



# REACH

INVITING PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

SEPTEMBER 2021  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

Strategic Stats & Hebrews: By Faith	P. 2
Fall Journey Groups	P. 3
GriefShare Session Topics	P. 4
Children's Ministry	P. 5
Student Ministry	P. 6-7
September Schedule Highlights & More	Back Page



## Sharing Faith through Kindness

Did you hear about the crazy people at the four-way stop in downtown Troy passing out free drinks in the middle of traffic? *That was us!* On Saturday, July 10, a brand-new team in our church was mobilized to bless the city of Troy with no strings attached by passing out absolutely free cold drinks on a hot day. The following Tuesday, our staff team did the same thing. When we asked people if they'd like a free drink, most were in shock! Some reached for money, which we turned away. People were pleasantly surprised to receive this small token of kindness in the name of Jesus. We gave them a little business card with our church name on one side and this note on the back: "This simple act of kindness is a small reflection of God's unconditional love for you." **Continue on next page...**

## 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

*Continued from front page...*

How would you respond if you were the recipient of such an unconditional gesture? Chances are, whether you needed a drink or not, the offer would brighten your day and evoke a smile! Maybe it would even soften your heart toward others. Furthermore, it may improve your impression of Christians and the Church.

Or what if you were the one making the offer? Maybe you'd be nervous, wondering if people would reject you. To be sure, not everyone was interested in a free drink. Some drove by without even a look. Of course, maybe they thought they'd be asked for something! But once several people responded positively, those handing out drinks were overflowing with joy. It is FUN to bless people in Jesus' name without expecting anything in return!

I would like to invite YOU, our entire church family, to join this movement of blessing our Troy community with unconditional kindness. We are calling it "Servant Evangelism" — a term I first heard in the 1990s. Servant evangelism is demonstrating the kindness of God by offering to do some act of humble service with no strings attached. It is indiscriminate in who it is showered upon with the hope that it will soften people's hearts to wonder and ask, "Why would you do this?" The answer is always, "We want to share the unconditional love of God with you in a practical way today."

Our servant evangelism team will be organizing similar kindness events in the coming months — I hope you will consider participating! You may be intimidated to talk with someone about your faith, but maybe a good step would be to share your faith by washing someone's car or handing out a free drink!

Here are two upcoming opportunities for you to bless others unconditionally:

**Saturday, August 28, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** — Absolutely Free Car Wash in the Troy UMC Sanctuary parking lot (contact Bonnie Abel at [bonnie@troyumc.org](mailto:bonnie@troyumc.org) to sign up)

**Thursday, September 9, 6–7:30 p.m.** — Free Drink Handout at Troy Township Park during soccer games (contact Beth Barbour at [bbarbour67@gmail.com](mailto:bbarbour67@gmail.com) to sign up)

Faithfully,

Andy

## Hebrews: By Faith

It's difficult to persevere when it seems like the entire world is against you. As they held fast to faith, the early Christians who first received the message of Hebrews needed to be reminded of those who faithfully endured trials before them. In our struggle, we too need to be encouraged by the faith of those who have gone before us. Join us as we kick off this inspiring series, *By Faith*.

