



# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

**JULY 2021**  
**VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 7**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Strategic Stats	P. 2
Summer Class	P. 3
Ministry Updates & Opportunities	P. 4
Tabernacle Exhibit	P. 5
Student Ministry	P. 6-7
July Schedule Highlights	Back Page

## We are in Phase 5!

According to local health guidelines and the decision of our Conference, Phase 5 lifts all COVID restrictions for in-person worship and activities at Troy UMC. Of course, we encourage you to do what's best for your own health.

We thank God that the infection rates have declined so significantly and pray that the end of the pandemic is right around the corner.

As our church eases back into pre-COVID "normals," please continue to extend grace toward those who make different health choices than your own. This is a much-anticipated season to be grateful for!



### Worship Schedule

**July 4:** 9 a.m. Outdoor

**July 11 and on:**

8 a.m. Sanctuary

9 a.m. Family Life Center & Online

10:15 a.m. Sanctuary & Online

10:45 a.m. Family Life Center

This fourth of July, join us for a morning of worship music and family activities in the Family Life Center parking lots! There will be an ice cream truck, balloon artist, and face painter, as well as busy bags for the kids.

Rev. Dennis and Iris Price will lead the music. We'll begin at 9 a.m. Bring a lawn chair and cool drink!

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## Jesus is Greater

I hope you've been learning, growing, and enjoying our journey through the book of Hebrews. It's been my continual prayer that our deep study of this often-overlooked portion of Scripture would inspire you to fall more in love with the Word of God, both the written Word and the Word made flesh: Jesus. I hope that Jesus becomes greater in your eyes. In fact, that is one of the organizing themes of Hebrews. *Jesus is greater!*

Jesus is greater than the angels (chapter 1)

Jesus is greater than Moses (chapter 3)

Jesus brings a greater rest than Joshua did (chapter 4)

Jesus is a greater high priest (chapters 5-7)

Jesus brings the new covenant, which is greater than the old (chapter 8)

Jesus' ministry is greater than the priests because it's in the heavenly realm (chapters 8-9)

Jesus' sacrifice is greater (chapters 9-10)

The details of Jesus' superiority are as significant for us today as they were for the original hearers. Those first hearing this sermon were being tempted to abandon their faith under increasing persecution. They were considering a return to their former religious practices. You may not consciously choose to align with a different religion, but that doesn't mean that you aren't facing the daily, practical temptations to appease the god of consumerism, bow to the idol of nationalism, succumb to moralism or performance-based salvation, or give your endorsement to the non-Christian worldview that places feelings and desires as an ultimate authority.

You and I need to be reminded that following Jesus and His ways brings greater peace and joy than any of the alternatives, that life in the community of Jesus, the church, is greater than rugged individualism and that the mission of Jesus — to seek and save the lost to the glory of God — brings greater meaning and purpose than anything else this world offers. I pray we each come to the point of letting go of the lesser things we're tempted to cling to in order that we would receive the greater promises Jesus offers.

I invite you to join us in our weekly reading plan:

