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Masks for Rock Island Academy

Thomas Ryan, the principal of Rock Island Academy has expressed a need for a stockpile of masks for the students of the Academy. Kids will begin coming back to school on a part-time basis after Labor Day in Rock Island. Every student will be required to wear a mask while in school.

He anticipates a need for a supply of extra masks to be able to give to kids who do not have one, forget one, or lose one during the course of the school day. Many of our mask makers have continued their efforts, but to meet the increased demand we have decided to also purchase masks in bulk.

If you are still making masks, we will continue to accept donations. You can also make a monetary donation to "Masks for Meals," which will help purchase masks. Our goal is to provide the school one mask for every student at Rock Island Academy, and we will allow them to determine how they will distribute the masks. Mr. Ryan expects around 400 kids enrolled, but is unsure of how many will actually begin in-school learning.

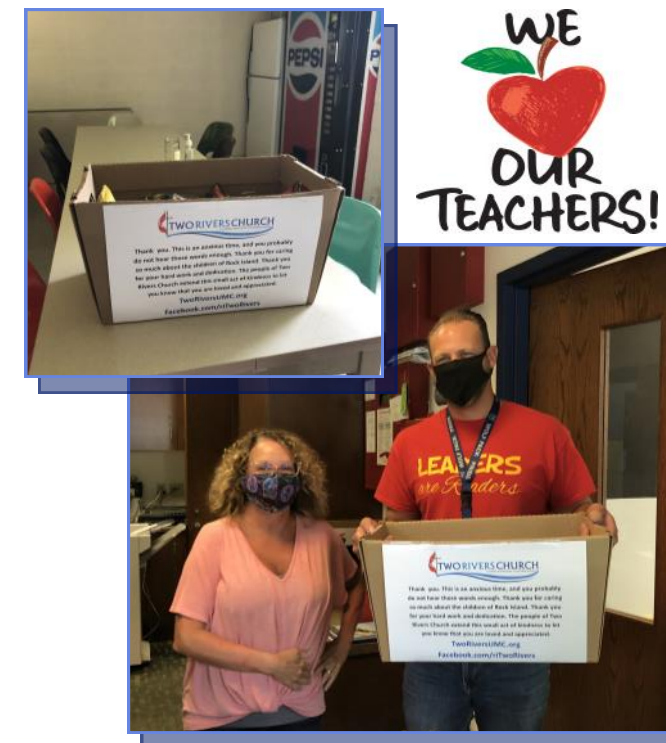


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	3 7:30pm Zoom & FB Live Pub Theology	4	5 12:00 pm Saturday Meal Site
6 LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30AM FB LIVE 10:30am Zoom Sunday School	7 HAPPY Labor Day!	8 6:00 pm Zoom Leadership Meeting	9 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	10 7:30pm Zoom & FB Live Pub Theology	11	12 12:00 pm Saturday Meal Site
13 LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30AM FB LIVE 10:30am Zoom Sunday School	14 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Lunch and Learn Bible Study	15	16 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	17 7:30pm Zoom & FB Live Pub Theology	18	19 12:00 pm Saturday Meal Site
20 LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30AM FB LIVE 10:30am Zoom Sunday School	21 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Lunch and Learn Bible Study	22	23 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	24 7:30pm Zoom & FB Live Pub Theology September Compass Deadline	25	26 11:00 am Operation Safety Net 12:00 pm Saturday Meal Site
27 LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30AM FB LIVE 10:30am Zoom Sunday School	28 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Lunch and Learn Bible Study	29	30 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion			

Donations of Snack Boxes to the Schools

Three gift boxes were delivered to local Rock Island schools (the fourth is pending). Pictured is Principal Lance Clark and Wendy Verdugo of Frances Willard Elementary accepting the gift of a large box of cookies, chips, granola bars, and assorted snacks and treats.

Along with this gift box, which was put in a common room where the entire staff can take what they please, they were given small cards with words of encouragement and thanks. In addition to the Frances Willard, Rock Island Academy and Earl Hanson Elementary schools also received gift boxes.





Two Anti-Racism Interviews

Doing the work of anti-racism is an important part of Christian discipleship. The adult Sunday school class has been reading the book *America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis. There are other tremendous books, videos, and ways to be educated about how we as Christians can be actively at work against racism. Another resource is Pastor Robb's podcast. The Pulpit Fiction Podcast.

