



REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

OCTOBER 2021
VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 10

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#31DaysofKindness

This month, our church is going to flood the City of Troy with a tidal wave of kindness — will you join us?

The past couple years have taken a toll on each of us, and it can make people hard and bitter. We believe, with the power of God's Spirit, that we can begin to soften hearts in our community.

How? **Through 31 Days of Kindness.** We invite you to do a simple act of kindness every day during the month of October. In this newsletter, you'll find a schedule you can follow every day of the month. We will also have cards you can pick up at church to hand out when you do your act of kindness so they know what church you're from!

Begin praying for God to begin a revolution in our church, that we might share the loving-kindness of Jesus with our community in simple, but potentially heart-changing ways.

Learn more about 31 Days of Kindness on pages 3-5!



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
Masks and social distancing are strongly recommended but not required.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

Hebrews: Endure

We are almost to the end of the inspiring book of Hebrews! The first 11 chapters hold nothing back in encouraging us to hold fast to our faith in Jesus. We are given reason after reason why we should hold fast, all summarized in the truth that Jesus is greater than anyone before, and, if we remain true to His covenant with us, then we will inherit God's promised rest for our souls.

Yes, there have been pointed and convicting warnings along the way, but we've also been inspired by the faith of those who have gone before us.

As this exhortation concludes, we will hear a final appeal to endure in our faith with some very practical teaching about how to do so. Join us for this final message series in Hebrews and be equipped, no matter what difficulties you may face, to endure to the end.

October 17 – With Eyes on Jesus – Study Hebrews 12:1-17

October 24 – With Joy – Study Hebrews 12:18-29

October 31 – With Faithful Living – Study Hebrews 13:1-6

November 7 – With Humility – Study Hebrews 13:7-19

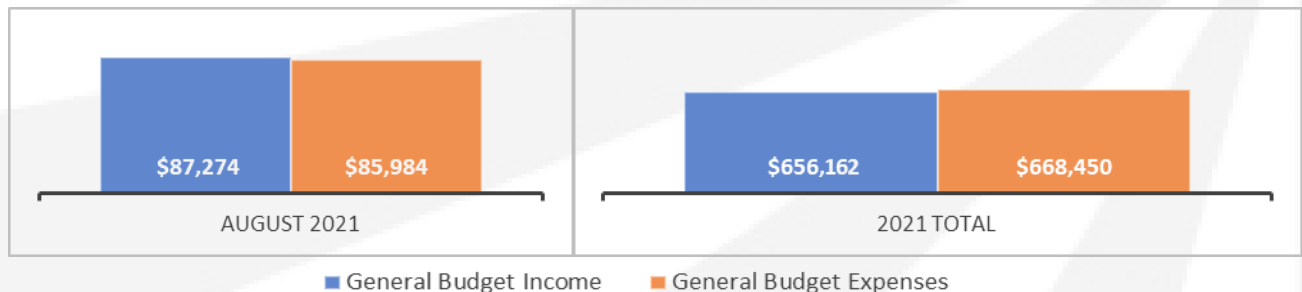
November 14 – To the End – Study Hebrews 13:20-25

Faithfully,

Andy



General Budget



Introducing...Elizabeth West!

Worship Ministry Intern

We're excited to welcome Elizabeth to Troy UMC for an internship over the school year. Elizabeth is from the Fairfield, IL, area and has been with Harvest over summers and at events. Beginning September, she began interning in Worship Ministry with Troy UMC and Harvest. You may find Elizabeth serving in the FLC worship band, occasionally leading worship, helping in tech ministry, and more!



31 Days of Kindness – Making a Difference in Troy!

Bonnie Abel, Minister of Discipleship

It started out on a hot summer afternoon at the 4-way stop in downtown Troy. A few members of the TUMC family handed out free drinks to bewildered individuals. Next we had an absolutely free car wash, and again people were perplexed. Then we provided cold drinks on a warm evening to soccer enthusiasts at the Troy Tri-Township Park, and sports fans were surprised. The first question they asked was usually, “How much do I owe you?” When we responded that it’s free, the reply that followed was, “Well, let me give you a donation then.” When we politely refused their money, the final question came, “But why? Nothing is free, right?” That’s the question that’s the most fun to answer! What is that answer? **God’s unconditional love!**

We want to continue to show God’s unconditional love through acts of kindness in the month of October during our 31 Days of Kindness. **We want to start a Kindness Revolution!** Included on the next couple pages, you will see 31 days’ worth of opportunities for YOU to be the hands and feet of God.

