

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 10, 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.

Argrow’s Christmas Pop-up Shop Argrow’s House is a healing house that offers free services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse. It’s also a social enterprise, which hires survivors to create bath and body products that are sold online and in local stores. On **December 17th**, after worship they will be having a Christmas Pop-up shop in the back of the sanctuary.

Holiday Homebound Gift Bags Donations of homemade or purchased treats (peanut butter, nut free) cookies, crackers, gum, are being collected and may be left in the kitchen of Epworth Hall. Please mark the donations “Holiday Homebound Baskets” and bring them any time up to/before service on Sunday, December 17 when they will be assembled and will be ready for delivery. Volunteers for delivering these gift are needed, please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after service on Dec. 17.

Christmas Sweater Sunday Next Sunday is the Advent Sunday of Joy. Show off your Joy by wearing your best Christmas sweater!

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters
12/10	Dave Dehnel	Gerry Etzel, Roger Pohlman, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/17	Cooley Children	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/24		Doug Stephens, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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

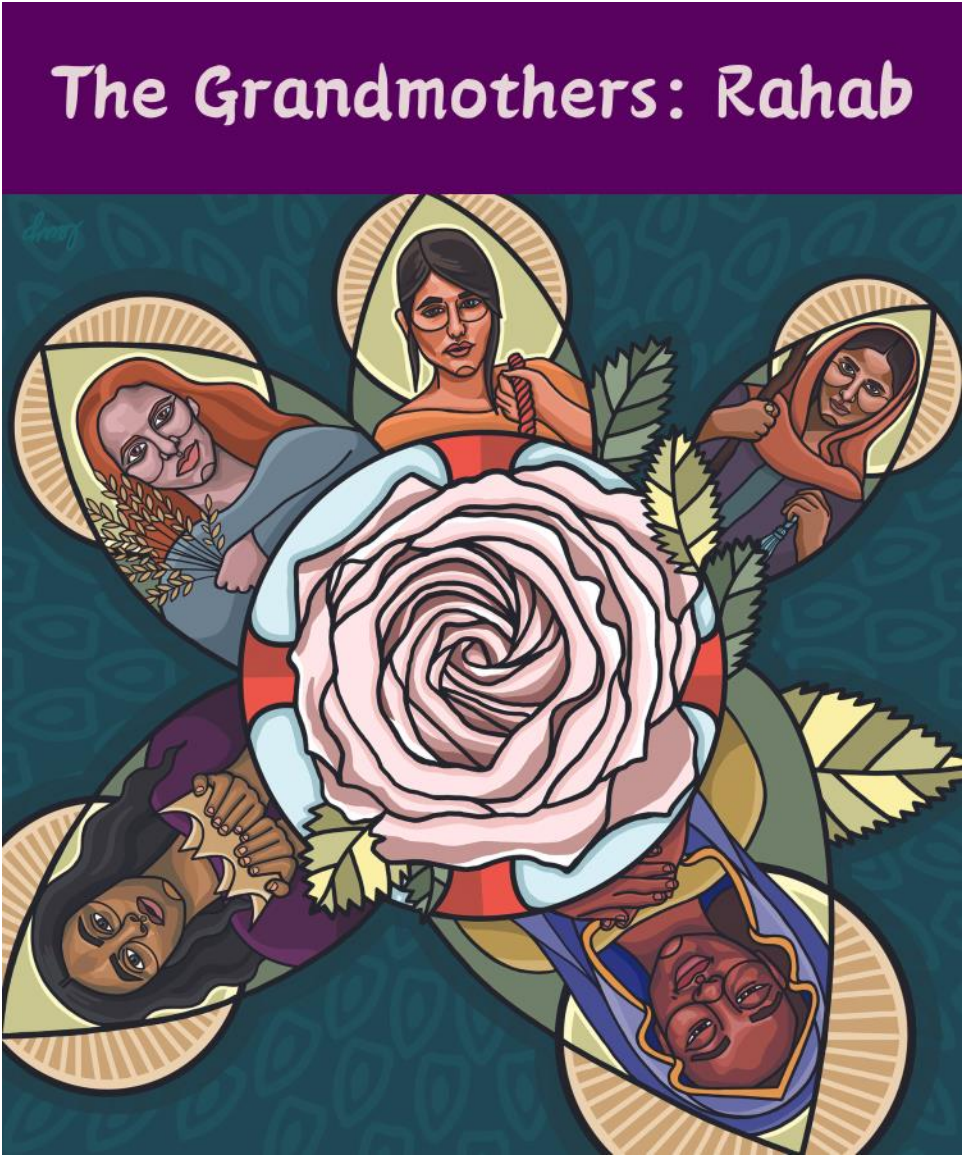


Donation QR Code



December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



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PREPARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

GREETING

*HYMN “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #196 UMH

THE ADVENT LIGHT OF HOPE

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:39-45

Hope is absurd. There is war on every inhabited continent. There is anger broadcast over every network. There are hungry people in our neighborhoods. There are frightened children in our schools.

Hope is absurd, but so is the thought that God could become flesh and be born in Mary. Elizabeth felt hope the moment she saw Mary and felt her baby leap. She was filled with the Holy Spirit and was the first to declare Jesus was “Lord”

We light the candle of hope because hope is contagious. Hope cannot be explained. Hope cannot be contained. The Holy Spirit is alive here in this place. May hope be born in us all today and forever.

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

HANGING THE CHRISMON Lamb with Victory Banner

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM “Good News is in the Air” - Hassler/Hopson
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 mislead by prejudices.

One: Reveal to us the truth.

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

One: Let the truth lead us to Peace

All: In faith we pray, Amen.

THE SECOND GRANDMOTHER’S STORY Joshua 2:1-21 (CEB)

SERMON Rahab Rev. Robb McCoy

SHARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

RESPONSE HYMN “Be Still, My Soul” #534 UMH

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

One: God of Advent promises, as we try to prepare for Christmas we are surrounded by bad news and complaint. It is difficult to find hope in the cacophony of suffering. Help us to voice our lamentation so we may find comfort.

All: It is the paradox of faith that in lamentation we find hope. Help us to bring our prayers to you as we bring our gifts; because as we do, we will find hope.

One: Let our preparation begin with generosity. May the gifts we bring and prayers we offer lead us to hope. 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 as the 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

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

December 10, 2023
2nd 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: _____