

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:


- ☐ Pray for peace in the world.
- ☐ Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.
- ☐ Donate socks, hats and gloves to Operation Safety Net.

Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- ☐ Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- ☐ Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products to our Little Free Pantry.

Worship team opportunities to serve:

- ☐ Liturgist – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- ☐ Greeter– Greet people at the West parking lot.
- ☐ 2nd & 4th Sunday Ushers—Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository. (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Welcome Statement

From the beginning of the Jesus movement, followers of Christ declared that there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free, nor is there male and female. We, the people of Two Rivers United Methodist Church join in this movement of the Holy Spirit and declare that we celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood and the world.

We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual and affectional orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We believe that the body of Christ is more vital in its ministry when the whole diversity of the human family may enjoy full participation and leadership in the Church.

We welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the Church and society, and acknowledge the pain caused by the exclusionary policies of the United Methodist Church. We will continue to work toward a more inclusive Church and invite you to join us in following Jesus Christ on the Way, marked by greater hospitality, kindness, justice, peace, understanding, and mutual respect.

Announcements for December 3, 2023

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class Room
Confirmation Class—10:45 am in the Youth Room on 3rd floor
Adult Sunday School—10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets every Monday in Epworth Hall at noon. Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time meets 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.

Blue Christmas Service On Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. we will share our annual Blue Christmas service. The service will include Communion, prayer, a ritual for healing, congregational singing, and a chance for individuals to express their grief. Many people have been affected by loss this year, and many are getting ready to have their first Christmas without loved ones. This will be a chance to name the grief that feels especially sharp during the holidays and allow space for lamentation.

Two Rivers Readers The Two Rivers Readers will meet tomorrow, December 4 at 10:00 am in the back of the sanctuary to discuss the book, *Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. As always, our group is safe and nonjudgmental, and our discussions are insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun. We'd love to have you join us!

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters
12/03	Ellie McCoy	Candy Canik & David Dehnel	Larry Dalton/
12/10		Gerry Etzel, Roger Pohlman, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/17	Cooley Children	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/