You might ask yourself, “Do these small acts of kindness really make a difference?” Admittedly, I’ve asked myself those same questions over the years. Does smiling at a stranger matter? Does complimenting the cashier on her earrings matter? Does paying for the person in the drive thru behind me matter? As I pondered the upcoming 31 Days of Kindness, a story came to mind that I’d like to share.

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?” The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up, and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die.” “Son,” the man said, “don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t make a difference!” After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, “I made a difference for that one.”

For 31 days, each of us has the opportunity to make a difference. Even if we each bless just one person, that’s hundreds of people feeling the love of Christ in a tangible way every day! Are you ready to join the Kindness Revolution?

Caring for Others Helps You

By Pastor Dan

Back before the COVID crisis, there was a study done that proved volunteering has a positive effect on us both mentally and physically. Dr. Suzanne Richards at the University of Exeter Medical School reviewed 40 studies over a 20-year period on a link between volunteering and health. The study found that volunteering is associated with lower depression, increased well-being, and a 22% reduction in the risk of dying. Also, people who volunteer are “healthier and wealthier” than people who don’t.

Why is volunteering good for people’s health?

1. Any activity is good activity. Volunteering means getting off the couch and out of the house, so it makes us stronger and more physically fit. More physically fit people tend to deal with stress better, which can help them live longer lives.
2. Social connections are good for us. We are hard-wired for face-to-face contact that includes lots of touch, eye contact, and smiles (that’s why COVID has been so hard for so many people). Such interactions release a hormone called oxytocin, which helps us to bond and care for others, and also helps us to handle stress better. Volunteering is a good way to meet others, make friends, and bond over common beliefs and goals.
3. It just feels good. Volunteering can give us a deep sense of happiness, which is also associated with longer and healthier lives.

Who is most likely to benefit from volunteering?







1. Volunteering only has health benefits for people who do it in order to help others, rather than to help themselves. So please pick a cause you care about and do it with all your heart.
2. Volunteering is better for people of faith, perhaps because by volunteering they are affirming their most cherished beliefs to help and serve others.
3. Volunteering can actually be harmful for people who volunteer too much. If your volunteer job is starting to become more of a burden than a blessing, it’s time to scale back.

Volunteering won’t help us to live forever, but if you want to live a longer, happier, and healthier life, then get out there and share your time with those who need it.

There are LOTS of ways you can volunteer here at Troy UMC. Contact any staff person for areas you can be of help to others. For info on our Care Ministry, please contact dan@troyumc.org.

31 Days of Kindness

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Community Prayer Drive DRIVE THRU FRIDAY	2 DRINK GIVEAWAY – Downtown 4-Way Stop
3 Dunkin Drive Thru GIVEAWAY 	4 Aspen Creek Nursing Home	5 Police Department & City Hall	6 TRI-TOWNSHIP LIBRARY 	7 Medical/Health Facilities	8 DRIVE THRU FRIDAY	9 ICE CREAM GIVEAWAY City Scoops 
10 Dunkin Drive Thru GIVEAWAY	11 Liberty Square Retirement Community	12 Fire Department & EMT	13 MINISTRIES UNLIMITED	14 Banks/Credit Unions	15 DRIVE THRU FRIDAY	16 WINDOW WASHING
17 Dunkin Drive Thru GIVEAWAY 	18 Richeson's Funeral Home	19 Chamber of Commerce	20 TROY PRESCHOOLS 	21 Barber Shops & Beauticians	22 DRIVE THRU FRIDAY	23 LEAF RAKING 
24 Dunkin Drive Thru GIVEAWAY	25 The Fountains of Troy – Morningside	26 Parks & Rec	27 TROY CHURCHES	28 Mechanics & Car Dealerships	29 DRIVE THRU FRIDAY	30 TANK OF GAS GIVEAWAY Casey's Gas Station
31 TRUNK OR TREAT 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.						

Take pictures and share your experience by using the hashtag #31DaysofKindness. Let's fill the online space with kindness as well!

Let's get this kindness party started!

Let's PRAY!

OCTOBER 1st we will be starting our 31 Days of Kindness with a Prayer Drive! Get in your car and go for a drive around Troy. Pray for each house, each business, each community. Pray as the Spirit leads you. Pray that the next 31 days will be filled with moments that soften the hearts of the individuals in the Troy community...our neighbors. Pray that God moves in a mighty way and that he uses YOU to do it!

WEEKLY LAYOUT

FRIDAY

Every Friday you are invited to eat at one of the drive-thru restaurants in Troy and to pay for the person behind you in line at the drive-thru.

SATURDAY

Sign up for one, two, or all of the **Saturday Serve Events!** All are welcome to attend. Sign up through the Sign-Up Genius links provided in the weekly eReach or email Bonnie at bonnie@troyumc.org.

