



## Welcome to Troy United Methodist Church!

### New to Troy UMC?

We invite you on a journey with Jesus...

**Connect** to God and our faith community.

**Grow** into a wholehearted follower of Jesus.

**Serve** with your God-given gifts and passions.

**Share** God's love regionally and globally.

Worship God in everything you say and do.

*Stop by the Welcome Center after service to pick up a gift!*



*Point your phone camera at the QR code to connect!*

## Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Christmas Morning Worship!

### **Thursday, December 22**

6:30 p.m. - Family Life Center

*(children's ministry & nursery available)*

### **Saturday, December 24**

2 p.m. - Sanctuary

4 p.m. - Family Life Center & Online

*(children's ministry & nursery available)*

6 p.m. - Family Life Center

11 p.m. - Sanctuary & Online

### **Sunday, December 25 – “Christmas Resolutions” Series Finale**

9:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. - Family Life Center

*(There will be no children's ministry & nursery – children are welcome in worship)*



## Message Notes

December 18, 2022

**Christmas Resolutions: Trust God's Plan**

Matthew 1:18-25

**God uses angels to convey important messages to humans.**

- Angels play critical roles in the Christmas story
- Angels convey messages from God to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds

**Mary and Joseph were part of the Greatest Love Story of all Time, but it was not the Love Story they had planned.**

- The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that she will bear a son, and she will call him Jesus. (Luke 1:26-38)
- Mary readily accepts this change in plans. *"I am the Lord's servant. May all of this come true."* (Luke 1:38)
- Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy and rejects this radical change in the couple's life plans, choosing instead to quietly divorce her. (Matthew 1:19)

**An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, conveying a message from God.**

- In a dream, an angel tells Joseph that the change in plans is all part of God's grand salvation plan, prophesied through Isaiah centuries before. (Matthew 1:20-23)
- Joseph changes his plans, does what the angel commands him, and takes Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:24-25)
- God's plans, although sometimes unexpected, are always better than our own.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

**It was not the life they had planned, but it was the plan that gave them life. – Sue Busler**