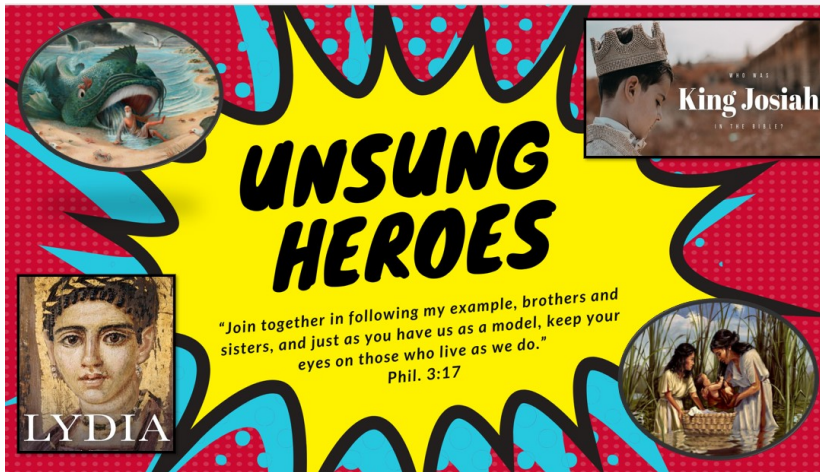


August Tidings

August 1 2023
Volume 19, Issue 8

Troy First UMC



Inside this issue

VBS.....	2
Outreach & Opportunities to Serve	3
Church Staff.....	3
Finance Update	4
Birthday/Anni	5
Music Update.....	6,7
July in Review	8

Dear Friends

We kick off August here at Troy First with Vacation Bible School. It's Heroes Hotline for the week... Stop by (if you dare) and peek in as our children learn that true Heroes "follow Jesus, help others work together, listen to God and show grace." Our sermon series for the month of August continues the "Heroes" theme, but we will be focusing on UnSung Heroes of the Bible. We'll be looking at folks from the New and Old Testament who may not get as much attention as they deserve. We all know the story of Moses, sent down the river in a basket when he was just a baby. Moses would go on to do heroic things for sure, but it is his sister Miriam, who is the unsung hero of that story. On August 13 we look at Jonah in a new way... his story is a lot more than just that of a man swallowed by a whale. On August 20 we will venture into the story of one of my favorite New Testament characters, Lydia, the business woman who found Christ and established the church at Philippi. We end the month looking at King Josiah. How many of you know his story? He became King at the age of 8 and he brought the nation of Israel back under the Law of Moses. And, I'm asking you to think of the UnSung Heroes of our church. You know. I'm talking about those people who work behind the scenes with very little if any recognition. Please email (at troyfirstumc@gmail.com) to let me know the stories about the UnSung Heroes of our church. Remember this is UnSung heroes. We want to shine a light on those who are not often recognized.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Myra

VBS: Meet our Heroes

Save the Date

Aug. 4 "Children of Eden" musical. Warren Community Center. - Youth Outing at 7pm. The musical is also Aug 5 at 2 & at pm and Aug. 6 at 2pm

Aug. 5: Troy High Band Car Wash 9-2m

Aug.6: Community Bottle & Can Drive (bring cans to church)

Aug. 11: Blood Drive 10-4pm.

Aug 26: : Celebration of Life for Joyce Bauman. Visitation at noon; service at 1pm; luncheon at 2pm.



2



Learning how to be true heroes! Our Bible Verse for the week:

Let's strive for things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.

2

Romans 14:19

Outreach Updates

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Ice Cream Social at Lighthouse a success: those who purchased supplies for the ice cream party and to those who transported, served and cleaned up at Lighthouse. The weather did not cooperate for outside activities, but everyone at Lighthouse seemed to enjoy and were very grateful. Thanks again.



Join Us for Missions: Monday September 11
12-3:30pm

Troy 1st will be going to work at the Lighthouse Food Pantry in Pontiac every month beginning on Monday, September 11 12-3:30. Sign-ups will begin on Sunday, August 20th. Questions can be directed to Robin Ostergaard.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SHOOT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22

2 - 8 PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

SIGN UP SUNDAYS IN THE CLC

CONTACT LISA IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE ANY OF THESE
TIMES AND NEED TO ARRANGE A DIFFERENT TIME

Our Staff

Rev. Myra Moreland

Pastor

pastormyra8@gmail.com
248-835-5873

Rev. George Marck

Associate Pastor

ac8550@wayne.edu
248-766-8868

Rev. Chuck Sonquist

*Associate Pastor of
Pastoral Care*

sonquist@att.net
248-515-6537

Lisa Head

Ministries Facilitator

premhead@aol.com
248-797-5360

Laynie Bryant

Admin & HR Coordinator

laynietfumc@gmail.com

Corinna Olesen

*Children & Youth
Coordinator*

olesencorinna@gmail.com

Sharon Smith

Receptionist (Mon&Tue)

Tim Schoenherr

Director of Music Ministries

fumctroymusic@gmail.com

Sheryl Dukes

Handbell Choir Director

bellgirlsad@gmail.com

A Message from Our Finance Team

Below is a summary of our church finances for the first half of the year. Please let our finance team know if you have any questions.