10/2 DRINK GIVEAWAY – Downtown 4-way stop

10/9 ICE CREAM GIVEAWAY – City Scoops

10/16 WINDOW WASHING – Casey's Gas Station

10/23 LEAF RAKING – Area communities

10/30 TANK OF GAS GIVEAWAY – Casey's Gas Station

SUNDAY

- **FIRST Sunday – MINISTRIES UNLIMITED** – This first week we will be collecting paper products for Ministries Unlimited. Bring your donations back next Sunday!
- **SECOND Sunday** – Drop off your Ministries Unlimited paper products at the FLC or Sanctuary entryway. Take this second week to collect gift cards for the area preschools from either: Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Target, or the Teacher's Store in O'Fallon. No amount is too small! We will distribute them evenly to the **TROY PRESCHOOLS**.
- **THIRD Sunday** – Drop off your gift cards at the FLC or Sanctuary entryway. Take this third week to collect Casey's gift cards. Again, no amount is too small! We will utilize these gift cards on Saturday, October 30 for our **TANK OF GAS GIVEAWAY!** If you'd like to be a part of that, please sign up via Sign-Up Genius links in the eReach or email bonnie@troyumc.org.
- **FOURTH Sunday** – Drop off your Casey's gift cards at the FLC or Sanctuary entryway. Take this fourth week to collect bags of candy for **TRUNK OR TREAT**. ALSO – grab a card from an entryway table and use it to invite someone to Trunk or Treat next week that doesn't attend our church.
- **FIFTH Sunday** – Drop off your candy at the FLC or Sanctuary entryway.

MONDAY – TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY

We have picked specific businesses to bless. We encourage everyone to pray for that business on their calendar day. We also encourage you to hand deliver cards to the business on their day. Additionally, there is a Sign-Up Genius list. If you choose to sign up you can purchase flowers, balloons, or baked goods and deliver your gift and card to the business on their day. Feel free to be creative! Have your kids draw pictures and make crafts – this can be a family event!

THURSDAY

We have picked business/organization groups to bless. On Thursday we encourage you to go to YOUR bank, YOUR mechanic, YOUR barber (you get the point!) and bless them! Take a card, send flowers, take a meal, be creative. Show the people who serve you that you appreciate them.

There will also be cards available in the FLC and Sanctuary entryways if you would like to fill out Thank You cards on Sundays and turn them into us the week prior – we will deliver them for you!

JOURNEY KIDS

A day at the farm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021, AFTER CHURCH

Spend the afternoon with your family picking pumpkins, eating great food and having a good time down on the farm with your church friends!



Meet at Relleke farm after the 10:45am church service. The farm is 15 miles from church. (approx. 17 min drive)

Entry is free and Miss Christine will have tickets for every child at the front gate 12:15-1:00pm. The farm is open until 5:00pm.

Tickets go towards: Farm animals, goat feeding, hay rides, pyramid, pumpkin chucker, jungle maze, pumpkin painting, Korny Korral, sand art, haunted maze, pony rides, mummy run, pony hop, inflatable games, and so much more!

-The Pumpkins are always Plentiful at Relleke-

Plan on visiting one of two "Pick Your Own" patches

Good eats and sweet treats are available for purchase.

Relleke's Farm is located at 519 Sand Prairie Road in Pontoon Beach, Illinois
WWW.RELLEKEPUMPKINPATCH.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Happy Fall! As we enter the new season, we are excited to offer a couple of safe outdoor family events.
On Sunday, October 3, after the final worship service, all Troy UMC families are welcome to join us for a day on the farm. Details are on the flyer to the left.

Then, on October 31 from 4 to 6 p.m., we will gather in the FLC parking lot for Trunk or Treat. We are in need of individuals, families, ministries, or organizations to host trunks. Please consider hosting a trunk and/or donating candy for those who are hosting trunks!

For more information about the day at Relleke Farm or Trunk or Treat, please reach out to christine@troyumc.org.



Please join us for our Halloween Trunk or Treat

At Troy UMC (lower FLC parking lot)

Sunday, October 31, 2021

4:00-6:00PM

Join us for decorated trunks and yummy treats.

In case of inclement weather activities will be moved indoors to the FLC.

Troy UMC members-please contact Christine@troyumc.org if you would like to host a trunk.



NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

Troy UMC has a vibrant, active, and growing ministry with middle school and high school students! New Life Student Ministry currently serves 6th-12th grade students who gather together on Wednesday nights for Youth Group, Sunday nights for Confirmation Class, and monthly for special events. Come, join us on the journey!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

5:00-6:00 p.m.	Sr. High Praise Band	Family Life Center – led by Ryan Froidcoeur
5:30-6:00 p.m.	Jr. High Praise Band	Children's Area – led by 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.	High School Students	Family Life Center
6:50-7:45 p.m.	Middle School Students	Children's Area

Themes for October Wednesdays

"OUR BIGGEST QUESTIONS DESERVE BETTER ANSWERS": A Series about Identity, Belonging, & Purpose

October 6 Middle School — Lead with love (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

High School — I can be part of what God is doing to make the world better (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

"CHALLENGE HOW YOU THINK OF AUTHORITY" and "THE WAY YOU LIVE CAN TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN": A Series about Authority

October 13 Jesus is the example of good authority (Matthew 28:18)

October 20 You can always choose to be honorable (1 Samuel 24:3-4, 12-15)

October 27 Middle School — Lead with love (Matthew 22:36-40)
High School — Authority without love is reckless (Matthew 22:36-40)

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 2022 Confirmation Class is now forming! Confirmation is open to all 7th-grade students and any 8th-grade student who missed last year or is new to Troy UMC. The Confirmation Class meets on 5:30-7 p.m. on scheduled Sundays. Please contact Rev. Kurt Stone if you have questions about Confirmation.

October 3	Session 2: Living Together Session 3: Loving Together
Home	Session 4: Belonging Together
October 10	Session 5: The Faith of Jesus Session 6: The Early Church
October 24	Session 7: The Reformation Session 8: Wesley and the Methodists
Home	Session 9: The Growth of Methodism

SPECIAL EVENTS

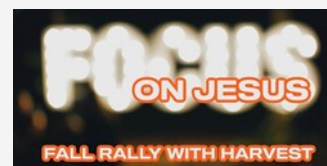
High School Service Project at the St. Louis Area Foodbank | Friday, October 8, 1:45-6 p.m.

We're taking full advantage of no school or ½ day of school for this fun trip! We will be sorting and packing food. Bring food and drink for dinner break. RSVP + no cost

Fall Rally with Harvest Ministry for ALL High School and Middle School Students at Troy United Methodist Church | Saturday, October 23, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We need to focus on Jesus. Students need to continually be invited to be put Jesus first in their lives. One awesome way to do this is to join together in a day of worship, preaching, fellowship, and sending!

RSVP + \$25 (includes all sessions and seminars, refreshment, and a Chick-Fil-A lunch — plus a free T-shirt included if registered before October 7!)



PARENTS

- Wednesday Night Youth Group, Confirmation Class, and Special Event schedules and information/registration flyers can be accessed at troyumc.org/students.
- Get student ministry updates by texting troystudents to 94000.
- Rev. Kurt Stone is available via email, texts, and phone calls: kurt@troyumc.org or (618) 407-7586.



Students Hike at Pere Marquette State Park

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 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
Mike Rogier

*Production Coordinator
Josh Case

Worship Tech Coordinator
Nick Tipton

Youth Worship Band Leader
Ryan Froidcoeur

Custodians
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone,
Liz Blevins

*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



OCTOBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
October 3	A Family Day at the Farm (see page 6)
October 8	High School Service Project (see page 7)
October 23	Fall Rally with Harvest Ministry for All Students (see pg. 7)
October 31	Trunk or Treat (see page 6)

United Methodist Women

God bless you all for your support during the annual Rummage Sale (Oct 1st and 2nd). Remember that you can support Oasis Women's Shelter by placing packaged undies or liquid detergent in the UMW collection bin when you attend a church service through the end of October.

11th Annual UMW Nut Sale

The UMW is now accepting orders for the Annual Nut Sale. All proceeds go to the many missions that the UMW sponsors (Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Oasis Women's Center, Cunningham Children's Home, Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Ministries Unlimited, Spero Family Services, and Red Bird Mission).

The one-pound bags of mammoth pecans, pecan pieces, holiday cashews, and mixed nuts are again \$11 per bag. These nuts keep well in the freezer. Plan ahead and stock up for the coming year!

Order deadline is October 3 with delivery in late October/early November. You can order by emailing Diane Jones (drasplijones@gmail.com), or fill out the form below.

Nut Order Form
 \$11 per 1-lb. bag

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Toasted, Salted Cashews: _____ #bags
 Gourmet Mixed Nuts: _____ #bags
 Mammoth Pecan Halves: _____ #bags
 Medium Pecan Pieces: _____ #bags
 Total Order Amount: \$ _____

Turn this form and payment in to the church office or mail them to Diane Jones (131 Cedar Lane, Glen Carbon, IL, 62034). Make checks payable to Troy UMW.



Troy United Methodist Church
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