



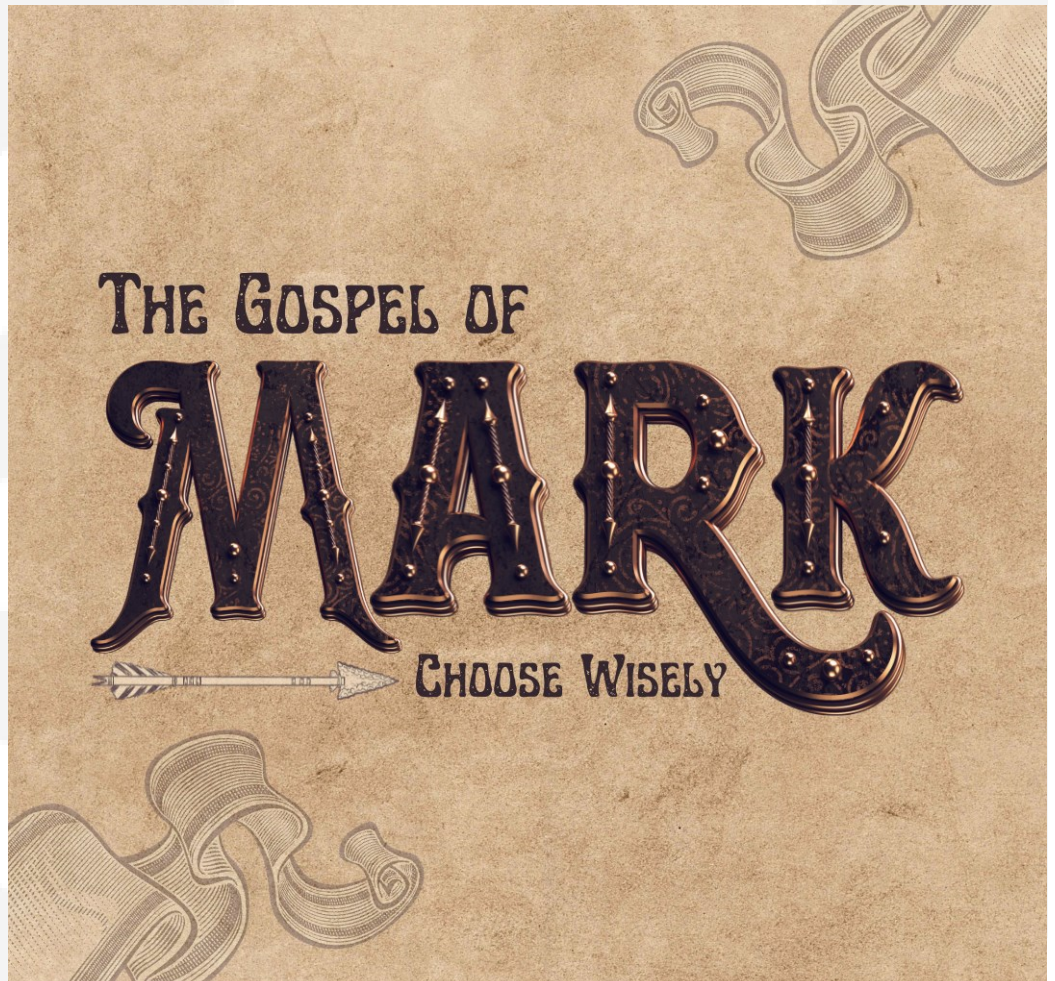
# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

FEBRUARY 2022  
VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 2

## IN THIS ISSUE

Strategic Stats	P. 2
Discipleship Luncheon & Journey Groups	P. 3-4
Upward, Hospitality Ministry, & "Older" Adult Luncheon	P. 5
UMW, 1st Step Preschool, Fire-Up, & Children's Ministry	P. 6
Student Ministry	P. 7
February Schedule Highlights & Staff Transition	Back Page



## Upcoming Message Series The Gospel of Mark: Choose Wisely

We invite you to continue reading the Mark Study Guide as we journey through the book of Mark together! You can pick up a Study Guide at the church or you can also find them on our website at [troyumc.org](http://troyumc.org).

