

Calendar for December 10– December 17

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Worship

10:45 AM Sunday School

Monday, December 11

12:00 PM Lunch & Learn
Bible Study

Tuesday, December 12

3:30—6 PM Young Lions Roar

6:00 PM Leadership Meeting
in Parlor

Wednesday, December 13

12:00 PM Prayer/ Devotion
via FB & Zoom

3:30—6 PM Young Lions Roar

Wednesday, December 13 (cont.)

6:00 PM Bell Rehearsal

7:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 16

12:00 PM Meal site

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Sweater Sunday

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Argrow's house
Pop-up shop

10:45 AM Sunday School

Holiday Homebound gift bag
delivery day

Pastoral Leadership

Rev. Robb McCoy
mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Program Staff

Director of Music
Mark Swessinger
mswess@mchsi.com

Accompanist
Mary Ellen Carroll

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers

All of us
Lay Leader
Susan Lorenzen

Support Staff

Church Office Manager
Brianna Pollock
office@tworiversumc.org

Volunteer Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson

Church Custodian
Brianna Pollock

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Two Rivers United Methodist Church
1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

Office Phone: (309) 788-9384 email: office@tworiversumc.org

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8am—2pm

www.tworiversumc.org — www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers — twitter.com/RITwoRivers



Hope



WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Luke 1:45

“Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	Luke 1:39-45	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Joshua 3:14-17, 4:10-17	The crossing of the Jordan
Tuesday	Joshua 6:17-25	Rahab spared
Wednesday	James 2:25, Hebrews 11:31	Rahab remembered
Thursday	Ruth 1:1-18	Ruth stays with Naomi
Friday	Ruth 1:19-2:9	Travel to Bethlehem
Saturday	Ruth 2:10-2:23	Ruth find wheat in Boaz's field

Reflections on Rahab's story.

- ◇ The Book of Joshua contains some of the most difficult passages in the Bible. The conquest of the land is often grotesquely violent. Reading the Bible through the lens of Christ's love is an important way to read “texts of terror” that are found in Joshua.
- ◇ Rahab's faith is linked directly to her actions of risk-taking hospitality. What kind of Rahab-like hospitality can we offer today?

Thinking about next week, Ruth.

- ◇ Ruth suffered much loss, but found solace in her relationship with Naomi. In times of grief, what relationships have given you comfort?
- ◇ Over and over Ruth is referred to as “The Moabite.” Why is her identity repeated so much in the story?

Advent Hope

- ◇ In what do you find hope this season?

Upcoming Sermon: Grandmothers of Jesus

Dec. 17* 3rd Advent Ruth Ruth 3:1-18, 4:13-17
*“Christmas Sweater Sunday”

Dec. 24 4th Advent at 9:30 a.m. Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-15
Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.

Luke 1:39-45 (CEB)

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Joshua 2:1-21 (CEB)

Joshua, Nun's son, secretly sent two men as spies from Shittim. He said, "Go. Look over the land, especially Jericho." They set out and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab. They bedded down there.

Someone told the king of Jericho, "Men from the Israelites have come here tonight to spy on the land."

So the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab: "Send out the men who came to you, the ones who came to your house, because they have come to spy on the entire land."

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. Then she said, "Of course the men came to me. But I didn't know where they were from. The men left when it was time to close the gate at dark, but I don't know where the men went. Hurry! Chase after them! You might catch up with them." But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the flax stalks that she had laid out on the roof. The men from Jericho chased after them in the direction of the Jordan up to the fords. As soon as those chasing them went out, the gate was shut behind them.

Before the spies bedded down, Rahab went up to them on the roof. She said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land. Terror over you has overwhelmed us. The entire population of the land has melted down in fear because of you."

Joshua 2:1-21 (continued)

We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Reed Sea in front of you when you left Egypt. We have also heard what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan. You utterly wiped them out. We heard this and our hearts turned to water. Because of you, people can no longer work up their courage. This is because the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below. Now, I have been loyal to you. So pledge to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal loyally with my family. Give me a sign of good faith. Spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, and sisters, along with everything they own. Rescue us from death." The men said to her, "We swear by our own lives to secure yours. If you don't reveal our mission, we will deal loyally and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land."

So she lowered the spies on a rope through the window. Her house was on the outer side of the city wall, and she lived inside the wall. Then she said to them, "Go toward the highlands so that those chasing you don't run into you. Hide there for three days until those chasing you return. Then you may go on your way."

The men said to her, "We won't be responsible for this pledge you made us swear unless, when we come into the land, you tie this red woven cord in the window through which you lowered us. Gather your father, your mother, your brothers, and your whole family into the house with you. Those who go outside the doors of your house into the street will have only themselves to blame for their own deaths. We won't be responsible. If anyone lays a hand on those who are with you in the house, we will take the blame for their death. But if you reveal our mission, we won't be responsible for this pledge you made us swear."

She said, "These things will happen just like you said." She sent them away and they went off. Then she tied the red cord in the window.