Pastor Robb is the host of the Pulpit Fiction Podcast. This is a weekly Bible Study that you can listen to from any computer or device with an internet connection. There are also monthly interviews with authors. Two recent interviews focused on these issues of anti-racism.

The first was with Terrell Carter, a former Saint Louis police officer and pastor. His book *Police on a Pedestal: Responsible Policing in a Culture of Worship* is an important look at what police reform could look like. The second was with Brenda Salter McNeil, the author of *Becoming Brave: Finding the Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now*. This book is a deep-dive into the biblical book of *Esther*, finding powerful parallels between her courageous efforts for her people and the current struggle for racial justice.

To listen to these interviews you can go to www.PulpitFiction.com and click on INTERVIEWS near the top of the page. Or you can go directly to <https://www.pulpitfiction.com/notes?category=TNS> to find these and many other interviews. These include interviews with a prominent Hebrew scholar who translated the entire Old Testament, and an interview with Gabrielle Earnshaw, who recently edited a book on the work of famed spiritual writer Henri Nouwen.

Outdoor Worship Update from Pastor Robb

We are all longing to get back together for worship and deeply miss the ability to see and engage in-person with our fellow siblings in Christ. While I have found the time to worship with my family from home to be a deeply meaningful experience, I miss being able to see all of you in person, preach, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

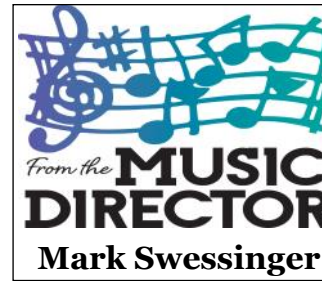
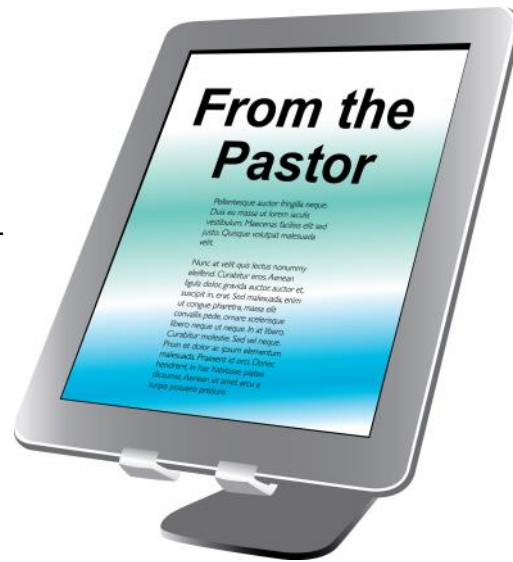
I have read story after story of churches who have gathered and become hot spots for the spread of this dangerous virus. As you may remember, we had a date picked out for outdoor worship at Camp Milan, but reports of surging numbers – especially locally – caused us to postpone that gathering.

I want to let you know my thinking on this subject. There are many churches who have decided unequivocally “we will not gather in 2020.” I do not want to make that sort of declaration prematurely. I want to gather again. I believe we can do it relatively safely.

I am also quite concerned about students going back to school in September. I fear that a surge in local cases may come from this. I personally will not feel comfortable gathering until at least a couple of weeks after this happens. This waiting period will also give the weather a chance to cool off a little, making outdoor worship more comfortable to all.

Please do not read this is a declaration of what we are doing or how we will proceed. I simply wanted to share with the congregation my personal thoughts. These decisions will still be made in community, with our Church Leadership Council at the helm.

-Robb McCoy



Hello everyone,

It's nearing the end of August and I should be anticipating restarting our music program. Sadly we are still in the hold of the Coronavirus and it simply isn't safe for us to either worship in person, nor to make music together.

Music making produces an interesting and complex set of challenges beyond the realms of everyday safety that we now use. Let me explain.

Why No Singing

When one sings, one projects a larger column of air from the body than one does with speaking. The larger column of air produces more air velocity, that is to say that the air moves faster when singing or reciting, than when we are just speaking. In addition, because the air is leaving our bodies, it collects things within our lungs; moisture, mucus, and many micro-organisms and germs that live within us. In exhalation, those things leave our body. This happens with every breath we take. When we sing, that larger column of air becomes more turbulent. It takes those microparticles and combines them with the air to create aerosol. This aerosol leaves the body at a much higher speed than a usual breath because the particles are significantly smaller.