We have also created a Facebook group designed just for YOU! The Troy UMC Gospel of Mark Study Group is a place where you can ask questions and share reflections with each other. You can join the group by going to [facebook.com/troyumc/groups](https://facebook.com/troyumc/groups)

### 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

## Ending 2021 and beginning 2022!

### Difficult Personally

As most of our church family knows by now, 2021 ended painfully for my family. After a period of household quarantining over Christmas Eve, we learned that my father passed away after five months at home under hospice care. I'm pleased to share that we are doing well, including my mother who is moving forward with grace and dignity. I've enjoyed reflecting on my dad's life with fondness and appreciating the many good times we had and qualities I admired in him. The journey has been healing, and I look forward to seeing him again in our eternal home. I also want to thank you for the outpouring of love you've shown my family and me during this time.

### Something to Celebrate

I also want to thank you for your outstanding financial generosity in December! I had estimated that we would need about \$150,000 of December offerings to finish 2021 with our yearly income exceeding our expenses. Well, we didn't reach that numeric goal – finishing with an income of \$143,509. However, God knew *exactly* what we needed, and we not only made up for our spending deficit heading into November but ended the year with excess general budget income of \$1,585! Our strong December also means that we were able to give away \$9,674 to each of our mission projects – Haiti Relief and support for *A Call for Help*. I praise God for his faithfulness working through your generosity!

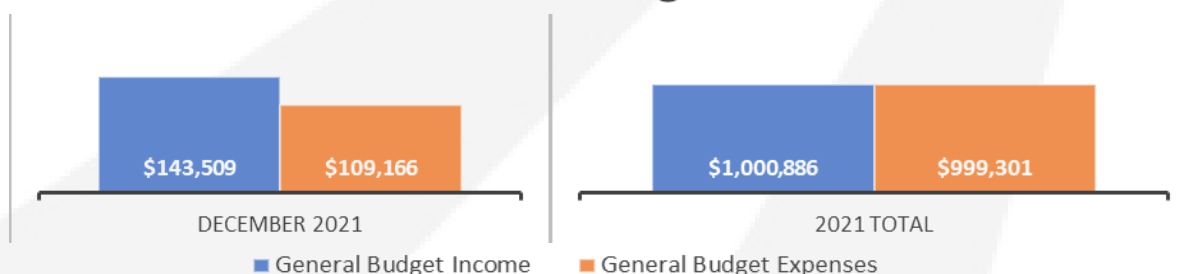
### Moving Forward in 2022

As I write this, we just ended another successful "Connect Lunch" with several newer families in attendance (several of whom began attending online). A question was raised, "What is the church's theme for 2022?" I chuckled because I never publicly identify a yearly theme or focus. However, I did respond with the emphasis that God has placed on my heart. If we were to have a theme for 2022, it would be "to dig deeper into God's Word and make disciples who make disciples." I hope you are experiencing rich blessing from our first few weeks in the book of Mark. We will continue this journey through Easter before kicking off another exciting dive into the Scriptures together. And over the next month, dozens of us will launch intentional discipleship training bands as we seek to cultivate a deeper intimacy with God and prepare ourselves for leading others through this discipleship journey. Our "Launch Party" will take place on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Family Life Center. You can read more about it in this newsletter. I hope you will prayerfully consider being part of that adventure as we make 2022 our best year yet!

Faithfully,

Andy

### General Budget





## Discipleship Luncheon

Come One, Come All! You are cordially invited to our launch of the Discipleship Training at Troy UMC! **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** we will have a light lunch together at noon to discuss next steps for our Discipleship Training Initiative.