## Conclusion of "Take Action"

**June 20 (Father's Day) – Mature** – Study Hebrews 5:11-6:3

**June 27 – Anchor** – Study Hebrews 6:4-20

## "Greater"

**July 11 – Priest** – Study Hebrews 7:1-28 and reference Genesis 14 and Psalm 110

**July 18 – Ministry** – Study Hebrews 8:1-2 and Leviticus 16

**July 25 – Covenant** – Study Hebrews 8:3-13 and reference Jeremiah 31:31-34

**August 1 – Sacrifice** – Study Hebrews 9:1-28

**August 8 – Forgiveness** – Study Hebrews 10:1-25

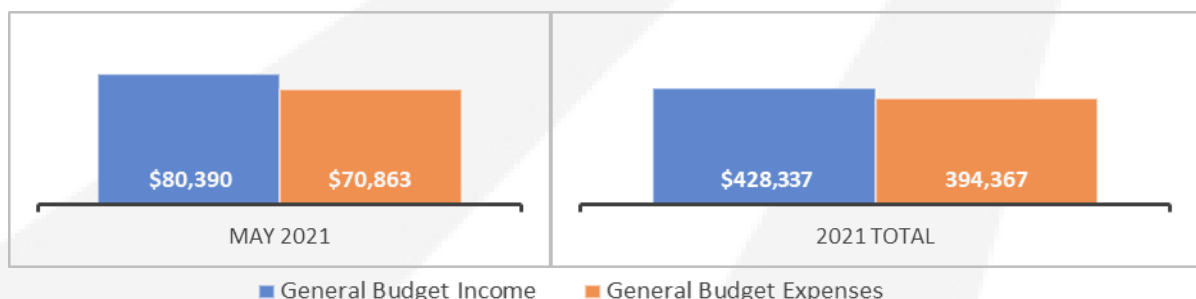
**August 15 – Implications** – Study Hebrews 10:26-39

Faithfully,

Andy



## General Budget





## Encouraging Words from God's Word

During this global pandemic, having faith in the darkest valley has been difficult. It's natural to feel fearful, even though we're about to turn the corner on this pandemic. But as believers, we can have a bold faith and hope during any crisis because of who our God is.

- He is never changing, even when our world is (Malachi 3:6)
- He is all-powerful, strong, and able to do anything He wills (Psalm 147:5, Romans 1:20)
- He is all-knowing, having knowledge of everything past, present, and future (Isaiah 46:9-10)
- He is faithful and always will be (2 Timothy 2:13)

And God is so much more. God is beyond what we can conceive in our limited human minds. God's purposes and promises are sure, even when we don't understand them, even when we aren't sure where He is or what He's doing.

Charles Spurgeon said, "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."

Again, trusting God and having faith following a pandemic is a bold stance. But do you know what else is bold? Coming before the Almighty God of the universe in prayer. Hebrews 4:16 instructs us, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace in the time of need."

Come boldly to the God who is unchanging, always faithful, and never caught by surprise. Keep your faith in God and let the knowledge of who God is calm your fears.

From the Amplified version of the Bible, "Casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]."

Share this with someone who needs encouragement today.

*Pastor Dan*



## Learn Your ABCs this Summer!

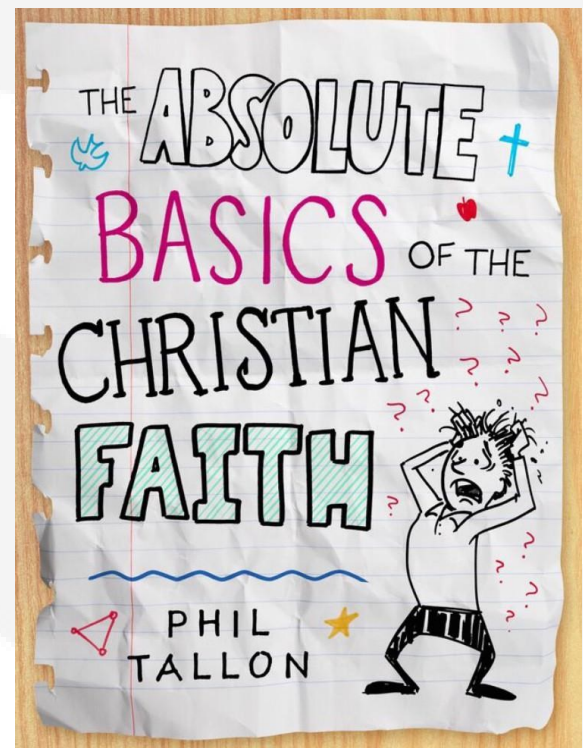
July 11 – August 30 (8 weeks)

Mondays, 7-8:15 p.m. via Zoom

*The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith* is a visual introduction to the core beliefs of the Christian faith. While it assumes no background knowledge of the Scriptures or church teachings, this 8-unit study is stocked with rich explanation and engaging videos that will solidify the foundation of your faith.