**August 22 — The Hall of Faith** — Study Hebrews 11:1-40

**August 29 — Abel** — Study Hebrews 11:4 and reflect on Abel's story in Genesis 4:1-17

**September 5 — Noah** — Study Hebrews 11:7 and reflect on Noah's story in Genesis 6:9-19

**September 12 — Abraham** — Study Hebrews 11:8-10 and reflect on Abraham's story in Genesis 12:1-4

**September 19 — Rahab** — Study Hebrews 11:31 and reflect on Rahab's story in Joshua 2, and 6:22-25

**September 26 — Moses** — Study Hebrews 11:23-28 and reflect on Moses's story in Exodus 1-4

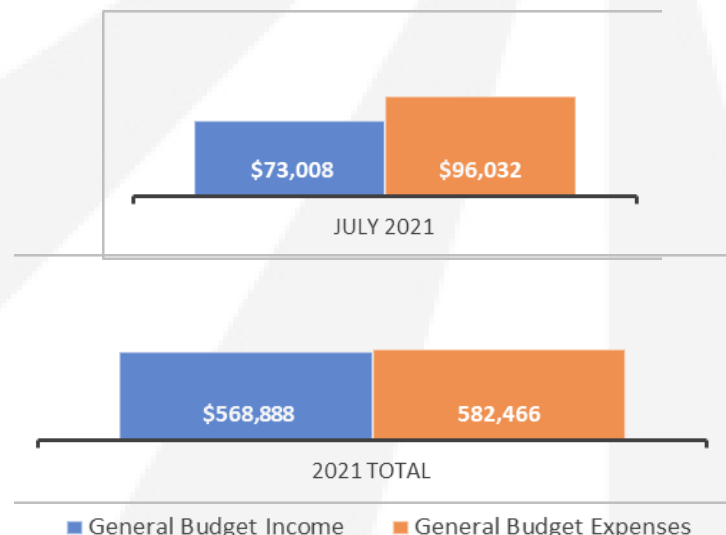
**October 3 — The Walls Fell** — Study Hebrews 11:30 and reflect on the fall of Jericho in Joshua 6:1-21

**October 10 — The Unnamed** — Study Hebrews 11:35b-40



## HEBREWS BY FAITH

### General Budget



## FALL 2021 JOURNEY GROUPS

Welcome to the fall 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 topics, 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.

### Matters of Life & Faith

Day/Time: Sunday, 8 a.m.  
Start Date: September 18  
Location: Troy UMC, Conference Room  
Leader: Rev. Kurt Stone  
Email: [kurt@troyumc.org](mailto:kurt@troyumc.org)

This class uses *The Christian Century* magazine for readings and conversations for "thinking critically and living faithfully." Also included is a gospel text each week, so don't forget your Bible! This class is ideal for 9 a.m. worship attenders.

### Generations

Day/Time: Sunday, 9 a.m.  
Location: Troy UMC, Room 241  
Leader: Jeff Johnson  
Email: [jeffjane627@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjane627@gmail.com)

This class studies books straight from the Bible. Bring your Bible and join any week!

### Sunday Evening Bible Study

Day/Time: Sunday, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Start Date: August 1  
New Study: 13 Apostles  
Location: Troy UMC, Upper Family Life Center  
Leader: Dawn Lambert  
Email: [dawn.burnett@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.burnett@gmail.com)

### SISTERS in Christ — Women's Group

Day/Time: Monday, 1-3 p.m.  
Start Date: August 30 Kick-Off Social at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center; study begins September 13  
New Study: *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa TerKeurst  
Location: Troy UMC, Sanctuary  
Leader: Deb Ellis  
Email: [debsellis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debsellis@sbcglobal.net)

We know God commands us to forgive. But how? Why? When? And are there exceptions? After over 1,000 hours of theological research, Lysa TerKeurst has discovered Scripture not only offers the truth about forgiveness that our souls desperately need, but practical ways to let go of our bound-up resentment and finally heal.

### Women's Group

Day/Time: Monday bi-weekly, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Start Date: September 13  
New Study: *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa TerKeurst  
Location: Troy UMC, Conference Room  
Leader: Sheila Hall & Julie Ford  
Cell for Sheila: 618-973-6653  
Email: [jeford5@yahoo.com](mailto:jeford5@yahoo.com)

We know God commands us to forgive. But how? Why? When? And are there exceptions? After over 1,000 hours of theological research, Lysa TerKeurst has discovered Scripture not only offers the truth about forgiveness that our souls desperately need, but practical ways to let go of our bound-up resentment and finally heal.

### Sermon Discussion Group

Day/Time: Tuesday bi-monthly, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Start Date: September 21  
Location: TBD  
Leaders: Julie Ford & Barb Buck  
Email: [jeford5@yahoo.com](mailto:jeford5@yahoo.com) / [jordanandbarb@outlook.com](mailto:jordanandbarb@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 — you are welcome to join any week!

### Faith Links

Day/Time: Friday bi-monthly, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Outdoors at participants' homes  
Leaders: Mike Loftus & Mark Kleindorfer  
Email: [mjlofty12@gmail.com](mailto:mjlofty12@gmail.com) / [makoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:makoffice@sbcglobal.net)  
This class is currently studying the New Testament. This is an ongoing class — you are welcome to join any week!