Finance Summary Page		Budget	Actual YTD	thru 6/2023
Total Income		\$481,495	\$256,375	
Total Expenses		\$484,338	\$235,779	
Income - Expenses		(\$2,843)	\$20,595	
Income YTD				
Income Budget Sources				
		Budgeted Income	Income YTD	YTD %
Actual O&M Pledge Received	67 2023 Pledge Cards \$315,502.00	\$390,000	\$197,288	51%
Facilities Income		\$47,500	\$27,137	57%
Unpledged Received		\$3,000	\$3,095	103%
Loose plate		\$1,000	\$1,443	144%
Intrest Income & Adj		\$16,000	\$4,590	29%
Gifts and Other Income		\$23,995	\$22,822	95%
Total		\$481,495	\$256,375	53%
End of Month		12	6	50%
YTD % represents Year To Date funds received / budget funds for respective item				
Expenses YTD				
Expense Budget Sources				
		Budgeted Expense	Expenses YTD	YTD %
World Ministries		\$24,701	\$7,301	30%
Pastorial & Staff		\$251,345	\$118,567	47%
Trustees, Bldg Expenses, Maint		\$132,004	\$70,348	53%
Interest Only Payments				
Church Bldg Mortgage		\$60,000	\$29,859	50%
Worship & Music		\$3,000	\$2,378	79%
Navigators		\$1,500	\$926	62%
Finance		\$5,613	\$3,074	55%
Education		\$5,675	\$3,326	59%
Community Outreach		\$500	\$0	0%
Total		\$484,338	\$235,779	49%
End of Month		12	6	50%
YTD % represents Year To Date spent / budget funds for respective item				
Banking Details				
94% Designated Funds		\$598,705		94%
6% Undesignated Funds		\$37,682		6%
Bank Funds on Deposit		\$636,388		
Mortgage Balance		\$1.3 mil		
Church Bldg & Contents Appraisal Value		\$8.9 mil		

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Lois Durnil, John Julian, Kim Abdo	16	Elaine & John Jasionowicz
2	Donna & Roger Klungle	17	Becky Head & Andy Frank
4	Andrew Aurand	18	Emily Woods Drabek, Laurie Urbach
5	Madison Abdo, Kathleen & Jonathan Strong,	19	Linda DeVilling, Lori Decker & Jeff MacLean
6	Riley Smith Judkins, Nathan Strong, Holly & Daniel Dooley	20	Brianna Abdo, Jennifer & Mike Voight, Christian & Erin Aurand
7	Cathy Miller, Carole & Mark Bauer	21	Brendan DiBartolomeo, Sheryl & Craig Dukes
8	Tom Head, Jack & Kelly Stover		
9	Larry Hornbeck, Traci Elliott, Ginny & Bob Whitford, Jan & Rich Peacock		
10	Karen Belt, Jayden Bryant	23	Steve Pushman
11	Linda Pushman, Gloria & Ed Freeland	25	Allison & Jeremy Geist
12	Allison Dolehanty Geis, Erika Truelove	27	Woody Berkompas
13	Kathleen Strong, Ann Marie & Kevin Jakobiak	28	Jayne Saeger, Alexandra & Joe LaCombe
14	Kim Rawlings	30	Meghan Rhoades, Brianna Geggie
15	Pattie & Scott Aurand	31	Gary Elliott, Scott Aurand

CLC Lighting Upgrade

A special thank you. The lighting in the CLC has consisted of 23 light fixtures mounted way up at the ceiling. (That's 184 bulbs.) Bill Wesp and Gale Blair developed a plan to replace old fixtures with new LED light fixtures. They gathered 10 Trustees, Friends of Trustees and volunteers and set a work schedule of a morning, afternoon and evening shifts over 5 days. After over 120 man-hrs of effort both at the floor level and at the ceiling on a lift, the new lighting became fully operational.

So, on behalf of Troy First, I wanted to extend a special Thank You to Bill and Gale for all their planning and effort throughout the week and also to everyone involved to make this a successful lighting upgrade. Next time you see them be sure to let them know how much you appreciate everything they do for Troy First.
-Terry Pritchett, Lay Leader



Troy First Music

A Message from Tim Schoenherr

I started making music in second grade when I began taking piano lessons. I wasn't forced, or "strongly encouraged". I asked. I listened to my sister playing and found myself fascinated. I took to it pretty quickly, won some competitions and awards, and suddenly found myself serving as the accompanist for the adult choir at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Rochester, MI, of which both of my parents were members. I went on to study music education at the University of Michigan and choral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati.



I remained involved as a church musician, even through my college years. Youth choirs in Brighton. Adult choirs in Cincinnati and Kentucky. Director of Music, organist, and choir director in various churches in southeastern Michigan. The road that brought me to Troy First United Methodist Church was circuitous and long, and it is my hope that I have arrived at my final destination.

