



# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

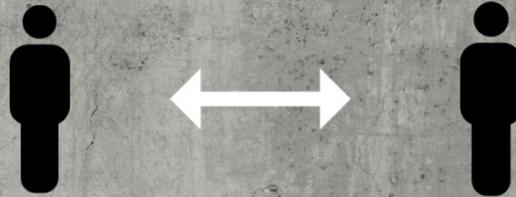
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# CONTAGIOUS

## A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS



### Cancellations

All in-person church activities are canceled until Monday, May 11, except for staff and other essential decision-making meetings. We will keep you up-to-date as we learn more.

### Weekly Online Worship at 10 a.m.

Sunday mornings, we're live-streaming a blended (modern & traditional) worship service at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live, OnlineChurch, and YouTube. Tune in every week, and invite a friend!

You can access these platforms, online giving, the connection card, and more at [troyumc.org/online](http://troyumc.org/online).

Note: ALL live streams can be accessed at [tumc.freeonlinechurch.com/live](http://tumc.freeonlinechurch.com/live).

### Message Schedule

- April 19 – Contagious Humility
- April 26 – Contagious Faith
- May 3 – Contagious Joy
- May 10 – Contagious Contentment

What if being contagious was a good thing? No, not a virus, but your relationship with God! Are you "contagious"? Do others catch what your life emanates?

Despite being only four chapters long, Philippians is a powerful book that contains the contagious nature of Paul's faith. He encourages these new followers of Jesus to follow him as he follows Christ (3:17).

This series is a study in catching the contagious nature of Paul's faith so we can become Contagious Christians ourselves!



# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

## Postponement of Denominational Gatherings

It seems like everything in-person is on “hold” these days: school, church, sports, parties, travel, etc. Add to that list denominational decision-making gatherings! In the last few weeks the following conferences have been postponed until new dates can safely be determined:

- **General Conference** was to be held May 5-15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 850+ delegates from around the globe were to convene to set the direction of our entire denomination. Central to this particular General Conference was the proposed plan of separation referred to as the “Protocol.” If you can think back to January and February (it seems like ages ago), I spent several weeks explaining the background and possibilities. Now it seems this proposal will not see an action until General Conference convenes sometime in 2021, tentatively August 31-September 10, 2021.
- **Annual Conference** is the annual meeting of representatives from every church in our conference (the Illinois Great Rivers Conference) which makes up the southern two-thirds of Illinois. It was to be held on June 4-6 but has been rescheduled for August 14-15 in Peoria, Illinois. In this abbreviated session, we will approve a 2021 budget, fix the already-made appointments, ordain new elders and deacons, and recognize retirees.
- **Jurisdictional Conference** occurs after every regular four-year cycle of General Conference. There are five different regional jurisdictions in the United States, and we belong to the North Central Jurisdiction. This gathering was to take place from July 15-18 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, but will be rescheduled to occur after General Conference meets. The primary role of the Jurisdictional Conference is to elect and appoint bishops. We were set to elect at least one new bishop this year.

What does this mean? Well, first, it means **I was wrong!** I shared that it was probable that there would be a denominational split next month, either through legislation or non-legislatively. As it is, even that has been put on hold. This gives us more time to pray for God’s will to be done and for the delegates who will be making such important decisions. In the meantime, we at Troy United Methodist Church will continue everything we can do to invite people on a journey with Jesus – albeit, with some new and innovative methods!

Faithfully,

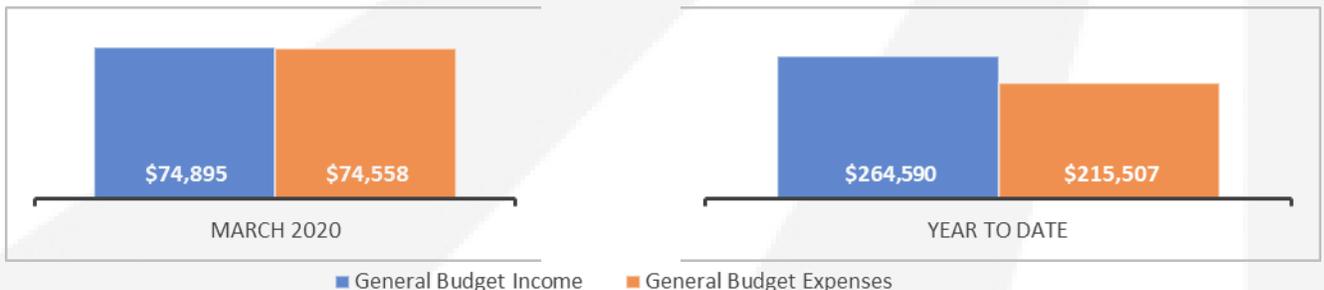
Andy



Students and the women’s Bible study meeting via Zoom.

## STRATEGIC STATS

### General Budget



# JOURNEY KIDS

If you have children or grandchildren or know someone caring for kids during this stay-at-home order, connect with the Children's Ministry on Facebook @tumcchildrensministry and Instagram @troyumcchildren. Send me ([christine@troyumc.org](mailto:christine@troyumc.org)) your email address so you can get our newsletters.

