

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 17, 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. After worship this morning they will be having a Christmas Pop-up shop in the back of the sanctuary.

Holiday Homebound Gift Bags Volunteers for delivering these gifts to our Homebound members are needed. Please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after today’s service.

Christmas Eve Worship On Christmas Eve we will have our regular fourth Sunday of Advent service at 9:30 a.m. Our special service for Christmas Eve will be at 4:00 p.m. This Christmas Eve service will feature candles, carols, and Communion..

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters
12/17	Cooley Children	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/24	Morning Service— Mark Swessinger	Doug Stephens, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/24	Evening Service— Harold Truitt	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/

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

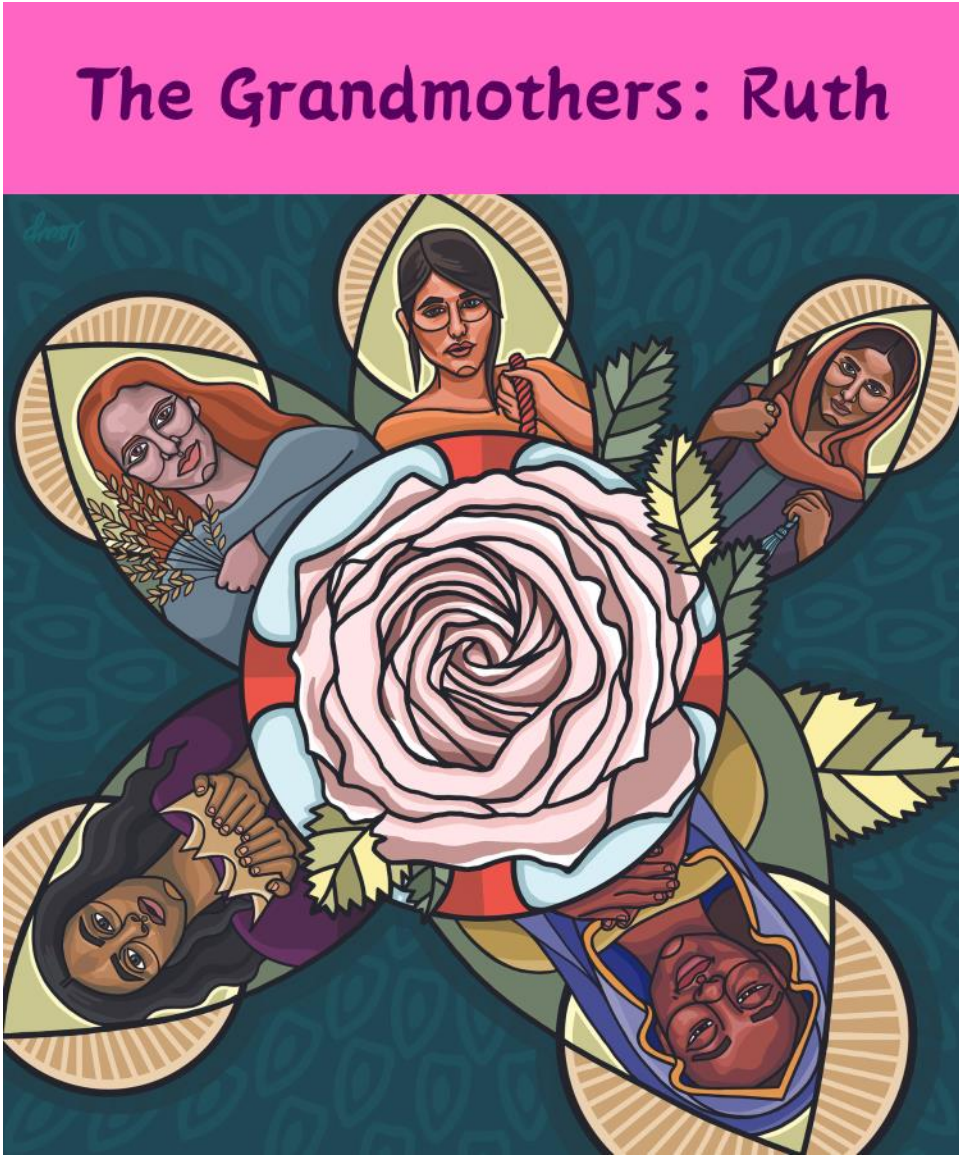


Donation QR Code



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



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PREPARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

PRELUDE	“Savior of the Nations, Come“	
GREETING		
*HYMN	“O Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 1, 3, 6	#234 UMH
THE ADVENT LIGHT OF JOY		
GOSPEL READING	Luke 1:46-55	
<p>Joy is contagious. The joy Elizabeth felt when she encountered Mary exuded from her. The Holy Spirit filled her with joy and Mary, who must have been afraid and anxious, was able to sing.</p> <p>Joy is contagious, and Mary magnified God through song. And we all know that the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. So we sing our Christmas joy and light our advent candles.</p> <p>Peace is illusive. We light the candle of peace so the light may guide us to find that precious gift of peace.</p> <p>Hope is absurd. We light the candle of hope so the light may cast out the darkness of despair.</p> <p>We light the candle of joy because joy is contagious. Joy cannot be explained. Joy cannot be contained. The Holy Spirit is alive here in this place. May joy be born in us all today and forever.</p>		
CHILDREN’S GATHERING	“O Come Little Children” <i>Two Rivers Hand Bell Choir</i>	- Shutz/Helman
HANGING THE CHRISMON		The Harp
ADVENT HYMN	“Child So Lovely” refrain	#222 UMH
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER		
ANTHEM	“Come, Jesus Holy Son of God” <i>Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir</i>	- Handel

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 THIRD GRANDMOTHER’S STORY	Ruth 3:1-18, 4:13-17 (CEB)

SERMON	Ruth	Rev. Robb McCoy
SHARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT		
RESPONSE HYMN	“Joy to the World” vs. 1, 2, 4	#246 UMH
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP		
PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING		
One: God of Advent promises, as we prepare for Christmas with decorations and songs, caroling and festivities, we know that sometimes a smiling face covers up a deeper despair.		
All: As we prepare for Christmas, help us to find an inner joy that comes not from trappings and wrappings, but from the love of Christ. Help us prepare not just for Christmas Day, but for living every day into eternal life.		
One: Let our preparation begin with generosity. May the gifts we bring and prayers we offer bring us joy. And may the gift we bring be used for spreading true joy in the world.		
All: In faith we pray, Amen.		
*HYMN	“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” #206 UMH (1,3)	
<i>(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)</i>		
*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	“Bereden väg för Herran “	- Oskar Briland
* You are invited to stand as you are able. Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License		



December 17, 2023
3rd 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: _____