Happy People Make Music, and Music Makes People Happy

The act of making music releases dopamine, the "feel good" hormone that activates our pleasure and reward system. Some of us already know that when we "sing lustily", as we are instructed by John Wesley, that a connection is made, a connection between God, between others, and between the best parts of ourselves.

Singing is not only for those who have solo quality voices. It is for everybody. I recognize that the human voice is an intimate instrument, and one that many people are hesitant to share. They don't want to be singled out. They don't want the attention. Above all else, they don't want anybody to hear them, because they think their voice is bad. As a result, they can be seen sitting or standing, stone faced, as those around them sing the songs and hymns of the day.

Try to think of a sporting event or concert that you've attended or seen on television. Two thoughts come to my mind. International crowds singing during a football match always puts a smile on my face. The power and enthusiasm is remarkable, and I think unmatched in the United States. Where we excel, however, is at concerts. A crowd of strangers who gather for a common purpose - to enjoy the music of a particular artist or band - is capable of creating some of the most powerful, raw, and emotionally charged music I have ever heard. I was part of a small group of 40,000 people who sang just about every word of Elton John's most recent concert. If that's what GenXers and Boomers can do, imagine what the Swifties recently did in Detroit! If you were there, I'd love to hear about it.

So ask yourself - why is it that some churches don't bring that same energy to the music we sing at church? Are we that church? Am I singing "lustily"? Am I that same stone faced person at a concert or sporting event? You would never know that there weren't 40,000 trained voices in the arena when we all sang "Rocket Man". Can we bring that same energy on Sunday mornings?

Continued from Tim...

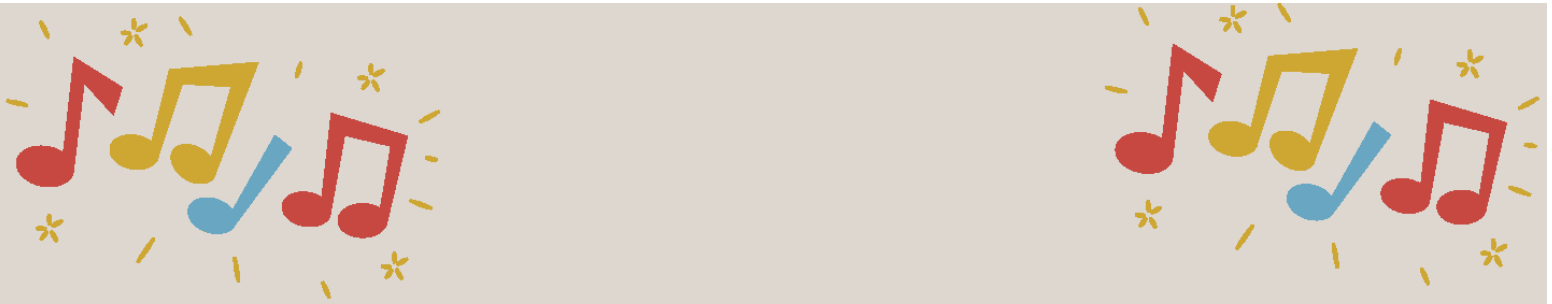
Music is Ministry

The younger version of myself was all business. It was about making the best possible music, because I thought that God deserved quality. Yes, quality is important. I still run efficient, fast-paced rehearsals with my choirs, and I pay attention to things like vowel unity and diction. However, the more seasoned version of myself, the one I bring to Troy, understands that music is ministry. It is the text and delivery that people connect with. A professional choir with impeccable intonation can be dull and lifeless. A decent amateur choir that sings with energy and conviction is incredibly inspiring.

In church music, it can get a little sticky when it comes to style. Each of us comes to worship with different backgrounds and experiences. Along the way we've developed a taste for particular genres of music. We may have also developed a distaste for other genres. Some would argue that we should only be singing the songs of the church that we grew up with, and *nothing else*. *Some would argue that we should burn the hymnal*. *This puts the musical leadership of the church in a delicate situation.*

My ministry reflects my values, and I value all styles of music. I have my preferences, sure, but my preferences are not necessarily yours. What I pledge to you is to try to find music that touches your heart and soothes your soul. It may not be every song. It may not be every style. It is my hope that, at some point, you will be affected by the music presented in worship in a way that brings you closer to God.

Thank you to the staff and congregation for your warm welcome. I am excited by the possibilities that lie ahead. We have a strong team of leaders that remains committed to bringing you quality and inspiring worship, and I am proud to be a part of that team. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at fumctroymusic@gmail.com. Complaints should go to pastormyra8@gmail.com.



CHOIR RETURNS SEPTEMBER 12

(7PM TUESDAY NIGHT FIRST WEEK ONLY - RETURNS TO 7PM
WED NIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 20)

INFORMATION ON THE
WELCOME BACK PARTY
COMING SOON

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
TIM SCHOENHERR
fumctroymusic@gmail.com

A Christmas (in July) to Remember

