center & Online

10:15 a.m. Sanctuary & Online

10:45 a.m. Family Life Center

Troy UMC is complying with the Governor's indoor mask mandate.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

You're Invited to Become a Disciple-Maker

One of many November highlights was our Discipleship Luncheon when I shared a vision for disciple-making with the over 75 people interested in taking a next step toward fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20). Here is the nutshell version for all of you who couldn't make it!

Definition of a Disciple: There are three integral parts of discipleship as articulated in Jesus' call of Peter and Andrew in Matthew 4:19: "*Come, follow me,*" Jesus said, "*and I will make you fishers of people.*"

Come, follow me – A disciple is someone who makes a conscious choice to follow Jesus.

I will make you – A disciple is one who is being remade into the image of Jesus, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to embody Christlike behavior and character.

Fishers of people – A disciple participates in Jesus' mission to make other disciples who make disciples.

Reflections on Troy UMC: During my monastic retreat in September, I spent much time praying and reflecting on this question: "Does our church make disciples who make disciples?"

Come, follow me – I believe most of our church family have responded to Jesus' invitation and surrendered their lives to him and seek to follow him.

I will make you – I observe much of our church family engaging in community (journey groups and bands) with a desire to be transformed to become more like Jesus. The fruit is exhibited through the 8 core practices of a disciple: 1) Community, 2) Prayer, 3) Scripture, 4) Service, 5) Witness, 6) Stewardship, 7) Worship, and 8) Sabbath.

Fishers of people – A vast number of our church family indirectly participates in disciple making through service and giving, but only a small few directly participate in disciple making. I don't see this as a lack of faithfulness by our members as much as an indictment on my leadership and strategy for equipping our church family to become disciple makers. God has been working on my heart!

The Vision: To become a church that intentionally makes disciples who make disciples.

The Strategy: Here's what is necessary to make this vision a reality:

People who are bought in – I'm hoping that's YOU! See the invitation below.

Context for disciple making – John Wesley discovered that the best context for life-transformative discipleship occurs within the context of a band of 3-4 same-gendered people who meet weekly for the purpose of intentionally growing as a disciple through confession, prayer, and encouragement. Bands will be our context for disciple-making.

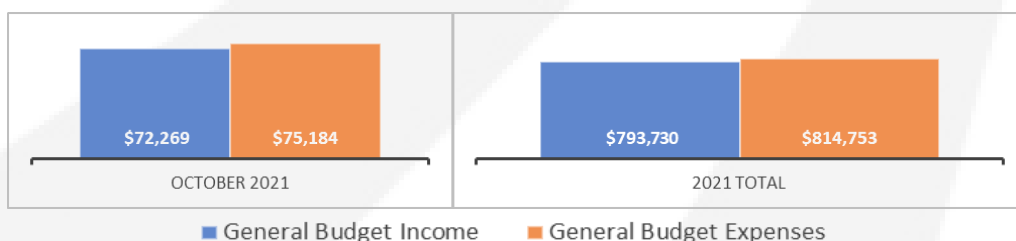
A reproducible process – We need a tool for disciple making! After some research, we have decided to utilize a curriculum called *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden. It is designed to be worked through as a band over the course of 12-18 months. Group members covenant from the onset to each take on 2-3 others to lead through this same discipleship material upon completion of it themselves. Disciples making disciples!

The Invitation: Would YOU be interested in joining one of these disciple-making discipleship bands? We could help you get connected to a group. Maybe you're already in a band and your entire group would like to participate! Or maybe God is tugging on your heart to prayerfully invite 2-3 others to begin this journey with you. In any case, please contact me or Bonnie@troyumc.org! We can get you a copy of *Discipleship Essentials* to browse through. We are hoping to have an initial wave of participants begin this discipleship adventure between now and mid-February.

Faithfully,

Andy

General Budget



Christmas Basket

It's time to prepare for the Ministries Unlimited Annual Christmas drive! You can donate canned goods or monetary gifts directly to Ministries Unlimited this year for their Christmas baskets. If you have additional questions, reach out to Ministries Unlimited at 618-505-5053.

Angel Tree

This year, our Angel Tree tradition will be both in person and online! There will be three types of angels to choose from, which include:

- Gifts wrapped for children at the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
- Gift cards for Cunningham Children's Home
- Gift items in gift bags for residents at Liberty Village

The deadline to get all the gifts dropped off at the church will be December 12.