### Who should come to this luncheon:

1. Anyone who came to the Discipleship Luncheon this fall
2. Anyone who missed the Discipleship Luncheon this fall
3. Anyone interested in learning more about discipleship training groups
4. Individuals who already know that they want to be in a discipleship training group
5. Individuals who aren't sure if they want to be in a discipleship training group

No matter where you fall on the spectrum, this lunch is a great opportunity to hear the heart of Jesus' mission and ministry to "Go out and make disciples of all nations." During our time together we will walk you through what your first two meeting sessions will look like, provide you with resources and allow ample time for questions. **RSVP to our Minister of Discipleship, Bonnie at [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org). We hope to see you there!**

## *Journey Groups - SPRING 2022*

Spring 2022 Journey Groups start back up in the New Year! Welcome to the spring semester!

Journey Groups offer a safe environment for growing Christ-followers to experience spiritual growth, relational support and lasting life change! There is a variety of topic options as well as range of locations and times to best fit your interest and schedule. Please take some time to review all the choices and join the Journey Group that's best for you.

## Spring 2022 Journey Group FAQ's

### What is an adult Journey Group?

Journey groups are made up of people who meet on a regular basis to connect relationally, grow spiritually, and serve collectively with one another.

### What kind of Journey Groups are available?

There are different types of Journey Groups; Ongoing Journey Groups who meet year-round, ongoing Journey Groups that meet during the fall and spring semesters, and short-term Journey Groups who meet the duration of a specific study. At the end of each session, you will have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group or even taking a break.

## Why should I join a Journey Group?

We were designed by God to live in relationship with others. Positive life-change happens best when we are surrounded by friends who support, encourage, and challenge us. Journey Groups will help you feel like you belong in the Troy UMC family.

### Who can attend?

Everyone! Members, attenders, Christ-followers, and spiritual seekers! Most of our groups are mixed groups (open to men, women, married and single). We also have groups that are specific to men, women, or young adults.

### What happens in a group?

In Journey Groups we build lasting friendships through a commitment to being 1) God-centered through some form of Bible study, 2) Authentic through sharing of the joys and concerns of life, and 3) Inclusive by welcoming everyone seeking godly community. Groups will often eat together, pray together and simply do life together.

### Will I feel intimidated by my lack of Biblical knowledge?

Not at all! Our Journey Groups are designed to be a safe place for people who are taking steps to deepen their knowledge of God's Word. You can ask questions, share your opinions and experiences, or just listen to others share.

### How can I get involved?

Before each semester begins, there are three ways to sign up for a group – online at [troyumc.org/journeygroups](http://troyumc.org/journeygroups), at our Sunday services, or by contacting a group leader. You can also reach out to Bonnie Abel, our Minister of Discipleship. She is happy to help you find the perfect fit. She can be reached at [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org)

### Mom's Bible Study

Day/Time: Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

New Study: "The Miracles of Jesus: Finding God in Desperate Moments" by Jessica LaGrone

Start Date: January 20th

Location: Upper Family Life Center

Leader: Bonnie

Phone/Email: [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org)

This group is born out of a desire to grow together on our journey with Jesus. If you are a mom who is interested in growing in both your relationship with Christ and expanding your church community, please come check out this group! We are currently studying Jessica LaGrone's book study "The Miracles of Jesus: Finding God in Desperate Moments". If you have questions, please reach out to Bonnie at [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org).

### **Student Ministry Parents & Friends**

Day/Time: Wednesday, 6:30-7:45 p.m. weekly or bi-weekly

New Study: *So the Next Generation Will Know: Training Young Christians in a Challenging World* by Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace.

Start Date: February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Location: Church Conference Room

Leader: Beth Repp

Phone/Email: 618-505-0718 or [eliza-beth.repp@yahoo.com](mailto:eliza-beth.repp@yahoo.com)

In *So the Next Generation Will Know*, McDowell and Wallace provide strategies and practical tactics from their own personal experiences to help parents and youth workers train the next generation with the truth of the Christian worldview. This would be a great 8-week study for any parents of pre-teens or teens, but anyone is welcome!

### **Women's Bible Study**

Day/Time: [Sunday, 6:00-7:30 p.m.](#)

New Study: *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton.

