



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

June 25, 2023

Scenes from Reconciling Sunday

On June 25, the people of Two Rivers UMC celebrated Reconciling Sunday. The service started with a welcome video from clergy from around the IGRC, including Rev. Julia Melgreen (Atkinson) who grew up at First UMC. Aubrey Barnes and two poets from the Young Lions Roar program shared their work. Nancy Schwegler played a beautiful piano piece. Hannah Rettig painted during the service and presented the piece to the church during the time of offering. Ellie McCoy shared a moving sermon. "I was so proud to tell everyone at camp last week that my church in Rock Island is Reconciling. I was so happy to tell them all my new friends that they would be welcome here," she said to applause from the congregation.

Adam Peters of Clock, Inc. shared about their work with LGBTQ+ support groups, a clothes closet, counseling, and various services that they offer. He also told a heartbreaking story about his recent experience at the UMC church where he grew up, who recently decided to disaffiliate. On Facebook he wrote of his morning at Two Rivers, "This church is one that isn't breaking off and that has decided that the closeted queer kid in the pews should not only feel safe to be their authentic self, but should be welcome with complete love, joy, and compassion. My mind was blown " He thanked the congregation and said, "You are saving lives. It's that simple. This kind of love saves lives."