Soon you will find Christmas trees in both the FLC and Sanctuary foyers adorned with angel ornaments. Each ornament represents a child or older adult that you can bless this Christmas season! If you choose to bless a child from Cunningham Children's Home or an adult from Liberty Village, you can grab an angel off the tree and deliver your gift back to the FLC or Sanctuary foyers anytime. If you choose to bless a child from Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, you will go to the website listed on the angel and sign up for your child online! If you are not currently attending worship in person, you can have an angel emailed to you — please reach out to Bonnie at bonnie@troyumc.org.

A festive poster for the Ladies' Christmas Brunch. It features a decorative wreath with holly leaves, red berries, and orange flowers on the left. The text is in a mix of elegant cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. The main title 'Ladies' Christmas Brunch' is prominent. To the right, a box contains details about the event, including the date, time, ticket price, and guest speaker. A small illustration of a steaming cup of coffee is also present.

This Advent season, join us for a morning of fellowship, inspiration, and refreshment!

Ladies' Christmas Brunch

AT TROY UMC

Childcare available upon request—contact the church office.

Music by Judy McGill
Guest Speaker:
Luan Warren Meeks

DECEMBER 4
9-11 AM

\$12 TICKETS
AVAILABLE SUNDAY MORNINGS
OR AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

Ladies' Annual Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 4, 9-11 a.m.

Come join us for a morning of fellowship, inspiration, and refreshment — a great way to begin the Advent season! Festive music will be provided by Judy McGill, and our guest speaker will be Luan Warren Meeks, a pastor's wife and great presenter from Pinckneyville, IL UMC. Tickets are \$12 each and are available at the church office. Childcare is also available upon request — contact the church office at 618-667-6241.

United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon

December 9, 11:30 a.m. at Bella Milano

Join us for a day of GREAT JOY! The Annual UMW Christmas luncheon will be at 11:30 on Thursday, December 9, at Bella Milano. Experience with us the musical worship of Tim, Ruby, and Macy Price. The menu includes an appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, and drink. The tickets are on sale for \$20 each. Please contact Becky Rushing at 618-792-0020 or any other UMW officer.

**NEW 4-Week Advent Bible
Study: Because of Bethlehem**

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Troy UMC
Children's Area, beginning December 2

In *Because of Bethlehem*, bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado guides you through the Advent season to its source at an unassuming stable in Bethlehem...

No one expected the Messiah to come the way He did. Yet the way He came was every bit as important as the coming itself.

The manger is the message.

Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it's like to be human. Because of Bethlehem, when we talk to Him about tough times, He understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace.

In the midst of your Christmas season, this book and study will:

- Revive your wonder that the One who made everything chose to make Himself nothing for us.
- Rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers lasting hope.

Please RSVP to christine@troyumc.org or 618-667-6241 by Wednesday, December 1, so that we can have a study guide for you. The cost is \$8, but please do not let a financial hardship discourage you from coming.

If you are unable to attend in person, please email christine@troyumc.org or call 618-667-6241 so that we can mail you a study guide and send you links to the four video sessions. You MUST have internet access to participate remotely.



Troy United Methodist Church

BLUE Christmas

This holiday season is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service that offers comfort and hope for those carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Please join us.

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 6:30-7:30PM

407 Edwardsville Road, Troy, IL

Sanctuary Entrance; Childcare provided

#618-667-6241 or christine@troyumc.org

Traditional Music Update

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for giving Emily a big “Thank You” on October 31 for her service as the Director of Traditional Worship Arts. She is not gone but has resigned from the half-time role in order to focus on her full-time responsibilities at Edwardsville High School and on her family.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is moving to fill the the Director of Traditional Worship Arts position on a permanent half-time basis. This search may take some time due to the unique combination of Musical, Directing, Organizational, and Interpersonal skills needed to thrive in the role. We are conducting a formal search and recruitment process.

In the interim, our talented Accompanist, Mike Rogier, is providing leadership to the chancel and bell choirs. This is a challenge he has agreed to take on for a while to support the church. We are very grateful to Mike for stepping up to this dual role at the church in addition to his full-time job teaching physics in a local high school.

During this interim, we are asking the TUMC congregation to do a few things to help the traditional services:

PRAYER: Pray for our Director search and for Mike as he leads the Traditional Music Team during this interim.

JOIN THE TEAM: Step up and join the Traditional Music team via the chancel choir, the bells, or with special music.