This eight-week study by Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. The traditions he examines are Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. For each group, Hamilton gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

### **Sisters in Christ**

Day/Time: [Monday, 1:00 p.m.](#)

New Study: God of Deliverance (Exodus 1-18) and God of Freedom (Exodus 19-40) by Jen Wilkin

Start Date: January 10<sup>th</sup>

Location: Family Life Center at TUMC

Leader: Deb Ellis

Email: [debsellis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debsellis@sbcglobal.net)

### **Ladies Evening Journey Group**

Day/Time: Monday, 6:30-8:00 p.m., BI-WEEKLY

New Study: Variety Pack! Each week the group listens to CD's by various Bible teachers like Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Jen Rothschild, and more.

Start Date: January 10<sup>th</sup>

Location: Sanctuary

Leader: Sheila Hall and Julie Ford

Email: [srhall1313@icloud.com](mailto:srhall1313@icloud.com) / [Jeford5@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeford5@yahoo.com)

### **Men's Group**

Day: Saturday mornings

Location: Zoom

Leader: Carl Inman

Email: [cri2000@gmail.com](mailto:cri2000@gmail.com)

### **Couples Journey Group**

Day/Time: Tuesday 6:30-8:00 p.m., BI-MONTHLY

Location: Meet in different homes

Leader: Julie Ford & Barb Buck

Email: [Jeford5@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeford5@yahoo.com) / [jor-danandbarb@outlook.com](mailto:jor-danandbarb@outlook.com)

Ever wanted to go deeper with the content of the Sunday Sermon? This group will do just that! This study is based on the biblical principles of the sermon and discussion of practical ways to integrate them into daily living. This is an ongoing discussion group and all are welcome to join any week!

### **Generations – Bible Study**

Day/Time: Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Room 241

Leader: [Jeff Johnson](#)

Phone/Email: [jeffjane627@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjane627@gmail.com)

This class is currently studying the book of Acts. Bring your Bible and join any week!

### **Young Adults Group**

Day/Time: Wednesday, 8:45 p.m.

Start Date: January 26<sup>th</sup>

Leader: Jeff Johnson

Phone/Email: [jeffjane627@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjane627@gmail.com)

### **Faith Links**

Day/Time: Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Troy UMC

Leader: Mike Loftus & Mark Kleindorfer

Email: [mjlofty12@gmail.com](mailto:mjlofty12@gmail.com) / [ma-khome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ma-khome@sbcglobal.net)

This class features the application of faith to major current events and life issues. It looks at background information and core Bible passages on the current topic, along with group activities and discussion questions. This is an ongoing class, and all are welcome to join any week!

# SERVE

## Volunteer for Upward!

Sign-up to help provide radical hospitality as a **Greeter** or **Concessions** worker for our Upward Basketball and Cheerleading season! **We've also added a new role - Score Keeper.** We have a record number of registrations this year and hope you will help be a welcoming presence.

Pick one or more time slots for one or more of our eight game days. (If you can't serve the entire time slot, sign up anyway and make a note of your availability.) **We have openings for every upcoming Saturday!** Thank you in advance for helping in this small way that adds up to make a big impact.



## Hospitality Ministry

A big thanks to each person invested and involved in the Troy UMC Hospitality Ministry! There are lots of aspects to hospitality, but welcoming people as they come for worship and other ministry events is a huge part of helping people feel like they have found a place to call home.

It takes many people to make this happen each Sunday morning between all the worship services. If you like visiting with people or have a passion for getting people connected and making people feel welcome, let's talk! We have roles available for any of the worship services on Sunday and some of the special services.

The whole church is called to be hospitable, but the ushers, greeters, parking lot greeters, welcome center staff, and others help pave the way and serve the church by intentionally connecting with guests. We have guests every single week at Troy UMC and never want to miss an opportunity to minister!

To get involved, talk with Tim Price ([tim@troyumc.org](mailto:tim@troyumc.org)) or Jennifer Zahn ([tiergirl@gmail.com](mailto:tiergirl@gmail.com)).

