

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
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY DECEMBER 24th

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.**

Christmas Eve Worship Our special service for Christmas Eve will be at 4:00 p.m. This Christmas Eve service will feature candles, carols, and Communion.

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	Morning Service— Mark Swessinger	Doug Stephens, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/24	Evening Service— Harold Truitt	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/
12/31		Kevin & Brianna Pollock	Larry Dalton/

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

@RITwoRivers



Donation QR Code



December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Grandmothers: Bathsheba



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PREPARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

GREETING

*HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" vs. 1, 3, 4 #203 UMH

THE ADVENT LIGHT OF LOVE

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:56-66

Love is eternal. When Elizabeth gave birth, she and Zechariah were surrounded by the love of their community. Humanity was created for love, and love happens in community. The love that was born at Christmas is born in each of us when we come together to worship. Peace is illusive. We light the candle of peace so the light may guide us to find that precious gift of peace. Hope is absurd. We light the candle of hope so the light may cast out the darkness of despair. Joy is contagious. We light the candle of joy so the light may warm the hearts of the faithful and renew our fire for God. Love is eternal. We light the candle of love because of all of these, the greatest of them is love.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING "Child So Lovely" #222 UMH (refrain)

HANGING THE CHRISMON The Jerusalem Cross

ADVENT HYMN "Child So Lovely" #222 UMH (refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Will We Know Him?" - Besig
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 FOURTH GRANDMOTHER'S STORY 2 Samuel 11:1-15 (CEB)

SERMON "Bathsheba" Rev. Robb McCoy

SHARING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

RESPONSE HYMN "Blessed Be the God of Israel" #209 UMH

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

One: God of Advent promises, our preparations for Christmas are all but complete. We are here on this precarious moment of Christmas but still not-quite-Christmas and the anticipation is tangible.

All: Here we are on this strange morning. We may come back this afternoon to celebrate the birth of Christ. We may go from here to family celebrations or rush home for finishing touches. We may face a lonely day or a day too busy to breathe. Whatever this day holds, we know that it holds love. Today we are reminded that love is born.

One: Let this day be filled with generosity. May the gifts we bring and prayers we offer come from love. And may the gift we bring be used for spreading the love of God to all who feel unloved.

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.
Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License

December 24, 2023
4th 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: _____