SUPPORT: Show patience and understanding during this transition. Please offer encouragement to Mike and the musicians during this time. Like many organizations, the church is recovering from pandemic woes, so we are in a bit of a start-up mode.

For the Glory of God and Jesus,

Carl Inman

Chair, SPRC

About Mike Rogier

Mike is the accompanist for the traditional worship services and choirs at Troy UMC and has been providing music for worship for more than 40 years. He has Bachelor's degrees in Engineering Physics and Secondary Education from the University of Illinois and a Master's in Education from SIUe. A native of Troy, Mike studied piano privately for 10 years and took private organ lessons for five years. Mike, his wife, Dynette, and their children – Joel and Lydia – are a musical family and often lead worship together.



Mike Rogier, Accompanist & Interim Director of Traditional Worship Arts

Alzheimer's and Dementia Help and Training

Taking care of a person living with Alzheimer's or related dementia at home consists of specialized hard work. To do this work successfully, caregivers need special skills, knowledge, and a positive attitude that helps them to care for themselves. St. John's Community Care offers Savvy Caregiver training sessions several times a year to aid family caregivers in this role.

The Savvy Caregiver Program is a free, six-session training for family and friends who are actively caring for those living with Alzheimer's or related dementia. St. John's trainers use curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota for interactive classes.

In each session, participants learn relevant techniques and coping skills to manage daily living situations. The sessions are designed to teach basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to handle the challenges of caring for someone with dementia. With this new knowledge and understanding, family caregivers are able to reduce stress and increase their sense of competence in dementia caregiving.

The Savvy Caregiver Program will help you:

- Understand the impact of dementia on both you and the person in your care.
- Learn the skills you need to manage daily life
- Take control and set goals
- Communicate more effectively
- Strengthen family resources
- Feel better about your caregiving
- Take care of you!

Each session is comprised of six two-hour classes. To find out when the next series begins, call 618-344-5008. Sessions are held at St. John's Community Care (222 Goethe Avenue, Collinsville, IL 62234).

Pastor Dan

Care Pastor

JOURNEY KIDS



Children's Ministry Schedule of events for December

Sunday, December 5—regular Sunday school

Sunday, December 12— 9:00am & 10:45am, regular service times with a Harvest Ministries Christmas celebration in children's ministry and nursery! (puppets, music, snack and craft)

Sunday, December 19—regular Sunday school

Tuesday, December 21— 5:30pm–7:30pm, A Night in Bethlehem:

During this 2-hour Christmas program, families wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Unlike your typical "living Nativity," everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. And...they'll love talking to Mary and Joseph in The Stable—and hearing about the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Thursday, December 23— 6:30pm–7:30pm, Children's Ministry and nursery for early Christmas eve service

Friday, December 24— 4:00pm–5:00PM, Children's Ministry and nursery for Christmas eve service

Sunday, December 26— regular 9:00am & 10:45am, regular service times with Children's Ministry and Nursery enjoying a "Happy Birthday Jesus" pajama party. Wear your pajamas and we will watch a Christmas movie and enjoy breakfast treats while celebrating the birth of Jesus, Christ.

christine@troyumc.org



Save the date: Tuesday, December 21, 5:30-7:30PM

Troy UMC, FLC

Join us for an amazing night in Bethlehem:

This fun and faith-filled adventure lets kids explore the city of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Through hands-on experiences they'll find out about the most important baby ever—and learn that Jesus came to save us. Guests will visit booths around the city and enjoy hands-on experiences, crafts, and snacks—all while learning about Jesus. Please allow one hour to explore all stations.

NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December brings opportunities for Troy UMC students to serve, grow, retreat, and worship! Students will take "Advent on the Go" to college students at McKendree University and to traveling military personnel and veterans at the USO – Lambert International Airport. Here are the December details for Wednesday Night Youth Group, Special Events, and Confirmation Class:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

5:00-6:00 p.m.	Sr. High Praise Band	Family Life Center – Ryan Froidcoeur
5:30-6:00 p.m.	Jr. Praise Band	Children's Area – Tim Price
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Dinner	Family Life Center
6:30-6:45 p.m.	Worship – All Students	Family Life Center
6:45-7:45 p.m.	Small Groups & Closing	Children's Area & Youth Rooms

Themes for December Wednesdays

Middle School and High School Series about Advent:

"THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING" and "IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS"

December 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Because of Jesus, there is always hope.
December 8	Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14; John 14:27	Because of Jesus, there is always peace.
December 15	Luke 2:10-11; Hebrews 12:2b	Because of Jesus, there is always joy.

