

NAME: _____

- ☐ First time guest
- ☐ Returning guest
- ☐ Member
- ☐ Interested in membership or Baptism

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Random acts of kindness:

- ☐ Call a friend you haven't spoken with in a while.
- ☐ Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.
- ☐ Pray for peace in the world.

Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- ☐ Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- ☐ Provide blankets, hats and cheap cotton gloves to Operation Safety Net.
- ☐ Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products for our Little Free Pantry.

Worship team opportunities to serve:

- ☐ Greeter—Greet people at the West parking lot.
- ☐ Usher—Greet people as they come into the service. Help with offering and Communion.
- ☐ Tech Support -Video recording, editing, sound board and /or slides. Get behind the scenes and help create a meaningful worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those watching from home.

January 8, 2023
Announcements

We are blessed by your presence, and pray that worship is meaningful for you. You are invited to note your attendance and mailing address on the blue attendance tear-off sheet found in each bulletin. This sheet may be placed in the collection bowl at the front of the sanctuary after service. We encourage family participation in worship. We can provide activity bags for children upon request. Please see an usher for more information. Ushers can also provide you with large print bulletins if needed. We extend a special welcome to you and trust you will experience God's presence today.

Adult Sunday School—10:45 am (The Adult Sunday School Class will be joining the LGBTQ Inclusion Study lead by Pastor Robb in the back of the sanctuary)

Kids Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets in-person every week in Epworth Hall at noon. Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time also continues to meet on Facebook Live and Zoom at noon every week. Zoom Meeting ID # for Wednesday is 961 006 728. The Zoom meeting can also be joined by phone simply by dial 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation. *(No Bible Study Jan. 9 or Jan. 16 and No Prayer Group on Wed. Jan 11)*

Starting this morning during the Sunday school hour, Pastor Robb will lead a discussion / 7-week study and writing process on LGBTQ Inclusion at the back of the sanctuary. Two Rivers Church member Viminda Shafer will assist in leading the discussions. After the study and writing process, we will enter a 28-day call to prayer for the entire congregation. The study portion of the process will utilize the Wesleyan Quadrilateral – a tool for theological and spiritual discernment as described in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

Un-Decorating the Church We will “Un-Decorate the Church” today after a short time of Sunday School. We need several workers to get finished quickly. If you will be available to help please stay after service and see Mark Swessinger for instructions.

Contribution statements 2022 Contribution statements are available today. You may pick up your statement from the table located in the back of the sanctuary. Any statements not picked up by January 22 will be mailed.

Network: Two Rivers Sanctuary
Password: TwoRivers2013
www.TwoRiversUMC.org



Donation QR Code



January 8, 2023
Baptism of Christ Sunday

Matthew 3:1-17 (CEB)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way for the Lord. Make his paths straight.”*

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?”

Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.”

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. ¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him.”

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE “On Eagle's Wings” - Joncas

GREETING

*OPENING HYMN #383 “This is a Day of New Beginnings” vs. 1 & 2

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All God of word and deed, you have laid out a path before us of love and peace, yet we have strayed. As a people we have faltered. We have failed to care for all. We have pursued idols that provide no meaning. We have forgotten our place in your Kingdom. We have missed the mark of your love and need to re-aim ourselves. You have called us to repent—to change our hearts and lives. Forgive us and restore us on your path. Help us to see your love more clearly and empower us to live out our calling in word and deed. Amen.

Pause for silent reflection and confession

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. This proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER HYMN #349 “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM “Borning Cry” - Ylvisaker
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Your ministry of Word and Deed gave us instructions for life and empowered us to follow. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word and inspire us to follow with our actions as we go forth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3:1-17 (CEB)

SERMON The Baptism of Christ –Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE HYMN #252 “When Jesus Came to Jordan” vs. 1 & 2

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*CLOSING HYMN #257 “We Meet You, O Christ” vs 1 & 4
(all are invited to place your offering in the offering container at the front of the sanctuary as we sing our closing hymn)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: God of word and deed, we thank you for the ways you have taught us to live. We thank you for your teachings — the sermons, stories, and lessons that stir our minds. We thank you for your actions—the miracles, healings, and feeding that stir our hearts. We thank you for revealing to us your Way. We thank you for guiding us in word and deed. We thank you for providing for us in your Kingdom. Amen.

Pause for silent reflection and thanksgiving

*DOXOLOGY

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Shine Jesus Shine” - Kendrick

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
FWS -The Faith We Sing (black hymnal)
UMH- United Methodist Hymnal (red hymnal)
Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License

January 8, 2023



PRAYER MINISTRY

NAME: _____

Who would you like to see this prayer?

- ☐ **Pastor Only.** Only the pastor will see this prayer. He will most likely see it and be in prayer for it on Monday morning.
- ☐ **Prayer Chain.** These prayers will be sent to those who have signed up for prayer chain email. They will also be prayed for by first name only during our Wednesday online prayer service.

Please be in prayer for:

Please pray for this:

- ☐ For this week only.
- ☐ Until _____
- ☐ This is an ongoing need.

I am interested in being a part of the Prayer Chain:

☐ Email: _____