This study is designed for people of all ages and would be perfect to do as a family with children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above! Each week will consist of two short (and very fun) videos with discussion around questions like *Who is God?*, *Why is there evil?*, *Who is Jesus?*, *What is salvation?*, *Who is the Holy Spirit?*, *What is the church?*, *What is our future?*, and more! There will also be roughly 10 easy pages to read each week.

Led by Pastor Andy and Minister of Discipleship, Bonnie Abel, this journey group is a great opportunity to root your faith in the essentials. We're offering this study online to make it convenient for anyone to participate! Contact [andy@troymc.org](mailto:andy@troymc.org) or [bonnie@troymc.org](mailto:bonnie@troymc.org) to sign up and receive the participant's workbook (suggested donation of \$10).





GriefShare meetings will begin Thursday, September 2.

Contact [christine@troyumc.org](mailto:christine@troyumc.org) or [dan@troyumc.org](mailto:dan@troyumc.org) for more information about GriefShare meetings at Troy UMC.

Visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for more information about this grief support group. New attendees are always welcome.

### A Word of Thanks from the United Methodist Women

The Troy UMW thanks all who participated in our virtual Spaghetti 2 Share dinner this year. Your donations make our mission initiatives possible. We appreciate your support!

### Part-Time Custodian Position Open

- Approximately 10-15 hours per week
- Mainly weeknights and weekends
- Reply to [jobs@troyumc.org](mailto:jobs@troyumc.org) or call 618-667-6241

## SERVE

In preparation for the tabernacle exhibit, we're holding a work day at the fields on Saturday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to Noon. To make it a more hospitable space for visitors, we will do extra cleaning in the concession stand building and cleanup of the grounds and parking lot areas.

If you would like to help, please contact the church office: [sharie@troyumc.org](mailto:sharie@troyumc.org) or 618-667-6241.

## JOURNEY KIDS

Starting July 11, we will be offering children's ministry during the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. FLC worship hours. Nursery is available during the 9, 10:15, and 10:45 worship hours.



### Vacation Bible School | July 12-16, 9 a.m. to Noon

You don't want to miss out on in-person VBS this July! Mornings will be filled with song, dance, faith lessons, crafts, recreational activities, missions, and snacks.

Please register your kid(s) for VBS at [myvbs.org](http://myvbs.org)/TROYUMC by Friday, July 9.



### Save the date!

- Harvest ministries back-to-school family event — August 14, 9-11 a.m.
- Watch your email for information on an August back-to-school marriage ministry date night.



MARRIED  
PEOPLE  
DATE NIGHT



## Ancient Hebrew Tabernacle Exhibit

*Tour the Old Testament Tabernacle at Troy UMC!*

July 17-25 — Daily tours from 1-7 p.m. (75 min. each)

[troytabernacle.org](http://troytabernacle.org)

We're excited to bring this traveling tabernacle to our community! Messiah's Mansion has always generated an overwhelming response in the communities they visit, and we believe it will be a powerful way to spark or strengthen faith in our community here in Troy.

However, **it takes a tribe of volunteers to set up this tabernacle** as it did the ancient Israelites in the wilderness! There are opportunities to help set up and take down the exhibit, as well as support roles on tour days. Tour day volunteer roles include parking attendants, greeters, prayer team, and survey team. You can find signups on our website at [troyumc.org/events](http://troyumc.org/events) or on the church app.

*Photos from top-left to bottom-right: the Holy Place exterior, touring the exhibit, the High Priest and the Ark of the Covenant, tabernacle furnishings.*





# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

Troy UMC's 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are active and participating together this summer with weekly Wednesday outings, mission trips, and camps! Students are invited to journey with Jesus, make new friends, share common experiences, and serve others through missions. Here are NLSM's July plans!