### Men's Group

Day/Time: Saturday, 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
Start Date: September 18 Kick-Off Social at 9 a.m. at Troy Township Park Pavilion 8; study begins September 25  
New Study: *The Early Church — Volume 5* by Ray Van der Laan  
Location: Troy UMC, Sanctuary  
Leader: Carl Inman  
Email: [crl2000@gmail.com](mailto:crl2000@gmail.com)

## NEW JOURNEY GROUPS

### A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World

Day/Time: Wednesday, 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
Dates: 9/1, 9/29, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15  
Location: Troy UMC, Room TBD (depends on the number of registrants)  
Leader: Andy Adams  
Email: [andy@troyumc.org](mailto:andy@troyumc.org)

This Journey Group is designed for parents of teens or pre-teens to dialog and study the book, *A Practical Guide to Culture*, by John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle. Cultural pressure is increasing, especially on our kids. But even in a world of addictions, ever-present screens, and gender-identity questions, youth can have clarity and confidence. This class/book will enable you to help your kids influence the culture, rather than let the culture change them. Contact Andy to register. Our 9/1 meeting will be an introduction with actual book discussion to begin on 9/29.

### Soul Detox

Date/Time: TBD  
Start Date: TBD  
New Study: *Soul Detox* by Craig Groeschel  
Location: Participants' homes  
Leader: Rick Lechner  
Email or Text: [ricklechnerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:ricklechnerjr@yahoo.com) / 406-799-3019  
As standards of conduct continue to erode in our shockproof world, we must fight the soul pollution threatening our health, our faith, and our witness to others. Without even knowing it, people willingly inhale second-hand toxins poisoning their relationship with God and stunting their spiritual growth. Through concise teaching and honest humor, *Soul Detox* provides a source of inspiration and encouragement for a faith-filled lifestyle that will keep you free from spiritual toxins.

### Young Adult Bible Study - beginning in October!

Day/Time: Tuesday or Thursday evenings (TBD)  
Start Date: October (date TBD)  
Leader: Jeff Johnson  
Contact: [jeffjane627@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjane627@gmail.com)  
Jeff Johnson, who has led Bible studies for 25+ years, will be offering his leadership to the next generation of Christians beginning in October. Young adults, contact Jeff or the church office to share your interest. In September, we will be gathering information to determine the time and day of the group, as well as where to start in the Bible. This would be a great opportunity to meet other young adults and study the Bible with a seasoned veteran!





## **GriefShare Sessions Begin September 2, 5-7 p.m.**

Your group will watch a video seminar on DVD. The GriefShare videos cover topics essential to your recovery from the hurt of grief and loss. The videos are produced in a compelling television magazine format and feature interviews with grief recovery experts, mini-dramas, on-location video, and real-life stories of people who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Here is a snapshot of key themes found in each of the GriefShare session videos:

### **1. Is This Normal? (Sept. 2)**

- You'll discover why your grief experience
- Happy is harder than you imagined
- Why the intensity and duration of your emotions are normal and appropriate
- Despite how you feel right now, there is reason for hope

### **2. Challenges of Grief (Sept. 9)**

- You'll learn more eye-opening reasons why your pain is so overwhelming
- Some of the overlooked, yet common, effects grief has on your mind, body, and spirit
- How to get things done when you don't feel like you have any energy

### **3. The Journey of Grief – Part One & Two (Sept. 16)**

- You'll learn helpful goals to set on your journey of grief
- How to deal with those who try to rush you through your grief
- How long the journey of grief typically lasts
- You'll learn why it's important to put effort into your healing
- How the events surrounding your loved one's death affect your grief
- The best ways to deal with your loved one's belongings

### **Sept. 23 – NO MEETING**

### **4. Grief and Your Relationships (Sept. 30)**

- You'll find out how the death of a loved one affects your friendships
- Why solitude can be a blessing and a curse
- How to deal with friends who don't understand your grief

### **5. Why? (Oct. 7)**

- This session demonstrates that God wants you to share your feelings with Him
- Why being honest with God is an expression of faith
- What God has to say to you about your "why" questions

