

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 24, 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. **No Monday Bible this week or next week due to Christmas and New Year’s holidays.**

Baby Shower for Mary The Confirmation Class would like to cordially invite you to a baby shower for Mary, mother of Jesus, to be held in Epworth Hall on Sunday, December 31 from 10:45 a.m.-12:00. This celebration will feature games, snacks, and opportunities for intergenerational connections. Like the Magi who came to bring gifts to the newborn King, everyone is invited to bring a gift for children and mothers in need in the Quad Cities. The items donated will be donated to Family Resources, which provides care, treatment, and services to women in crisis.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters
12/24	Evening Service—Harold Truitt	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/31		Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
01/07		Candy Canik & Dave Dehnel	Larry Dalton/

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

@RITwoRivers



Donation QR Code



December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

Peace

GREETING

Pastor Robb McCoy

*CONFESSION

based on John 1

Harold Truitt

One: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Everything came into being through the Word.

All: What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not extinguish the light.

One: Today we gather to fulfill the promises of Advent. We come to light the candles of Peace, Hope, Joy, Love, and Christ.

All: O God, forgive us for the ways we have worked against your will. We avoid the work of justice that will lead to peace. We dwell in places of despair, scarcity, and fear instead of nurturing your hope, joy, and love. Forgive us for not believing your Advent promises. On this day we heed the words of John the Baptizer, and turn our hearts and minds toward Christ. Tonight, we welcome Jesus who came so that we may have life.

(Pause for Silent Confession)

One: The Word became flesh and made his home among us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: We have seen God’s glory. Amen.

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE

One: And now as we light the candle of peace, share the peace of Christ with one another with a sign of Christian love.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Still, Still, Still” - Austrian Carol/arr. J. Carter
Nancy Schwegler, piano

Hope

READING ISAIAH 42:5-9, 14

Lilah Durbin

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Renee Cisne

One: Hope is absurd. During Advent we have lit the candles with pairs of Grandparent and Child. Tonight we light the candle of hope together and remember once again the grandmothers. Their strength and courage kept hope alive. Hope is a new song that we should sing and fill the ends of the earth. Hope is a soldier who will always prevail. Hope is a woman in labor, panting, gasping. Hope is the heavenly host of angels singing praise to an audience of shepherds. We light the candle of hope because hope is stronger than the darkness of despair.

HYMN #240

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Joy

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

One: Our Christmas gifts come in many shapes and sizes. We offer our prayers, our energy, our skills, and the fruit of our labor. We do so not out of obligation, guilt, or duty, but as a joyful response to all that has been given to us.

All: Graciously God, use this gift we bring to share joy with others. Bless those who struggle and come to the church to find help. Bless Hope Church as they make a new home. Empower their people, staff, and clergy to continue to share the inclusive love of Christ with the world. We thank you for their faithfulness.

One: We ask this knowing that the greatest Joy of Christmas is to share gifts with others. Thankfully we pray, Amen.

OFFERTORY

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF JOY

One: And now, we light the candle of Joy because Joy is contagious. As is generosity, cheerfulness, and kindness. We thank you God for the gifts we have received and these gifts that we have offered.

DOXOLOGY #94

Love

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: O God our Parent and Creator, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus. Open our lips that we too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Open our minds that we may be transformed by your story of love and salvation. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all. Amen.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 2:1-20

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF LOVE

One: And now, we light the candle of love because love is eternal. The love that was born at Christmas is the eternal love of God that has been with God since God began to create. Joy, Hope, Peace, Love remain, and the greatest of these is Love.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Holy Child of Mary”

- Martin

Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

Christ

SERMON

- Rev. Robb McCoy

HOLY COMMUNION #15

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF CHRIST

One: And now, we light the Christ Candle as we allow the light to spread to every corner of this place. We share the light of Christ, raise it up to the heaven, and share it in the world. The light is born today, and the darkness shall not overcome it.

HYMN #239

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (v. 1-3, repeat 1 acapella)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
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December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve



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: _____