With a normal breath, the particles settle out of the air in pretty quick measure, usually within an hour or so. The germs remain virulent for the entire time they are in the air and can survive on surfaces for some time after that. For this reason we have protocols in place: masks, hand sanitizer, hand washing all help to protect us and keep us from being infected by the virus.

When we speak loudly, or sing, those aerosolized particles are much smaller, and can remain in the air for much longer, up to eight hours. Also because of their minute size, they can bypass some of the filters we use to stay away from the virus. Aerosol can pass through many types of masks. I find this to be extremely scary. Studies have shown that safe distancing for singing should be twelve feet with the use of masks.

Obviously, this makes singing in a choir nearly impossible. We would have to spread the choir through the entire nave of the church to achieve appropriate social distancing. The other alternative is to surround each singer with plexiglass, another impractical idea.

Needless to say, when we come back, it will be a while before we will be able to enjoy choral music in church again. In the meantime, I continue to ask anyone who is interested to contribute music to our service. We have been blessed with a number of contributors through the summer, and will continue to add more musicians to our services as we go along.

Alternatives for when it is safe

Bell choir will be the first group of musicians to return to service. It is possible to socially distance bell players and to group family units to specific table. Once we begin meeting again at the church, bell choir will return. Masks will be a must for every bell choir member; and that completes the list of requirements to play bells. Anyone would be welcome to join. I have considered creating a second bell choir for newcomers (if there would be enough) to bring them up to speed and be able to join the more advanced group. Again, start dates would be subject to returning to worship.

Another group that could also get back quickly would be the Ukulele Choir. In the past this has been open to adults, but if youth wished to join, they would be more than welcome. Masks required, previous experience is not. If you do not have a ukulele, don't worry. The church has several and can provide you with one for as long as you need.

In the meantime, if you have a musical talent stashed away that you would like to share, please let me know. Send me a video and I will link it to Robb to put into our Worship at Home service. Videos can easily be made on almost any smart phone. Then drop me an email or a text and I will provide a means for you to upload it to me. My number is 309-738-0260 or my email is mswess@mchsi.com.

Thank you for your support in this trying time. I miss worship in person. I miss making music with my friends. I miss you. Stay safe. Stay well.



- 3 September Larry Dalton
- 3 September Keith Glass
- 10 September Emma Pollock
- 10 September Benise Nyambanguka
- 12 September Kala Lee
- 14 September Ike Mejia
- 17 September Susan Lorenzen
- 21 September Abby Pollock
- 27 September Ted Litherland

If you have a birthday in September and we've missed it, please call the church office to update our records.

United Methodist Men & Sisterhood

Due to the continuing pandemic and all the uncertainties that go with it, Sisterhood and the United Methodist Men have decided to not hold any get-togethers until further notice. Please keep each other in your prayers. Be well in mind, spirit and body until we meet again.

Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers have decided to wait a little longer to make plans for when to meet again. In the meantime, we hope everyone has been reading great books and will have a few good suggestions for the new year.

Again, here are a few reminders of books that were chosen for discussion this year:

- “Where the Crawdads Sing” - Delia Owens
- “Chronicles of a Radical Hag” - Lorna Landvik
- “Bridge of Clay” - Markus Zusak
- “The Orchid Thief” – Susan Orlean

Here's to good reading and good health. Prayers for everyone.

Ellen Pohlman (309)206-4445



Message from the Evangelism Team

The last time we had church service in our downtown Rock Island Two Rivers Church was Sunday, March 15, 2020.

We do miss our Two Rivers Church members. Therefore, the Evangelism team has decided they are going to start calling on church members.

This will be done by using the CDC guidelines. Two Rivers Church members will be called, then a member of the Evangelism team will come to their house. The Evangelism team member will be wearing a mask and remain a safe distance outside of the church members house.

A gift bag will be brought with items of church material.

Evangelism team members:
Ellen Andrews, Mike Andrews, Larry Dalton, Sarah McCoy, Pastor Robb McCoy, Pam Lossing, Brianna Pollock, Cheryl Prather, and Harold Truitt

We hope to see our Two Rivers Church members soon.



Lord's Prayer Sermon Series Continues

- September 6 – Forgive Us
- September 13 – Lead Us Not

Facebook Evangelism



There is a simple way that you can help with spreading the



good news of Jesus Christ. If you are on Facebook, please double check that you “like” the church’s page at RITwoRivers. Every Saturday there is an announcement that we will be premiering a live video. Please look for this post on Saturday afternoon/evening and click Share. When you click “Share,” you can even add a more personal invitation. While you are watching the video on Sunday morning, you can share it then as well. You never know which of your friends on Facebook will see the video you shared, join in, and be blessed by the time of worship.