### **6. Guilt and Anger (Oct. 14)**

- You'll learn how to deal with false guilt
- How to grieve conflicted relationships
- How to handle grief-related anger

### **7. Complicating Factors (Oct. 21)**

- You'll begin to see how traumatic experiences affect grief
- How to deal with nightmares and flashbacks
- How your thinking affects your emotions

### **8. Stuck (Oct. 28)**

- You'll discover how to prevent getting stuck in grief
- Common misconceptions that hinder healing
- Why your path to healing isn't always smooth

### **9. Lessons of Grief – Part One & Two (Nov. 4)**

- You'll become aware of an often-overlooked reason that grief is so painful
- Why going to church can be so difficult
- The benefits of helping others
- This session provides a more complete picture of who you are now that your loved one is gone
- Why no one grieves perfectly
- What grief can teach you about relationships

### **10. Heaven (Nov. 11)**

- Session 12 answers questions about heaven and the afterlife, such as what heaven is like
- Whether you should communicate with your deceased loved one
- Whether near-death experiences are reliable descriptions of heaven
- And many more

### **11. What Do I Live for Now? (Nov. 18)**

- You'll learn why moving forward is a necessity
- Why it's a process
- Why peace and pain will always coexist

# JOURNEY KIDS

Our prayers are with students, families, and school staff as they have returned to school these past couple of weeks. We hosted a back-to-school family event with entertainment and lessons by Harvest Ministries. We continue to grow in our 9 and 10:45 children's ministry hours. We are always looking for help with tech, greeting, leading, and assisting small groups and in our nursery. This includes YOUTH! The kids love learning alongside their peers. Please reach out to [christine@troyumc.org](mailto:christine@troyumc.org) if you are interested in serving. Thank you to those who have been serving since we returned to in-person worship! Your dedication to our ministry and kids does not go unnoticed.

During the back-to-school family event, **we introduced a new parenting curriculum by Think Orange called Phase**. These materials are available in the children's ministry area. Most cards and brochures are free, but we ask for a donation for the large books. These materials are separated by age and grade and are not just for parents. These are valuable resources for babysitters, educators, caregivers, and grandparents. Much thanks to our United Methodist Women for sponsoring the materials that fill this resource center.

In July, we had an amazing VBS with over 100 kids and over 40 volunteers! What a fun week learning about confidence. We hope it helps give our kids confidence as they return to school this fall. **Our next big event is Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 31**, which will be hosted in the lower FLC parking lot like last year. The community will trunk or treat from 4 to 6 p.m. We can never have enough trunks! If you would like to host a trunk, please reach out to [christine@troyumc.org](mailto:christine@troyumc.org). Last year, we gave out gift cards to the top three trunks! There was even a youth-decorated award! The more unique your trunk the better!

By next month's newsletter, we will have a couple more holiday events in the books, including a kids' Thanksgiving/Gratefulness event and a Miracle of Jesus family event — much like the Easter Rise Up event, it will be interactive stations in the FLC for the entire family to participate in.

*Photos: Back-to-School Family Event*



**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](mailto:Christine@troyumc.org) if you would like to host a trunk.**



# NEW LIFE STUDENT MINISTRY

New Life Student Ministry at Troy United Methodist Church serves all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are invited on a journey with Jesus, with opportunities to connect to God and our faith community, grow into a wholehearted follower of Jesus, serve with their God-given gifts and passions, share God's love regionally and globally, and worship God in everything they say and do.

September includes some outdoor recreation, Wednesday Night Youth Group in full swing, and Confirmation 2022 Orientation. Come, join us on the journey of faith!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP (in person or online)

### Wednesday Night Schedule

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.	Student Small Groups	

### Themes for September Wednesdays

*"YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES": A Series about Change*

September 1      Isaiah 43:2; John 16:33      God is with you.

September 8      James 1:2-4      God can use change to make you stronger.

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

September 15      Matthew 4:18-20      Following Jesus can help answer our biggest questions.

September 22      John 6:1-15      Jesus says I am enough.

September 29      Acts 16:15-16      I belong with God and with God's people.

## SPECIAL EVENT: Hike the Trails at Pere Marquette State Park | Sunday, September 12, from 11:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

See spectacular views of the Illinois River atop the towering bluffs!