# CONNECT

## February's "Older" Adult Luncheon

Join us on **February 16, from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.** This is a great way to connect with other "older" adults (55+) at Troy UMC! Our December luncheon was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. We will enjoy a light lunch, an imagination challenge, a short devotion on God's love, and spend time visiting with some old and new friends. **Please RSVP before February 10th by emailing or calling Sharie Meyer in the church office ([sharie@troyumc.org](mailto:sharie@troyumc.org); 618-667-6241).** There is a \$10/person suggested donation to offset the costs of the meal.





## United Methodist Women

February is the time our culture reminds us to focus on those we love. Jesus makes it clear in Mark 12:30-31 that Love of God the Father and each other are our most important commandments. Come join the United Methodist Women as we work to show God's love to others in need.

The next meeting will be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the FLC. All are welcome. Covid precautions still in place. Contact rogersbethel@gmail.com with any questions.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Step Registration

1<sup>st</sup> Step Learning Center is a ministry of Troy United Methodist Church open to children ages 2 through pre-Kindergarten. We offer a loving environment where children can learn and explore new things as well as begin their journey with Jesus.

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year opened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January for all families currently enrolled at 1<sup>st</sup> Step as well as members of the congregation. You may call the office at 667-6241 ext 13 to request a packet to be mailed to you or stop by Monday-Thursday between 7:00am and 2:00pm to pick one up. You may also visit our website here <http://www.troyumc.org/1ststep/> to download a copy for yourself.

If you would like to connect with 1<sup>st</sup> Step in some way, feel free to reach out to me at [li-sa@troyumc.org](mailto:li-sa@troyumc.org).

### Children's Ministry Winter & Spring Save the Dates:



Sunday, February 13-Jesus loves me party! Wear your valentine pjs or ANY pajamas. We will have valentine themed activities, crafts, donuts and a Valentine Day Veggie Tales episode. (during 9:00 & 10:45 Sunday school)

Sunday, March 13-St. Patrick's Day party! Why not?! Wear your pajamas again! We will have a rainbow and treasures themed morning of activities, crafts and snack. (during 9:00 & 10:45 Sunday school)

Tuesday, April 12-Journey to the Cross Family Event 5:30-7:00pm FLC

Sunday, April 17-Easter Sunday

Sunday, May 8-Making Mother's Day treats for the special people in our life.

Sunday, June 19-Making Father's Day treats for the special people in our life.

mid-July, Make Waves VBS (dependent on school calendar approval)

### Fire-Up Conference

The 25th Annual Fire-Up Conference will be held February 25-26, 2022 and the church is invited to join us! Pray for the weekend (text PRAY4FIRE

to [618-243-7476](tel:618-243-7476)) or serve in hospitality during the weekend or donate some snacks and drinks!

You can see six ways to join us here <https://harvestministryteams.com/tumc/>



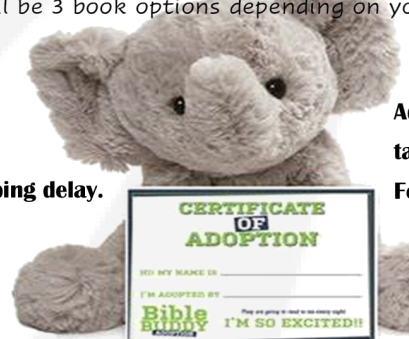
# Bible BUDDY

## ADOPTION

Join us [redacted] in February for Bible buddy adoption from 10:00-10:45am. (Between Sunday school services) Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to adopt a lamb or lion stuffed animal to care for; complete with personalized bandana, adoption certificate and pet carrier. How do I care for my buddy? Buddies want you to spend time with them every day. Since their favorite thing is being read stories from the Bible or devotional and prayer time, kids will also receive a Jesus Calling book to read to their buddy. (There will be 3 book options depending on your child's age.)