Lay Member to Annual Conference Report 2020

Annual Conference for the Illinois Great River Conference was held as a Zoom meeting on Saturday August 15, 2020. Clergy met in the morning and the whole conference in the afternoon. Motions were voted on and the budget was approved for the new fiscal year. Very little in the way of legislation was brought forward due to the unusual nature of the actual conference and the fact that the General Conference which had been scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed until September 2021 due to Covid19. Those delegates who were elected last year remain in place to attend the conference in 2021.

The reports of various aspects of conference reflected the nimble ways the conference has responded to crisis. They ranged from micro grants to churches for technology to move to online services to camping boxes being sent to campers for at home camping experiences rather than attending camp.

Bishop Beard gave an inspiring sermon on the need for adaptability as the church moves forward.

Charlotte Peterson
Lay Member of Annual Conference

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-

Barb Nightingale and Summer Etzel Volk

Our Sympathies to -

The friends and family of Jerrie Swift who passed away on August 1.

The friends and family of Joan Robinson who passed away on August 12.

Our presence—

August 2	Livestream Worship ≈ 35
August 9	Livestream Worship ≈ 30
August 16	Livestream Worship ≈ 30
August 23	Livestream Worship ≈ 35

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

August 2020 (as of August 26) -\$ 13,614.00

Our Service -

Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

August 1	— 50 Meal Site
August 8	— 45 Meal Site
August 15	— 42 Meal Site
August 22	— 52 Meal Site

Our Thanks —

We want to extend a special thanks to Cool Beanz Coffee House for holding a special food drive the week of August 17th for our Saturday Meal Site. After the prior week's damaging storm, the groceries were much appreciated by those who attend the Meal Site. A big thank you as well to all those that were able to donate food and grocery items to this food drive.





Discipleship Schedule Continues on ZOOM

Call in (312)626-6799
Meeting ID: 961 006 728 Password: 029397
*Pub Theology has a different Meeting ID.
Contact the church office for more information.

Monday at noon: Bible Study

This group will continue to meet as usual. The noon Bible study focuses on the Bible passage that will be used in the upcoming sermon. The discussion of this group helps Pastor Robb explore issues and questions that will help form the sermon. There are many times when insights from this discussion group go directly into the worship experience. Those who participate consistently feel like their worship experience is enhanced because of their Monday conversation.

Wednesday at noon: Prayer and Devotion

This will be a combination of the two experiences that have previously been on Tuesday and Thursday. The group will begin with a short reflection by Pastor Robb on the day's Scripture reading (as found in the weekly Grow Pray Study insert). After this short reflection, the group will share their prayer concerns and reasons for joy. Pastor Robb will then lead the group in prayer.

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.: Pub Theology

This is designed for people in our community who would not be interested in a "Bible Study." It is marketed as a group discussion for people to explore topics of faith, spirituality, religion, and doubt. Each week will have a main question and the Bible will be used as a source. The theme will usually coincide with the theme of the week from the Monday Bible study. This group discussion will also inform the sermon for Sunday.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.: Adult Sunday School

On most Sunday mornings, the Worship at Home video live premiere will end at 10:15. This gives people about 15 minutes to move from watching the Worship at Home live video presentation on Facebook to joining into the Zoom meeting room.



DVDs, Weekly Email, and Weekly Newsletter

Remain current with information from Pastor Robb by signing up for the church e-newsletter. He has been sending out a weekly email since March 24. If you have not been getting this email, please check your spam folder. If it is not there, please go to TwoRiversUMC.com/subscribe. Fill out that short form and you will begin to receive the weekly email.

If you do not get the weekly email, and would like to receive a weekly printed newsletter, please contact the church office. These newsletters contain much of the same information as the weekly e-mail, but also includes a summary of the week's sermon.

Finally, DVDs for every Worship at Home experience are also available. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one of these DVDs sent to you. They can be played in any regular DVD player or computer. They are designed to begin to play as soon as you enter it into the player.



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Prayer Chain

Charlotte Peterson 793-7783
Nancy Cornish 236-1049
Nancy Schwegler 781-5334

If you want the prayer chain to pray for your concern or you wish to be part of this prayer ministry, please call one of the three contact persons listed above. They alert the remaining chain members.

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the October issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, September 24**. Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

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Organist Emeritus
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All of us

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