Bring a sack lunch with drink.

Student RSVP required; no cost.

## 2022 Confirmation Class Orientation | Sunday, September 19, 5:30-7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Confirmation is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who missed last year or is new to Troy UMC. Through confirmation, we renew the covenant made at our baptism and focus on our discipleship – becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ by affirming and witnessing to our faith. The Confirmation Class meets on 5:30 -7 p.m. on scheduled Sundays. Please contact Rev. Kurt Stone ([kurt@troyumc.org](mailto:kurt@troyumc.org)) to register for Orientation, or if you have any Confirmation questions.

### PARENTS

- Wednesday Night Youth Group, Confirmation Class, and Special Event schedules and information/registration flyers can be accessed at [troyumc.org/students](http://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](mailto:kurt@troyumc.org) or (618) 407-7586.



*Students at the Tabernacle Exhibit by  
Messiah's Mansion*

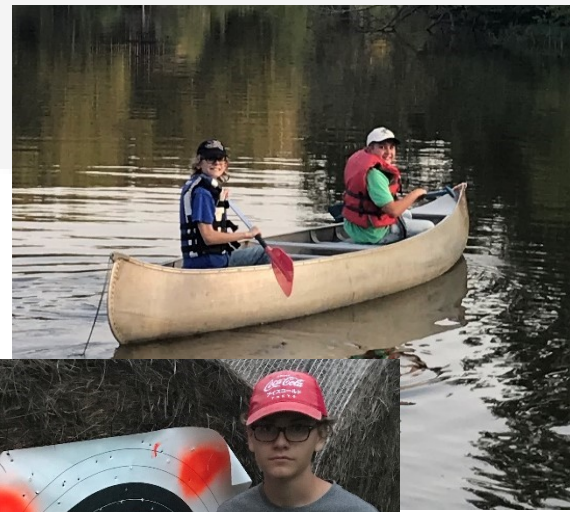
*The Axe House*



*Madison County Bike Ride*



*Paddle, Ride, Fire, & Pray at The Dubois Center*



**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

Youth Worship Band Leader  
Ryan Froidcoeur

Custodians  
David Barr, Loren Fear, Penny Stone

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

### Connect with us!

@troyumc



## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Event
Sept. 1	Kids' Choir Begins (contact <a href="mailto:emily@troyumc.org">emily@troyumc.org</a> )
Sept. 2	GriefShare Begins (see page 4)
Sept. 4	Celebration of Life Service (Rinkels)
Sept. 9	Hand Out Free Drinks at Tri-Township Park (see page 2)
Sept. 11	Emergency Response Training (see below)
Sept. 12	Student Hike at Pere Marquette State Park (see page 6)
Sept. 19	2022 Confirmation Class Orientation (see page 6)

*The family of Paul Nelson wishes to thank the congregation for your love and support following Paul's passing. We appreciate the many prayers, cards, and calls we have received. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring church family.*

### Emergency Response Training | Saturday, September 11

Emergency Response Training will take place on Saturday, September 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The price is \$40, which includes training materials, lunch, background check, t-shirt, and badging. You can find the link to the registration page at the bottom of the Disaster Response page at [igrc.org/disasterresponse](http://igrc.org/disasterresponse).

Please note that you may pay online by PayPal, credit card, and debit card. You may also pay by check by sending it to Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Attn: Christy, PO Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794. The deadline for registration is September 6.

### Update from the United Methodist Women

"Lay up your treasures in heaven"! Take advantage of the UMW Rummage Sale to transform your worldly treasures into support for the needy. Donate items you are no longer using on the afternoon of September 30 or the morning of October 1. Then come to purchase fun and useful items from 4 to 7 p.m. on October 1 or 8 a.m. to Noon on October 2.

Fall is also the UMW annual Undies Drive for the women and children at the Oasis Shelter for battered women

- All donations must be new and in the package.
- Any size or style is welcome.
- You may also donate large bottles of laundry detergent.

Bring your donation to church service and leave it in the narthex UMW donation bin, or bring it to the church office on weekdays. Please contact Diane Jones with any questions at 288-7254.



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

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