**UPDATE!**  
Due to shipping delay.

**Adoptions will take place Feb. 13 & 20**



# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

Troy UMC's New Life Student Ministry serves all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are invited to journey with Jesus by participating in Wednesday Night Youth Group, monthly Special Events, and Sunday Morning Worship at Troy UMC. See details below for February opportunities!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

6-7:45 p.m.      Snack dinner, worship, small groups, and activity in the Family Life Center

### February Wednesdays:

***"CONNECT THE DOTS" and "COUNTERFEIT": A Series about Growing Your Faith by Following Jesus***

02 February      Hebrews 5:12-14      Daily habits can grow your faith.

***"DIRECT MESSAGE" and "THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS": A Series about Prayer***

09 February    MS    Psalm 145:18      Find your way to pray.  
                  HS    James 4:8; Ps.145:18      Honest prayer is better than fancy prayer.

16 February    MS    Matthew 6:9-13      Honest prayer is better than fancy prayer.  
                  HS    Matthew 6:9-13      Find your way to pray.

***"I HAVE QUESTIONS: Why is there so much racial tension?"***

23 February      Galatians 3:26-28      It takes all of us to reflect the image of God.  
                          Genesis 1:27

## FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS!

**A WALK in the WOODS** – Middle School Students, siblings, & parents

Hike 3 mile trail in the Nature Preserve at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUe)

Sunday, 06 February 2022

No RSVP; Free

2:00 PM – park & meet at Ralph Korte Soccer Stadium – 3345 Stadium Drive, Edwardsville IL 62026

Park on east end of lot; across the road from the little log cabin in the woods.

**FIRE UP 2021** – conference for high school students

Friday & Saturday, 25 & 26 February 2022

RSVP + \$40

FRI: 7:30 – 9:30 PM; SAT 9:30 AM – 8:30 PM

Register by 04 FEB for free t-shirt!

**AWAKENING** – *"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."* – **Ephesians 5:14**

*A weekend event chocked full of worship, speaker, music by Harvest Ministry Band, lunch & dinner on Saturday, Small Groups, games, and more!*

## 2022 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Class meets 5:30 – 7:00 PM on these February Sundays: 6, 13, 20, & 27.

The printed schedule has the incorrect date for the Super Bowl – Kurt fumbled the ball!

We will NOT meet on FEB 13.

## PARENTS

New Life Student Ministry schedules and registration flyers can be accessed at [troyumc.org/students](http://troyumc.org/students)

Rev. Kurt Stone is available via email, texts, and phone calls: [kurt@troyumc.org](mailto:kurt@troyumc.org) or (618) 407-7586

**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

\*Minister of Discipleship  
Bonnie Abel

\*Director of Children's Ministry  
Christine Lippert

\*Director of 1st Step Learning Center  
Lisa Rayle

\*Accompanist & Interim Director of  
Traditional Worship Arts  
Mike Rogier

\*Office Manager  
Sharie Meyer

\*Fields Manager  
Courtney Bettis

\*Administrative Assistant  
Marie Brown

\*Interim Coordinator of  
Communications & Worship Ministry  
Intern  
Elizabeth West

\*Production Coordinator  
Josh Case

Youth Worship Band Leader  
Ryan Froidcoeur

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  
[elizabeth@troyumc.org](mailto:elizabeth@troyumc.org).

**Connect with us!**  
@troyumc



## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
February 6	Discipleship Luncheon (see page 3)
February 9	Worship & Prayer Night
February 10	United Methodist Women monthly meeting (see pg. 6)
February 16	"Older" Adult Luncheon (see page 5)
February 25-26	Fire-Up Conference (see page 6)



### Staff Transitions

We want to thank Nick Tipton for his ministry in the worship tech department at Troy UMC. Nick has grown up at Troy UMC and somewhere along the way started helping with song lyrics for the students when he was in middle school. That transitioned into the other services, which was followed by a full year official internship with the Illinois Conference at our church. The internship transitioned into a staff role helping to accomplish the graphics, video and streaming each Wednesday and Sunday. He has stepped down from his role due to a new job, but we want to celebrate and thank Nick for his ministry here!

# REACH

Troy United Methodist Church  
407 Edwardsville Road  
Troy, IL 62294  
troyumc.org

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

Return Service Requested