December 22 NO NLSM – Christmas Holiday
 December 29 NO NLSM – Christmas Holiday
 January 5 WED Night Youth Group resumes regular schedule

SPECIAL EVENTS

All Students Service Project: Advent Go! | RSVP + requested donations

Meet at 11:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center after the last worship service.

Advent Go #1: Sunday, December 5 – McKendree University

Bring: Individually wrapped, single-serving snacks & treats for college students

Group Lunch: McDonald's

Advent Go #2: Sunday, December 12 – USO at Lambert International Airport

Bring: Ramen noodle cups, Slim Jims / Beef Jerky, tuna packets (all flavors), bite-size chocolate candy, granola bars, peanut sleeves, trail mix sleeves, rice crispy treats, single serve cookie pouches, applesauce cups, Nutella snack containers

Group Lunch: Sugarfire Smoke House

Confirmation Class 1-Day Retreat! | December 4 at the Dubois Center; Dubois, IL | RSVP + \$50

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at church and return at 6 p.m.

Enjoy a 1-day retreat with outdoor recreation! Bring a lunch with drink, and wear layered clothes for outdoor cold!

PARENTS

- Wednesday Night, Confirmation Class, and Special Event schedules and information/registration flyers can be accessed at troyumc.org/students.
- Rev. Kurt Stone is available via email, texts, and phone calls: kurt@troyumc.org or 618-407-7586.



2021 FALL RALLY: Focus on Jesus!

Harvest Ministry hosted the "Focus on Jesus" fall rally for 6th-12th grade students on Saturday, October 23, at Troy UMC. The event included worship, teaching, student seminars, lunch, and a service project of raking leaves at residences along Riggin Road. A total of 125 students from 11 churches participated in the event!

Church Information
Phone (618) 667-6241
Fax (618) 667-7748
troyumc.org

Staff

*Senior Pastor
Andy Adams

*Associate Pastor, Student Ministry
Kurt Stone

*Care Pastor
Dan Perry

*Minister of Modern Worship Arts
Tim Price

*Director of Children's Ministry
Christine Lippert

*Communications Coordinator
Anna Hollingworth

*Minister of Discipleship
Bonnie Abel

*Director of 1st Step Learning Center
Lisa Rayle

*Office Manager
Sharie Meyer

*Administrative Assistant
Marie Brown

*Fields Manager
Courtney Bettis

*Accompanist & Interim Director of
Traditional Worship Arts
Mike Rogier

*Production Coordinator
Josh Case

Worship Tech Coordinator
Nick Tipton

Youth Worship Band Leader
Ryan Froidcoeur

Worship Ministry Intern
Elizabeth West

Custodians
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone

***Staff E-mail** [firstname]@troyumc.org

If you would like to receive the Reach
via email only, please contact
anna@troyumc.org.

Connect with us!
@troyumc



DECEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
December 2	Advent Bible Study Begins (see page 4)
December 4	Ladies' Annual Christmas Brunch (see page 3) Confirmation Class Retreat (see page 7)
December 5	Connect Lunch (see below) Advent Go! Student Service Project (see page 7)
December 8	Blue Christmas Service (see page 4)
December 9	United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon (see page 3)
December 12	Angel Tree Drop-Off Deadline (see page 3) Advent Go! Student Service Project (see page 7)
December 15	Holiday Luncheon for "Older" Adults (see below)
December 21	A Night in Bethlehem Family Event (see page 6)
December 23	Christmas Eve Service (see front page)
December 24	Christmas Eve Services (see front page)

Holiday Luncheon for "Older" Adults

December 15, 12-1:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Would you like to connect with other "older" adults (55+) at Troy UMC? This is the perfect opportunity! Join us for a pasta and salad lunch, a short holiday devotion, a Christmas carol or two, and time to visit with some new friends. Please RSVP before December 12 by emailing or calling Sharie Meyer in the church office (sharie@troyumc.org; 618-667-6241). There is a \$10/person suggested donation to offset the costs of the meal.

Next Steps to Connect

If you are new to our church family, we want to welcome you and provide you with an opportunity to connect! On Sunday, December 5, we will have a Connect Lunch following the 10:45 a.m. service. Starting at noon and going until 1:45 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. Staff from various ministries will be available to answer questions and share about ways to get connected. 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 our Minister of Discipleship, Bonnie, at bonnie@troyumc.org.



Troy United Methodist Church
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