Here's how we are bringing our Sunday School lessons into your home during these unusual times:

- **Saturday mornings**, you'll get a newsletter with video links and lessons for Preschool, Elementary, and preteen kids.
- **Monday mornings**, you'll get a newsletter with activities for all ages to carry Sunday's lesson throughout the week.
- **Throughout the week**, we share daily activities on social media, parent resources, and a weekly project with a chance to win prizes for your family.
- **For preschoolers**, we have occasional fun activities with Owlle. He sometimes reads bedtime stories or teaches your child the monthly memory verse.

Don't let your kids miss out on any step in their journey with Jesus! If you need any help, please reach out to me.

# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

While we are unable to meet in-person, Troy UMC students are meeting virtually via Zoom.

- **Youth Group and Small Groups** are gathering online each Wednesday Night.
- The **Confirmation Class** instructional sessions are continuing on Sunday Nights.

Students and parents – to stay connected with New Life Student Ministry:

1. Receive group text notifications from me by texting 'NLSM' to 40650.
2. Email or text me your student and parent email addresses so we can update the church database.
3. Call me with your requests for pastoral care and support.

Rev. Kurt Stone

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

(618) 407-7586

# HOW TO STAY CONNECTED ONLINE



## Participate in Sunday live streams

Join online worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and share who's watching with you. Better yet, send a sofa selfie so we can see each other's faces!

Stay engaged in the service by singing along, reading from your Bible, and commenting.



## Join groups throughout the week

There's no better time to get plugged into a Journey Group! Every weekday afternoon, tune in to Facebook Live at 4:16 for a time of teaching, worship, encouragement, and prayer.



## Share community with others

Inviting people to church has never been easier! Share the Facebook live streams, start Watch Parties, or personally invite people to join in.

Let's bless others by inviting them to experience truth, hope, and joy!



## Be constant in prayer

Join us in prayer for the people on the "front lines" of this pandemic.

Pray for our families, church, community, nation, and world.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

- Romans 12:12



## Remain generous

Let's continue to cultivate a generous spirit before God and others, giving God our first and best and trusting that He supplies every need of ours (Philippians 4:19).

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

## Staff

- \*Senior Pastor  
Andy Adams
- \*Associate Pastor of Outreach and Missions  
David Roderick
- \*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
- \*St. Jacob Ministry Leader  
Clint Benesh
- \*Director of 1st Step Learning Center  
Lisa Rayle
- \*Office Manager  
Sharie Meyer
- \*Administrative Assistant  
Courtney Bettis
- \*Accompanist  
Mike Rogier
- \*Sound Technician  
Josh Case
- Worship Tech Coordinator  
Nick Tipton
- \*Ministry Intern  
Bonnie Abel
- Custodians  
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone,  
Noah Durbin
- \*Staff E-mail [firstname]@troyumc.org

## Connect with us!

@troyumc



# MINISTRY UPDATE

Troy United Methodist Church Family,

Since last month, a lot of things have changed in our world and in our church. I wanted to share some of the key updates. Our bishop has suspended all in-person gatherings until further notice. We have permission from the state and our bishop to meet with 10 or fewer people to provide our online worship services. Here at Troy UMC, we've canceled all in-person activity through May 10. We're hoping and praying that we can begin gathering after then, but we don't know. Our staff team will keep you up-to-date as we learn more.

These last few weeks have been hard on all of us, and we've all made sacrifices on some level. Whenever there are changes, there's loss, and when there's loss, we often experience some form of grief. We're all processing this "quarantine" differently; I encourage you to give yourself and others grace and space to grieve. Let's do our best to receive God's love and extend it to others.

**But let's not forget our mission of inviting people on a journey with Jesus.** Though the methods are different, the mission is the same. I applaud our staff team for stepping up to the challenge and rethinking the way we help people connect, grow, serve, share, and worship. If you get the chance, I encourage you to express your gratitude to them.

I'm also thankful for how we've been able to worship together in a unique way! We're essentially having a blended service every Sunday with our entire church family, even from St. Jacob and Worden, incorporating music and elements from our FLC and Sanctuary services. This isn't an ideal situation, but there have been some unique blessings, too. I've loved our online interactions and the joy you express toward one another. **Thank you for encouraging your church family during this challenging time!**

Our staff have been making phone calls to try to stay connected with you and support you any way we can, but if you're feeling disconnected, please don't hesitate to call or email us. We will pray for you and help meet whatever needs we can. I also encourage you to get connected by tuning in to our daily 4:16 p.m. Facebook Live streams, joining a journey group, and, of course, participating in Sunday morning worship.

**A brief health update:** some of our church folks have been sick — some fearing they may have COVID-19, others potentially exposed to the virus, and, sadly, one of our older members has been diagnosed with the virus. These needs are shared on our prayer chain, but I ask all of you to join me in praying for these families and for our entire church, community, region, nation, and world. We're especially praying for those on the front lines who risk exposure every day to provide essential services. We may feel helpless, but our God is not.

Lastly, I want to thank you for mailing in your offering or giving online. We were about \$15,000 under our expected offering in March, which we can survive for awhile. I ask that, if your income is stable, you **please continue giving generously**. If your income isn't stable, do what you can and reach out to us for any extra support we can give.

I close with Paul's words to the Colossians: *"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him."* — Colossians 2:2-6

Faithfully,

Andy Adams  
Senior Pastor



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