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

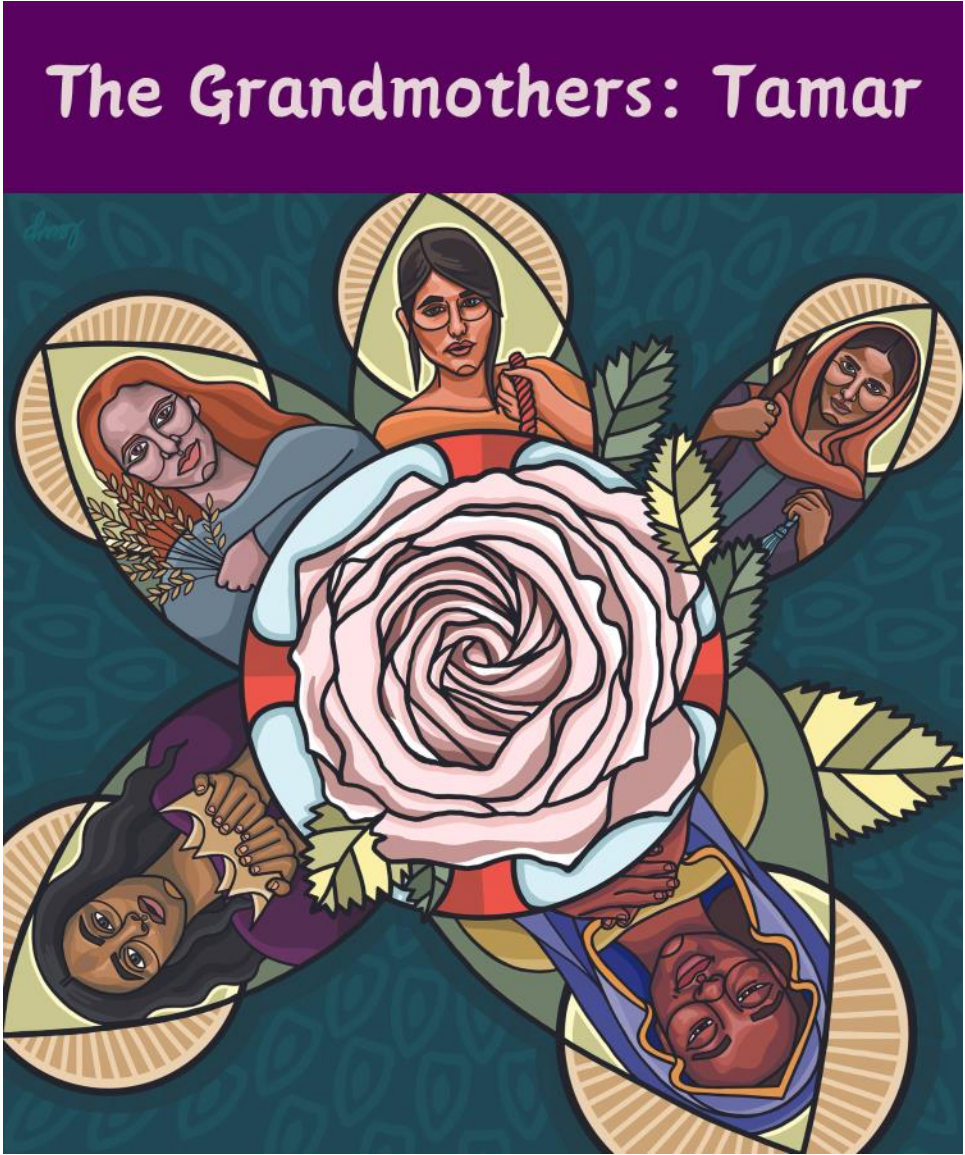


Donation QR Code



December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



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PREPARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

PRELUDE “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” - Traditional

GREETING

*HYMN “People Look East” #202 UMH (v. 1-2)

*THE ADVENT LIGHT OF PEACE

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

Peace is illusive. It can be as difficult to grasp as smoke in the wind. Yet the Spirit brings peace like a mother consoling a crying infant. We cry out in need and are soothed by the loving embrace of God.

Mary received news that could not have brought peace. It brought turmoil, danger, and fear. A pregnancy while betrothed could be a death sentence. Another vulnerable young woman could lose everything.

But an angel of God said, “The Lord is with you,” and Mary said, “Let it Be.” We light the candle of peace for even though the wind blows, the candle flickers, and our peace is threatened, the peace of the Holy Spirit is real and lights our way through difficult times.

CHILDREN’S GATHERING “Child So Lovely” #222 UMH (refrain)

HANGING THE CHRISMON: The Lighted Candle

ADVENT HYMN “Child So Lovely” #222 UMH (refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Ave Maria” - Caccini
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PROCLAIMING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy God, we want to see the truth.

All: But we are often tricked by disguises or misled by prejudices.

One: Reveal to us the truth.

All: Allow your Words of Life to clear away the fog of our distrust and misunderstanding.

One: Let the truth lead us to Peace

All: In faith we pray, Amen.

THE FIRST GRANDMOTHER’S STORY Genesis 38:13-19,24-27 (CEB)

SERMON Tamar Rev. Robb McCoy

SHARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT AND LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

One: God of Advent promises, we prepare for your coming with decorations and song, with festivities and busy-ness. It is difficult to find peace in the midst of the cacophony of Christmas noise.

All: As we rise from this table, help us to prepare not just for Christmas Day, but for the coming of Christ as the Redeemer of the World and Prince of Peace.

One: Let our preparation begin with generosity. May the gifts we bring lead us to peace in our hearts. And may the gift we bring be used for peace in the world.

All: In faith we pray, Amen.

*HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” #206 UMH (1,3)
(All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering container at the front of the sanctuary as we sing)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We honor the women who gave birth to hope, who were lifted up by Matthew the Evangelist as foremothers of the One who came at Christmas.

We honor the women who used their own agency in a world that tried to rob them of it, so that their families could survive and their stories could be told.

We believe in God the mother and father of us all, creator of heaven and earth, whose promise to renew the Earth was embodied in an infant and lives in a promise yet to be fulfilled.

We believe in Christ who was made flesh in an infant child and was born to Mary, whose humanity was proven in his tears, hunger, and blood; and whose divinity was revealed in his feeding, healing, and resurrection.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who indwells with us today, and gives strength to women and men who continue to give birth to hope.

*DOXOLOGY #94

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “O Come, Divine Messiah” - Pelligrin

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
FWS -The Faith We Sing (black hymnal)
UMH- United Methodist Hymnal (red hymnal)

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



PRAYER MINISTRY

YOUR 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: _____