## 2021 SUMMER WEDNESDAY SERIES

Outdoor recreation is the theme for July! Test your skills with the 9-hole disc golf course in the Tri-Township Park, tour the traveling ancient Hebrew tabernacle life-size exhibit, and enjoy a bike ride on the beautiful Madison County Transit's bikeway trails with a stop for a cold treat at Annie's Frozen Custard!

Mary Poppins floated off The Munny modified schedule this summer, so we are opting for *"Get on Your Feet"* on Sunday, August 22 – a jukebox musical based on the lives and music of Gloria & Emilio Estefan.

### July 2021 Wednesdays

July 7*	Frisbee Golf	Tri-Township Park, Troy
July 14	TBA — event plans a work-in-progress	Meet at church at 5:15 p.m. to ride the bus
July 21*	Messiah's Mansion Exhibit	Troy Methodist Fields
July 28*	Bike Ride & Annie's Frozen Custard	Watershed Nature Center, Edwardsville

*\* No church bus — please meet at 5:30 p.m. at the location*

You can find summer series details and registration forms at [troyumc.org/students](http://troyumc.org/students).

## JR. HIGH ALIVE CAMP! for 6th-8th grade students

One-day camp on Friday, July 16, or Saturday, July 17

Beulah Holiness Camp in Eldorado, IL | times/costs TBA

"Songs in the Key of Life" — Dive into songs we've heard on the radio or in church and find how the lyrics might connect to Scripture. Psalm 46:10 encourages us to take time to be with God and to listen to what God may be speaking to us, especially through song!

## PARENTS & STUDENTS

Starting July 1, the NLSM group is switching to new texting and email services. These changes enable us to use our communication tools more effectively.

If you notice a disruption in student ministry communications, please contact Rev. Kurt Stone by email at [kurt@troyumc.org](mailto:kurt@troyumc.org) or by text/call at 618-407-7586.

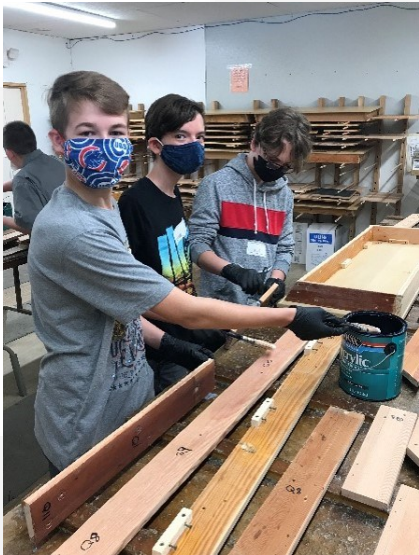


Above: Dinner at Taqueria Z, Edwardsville, IL  
Right: The St. Louis Wheel





**Middle School Student Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center**  
Students assembled 700 personal dignity kits, varnished 8 desks, sanded 10 desks, and donated 4 bikes!  
We enjoyed dinner at Mario's Italian Restaurant and dessert at the Twistee Treat!





**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 Traditional Worship Arts  
Emily Ottwein

\*Director of Children's Ministry  
Christine Lippert

\*Director of Communications  
Anna Belmonte

\*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  
Mike Rogier

\*Production Coordinator  
Josh Case

Worship Tech Coordinator  
Nick Tipton

Custodians  
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone,  
Noah Durbin

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

### Connect with us!

@troyumc



## JULY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
July 4	Summer Musical Celebration (see front page)
July 10	Fields Work Day (see page 4)
July 10	Eads String Quartet Concert at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center
July 11	<i>The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith</i> study begins (see page 3)
July 12-16	Vacation Bible School (see page 4)
July 14-15	Tabernacle Setup — <i>volunteers needed!</i>
July 17-25	Life-size Tabernacle Exhibit, Presented by Messiah's Mansion (see page 5) — <i>volunteers needed!</i>
July 20-22	1st Step Preschool Camp (see <a href="http://troyumc.org/1ststep">troyumc.org/1ststep</a> )
July 26	Tabernacle Takedown — <i>volunteers needed!</i>

# REACH

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