

Calendar for December 17– December 24

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

Monday, December 18

12:00 PM Lunch & Learn
Bible Study

Tuesday, December 19

3:30—6 PM Young Lions Roar

Wednesday, December 20

12:00 PM Prayer/ Devotion
via FB & Zoom

3:30—6 PM Young Lions Roar

6:00 PM Bell Rehearsal

7:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

8:30 PM Big Steppers

Saturday, December 23

12:00 PM Meal site

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas
Eve

9:30 AM Worship
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship
Service

Pastoral Leadership

Rev. Robb McCoy
mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Program Staff

Director of Music
Mark Swessinger
msswess@mchsi.com

Accompanist
Mary Ellen Carroll

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers

All of us
Lay Leader
Susan Lorenzen

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



JOY



WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Luke 1:46-47

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in
God my savior."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	Ruth 3:1-18, 4:13-17	Ruth's story
Monday	Ruth 4:1-12	The part we skipped on Sunday
Tuesday	Ezra 9:10-15	Ezra didn't read Ruth
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song, "The Magnificat"
Thursday	2 Samuel 11:1-15	David and Bathsheba
Friday	2 Samuel 11:16-27	David covers up his sin
Saturday	2 Samuel 12:1-15	Nathan's judgment of David

Reflections on Ruth's story.

- ◇ There are a lot of ways to read Ruth's story. Many suggest that it is full of sexual innuendo. Do you take a plain-reading approach or do you "read between the lines"? Does it matter to the meaning of the story?
- ◇ Ruth and Naomi's relationship defies stereotypical understanding of the mother-in-law/daughter relationship. What are important relationships in your life that defy easy definition?

Thinking about next week, Bathsheba.

- ◇ What do you think of when you think of Bathsheba? Seductress? Adulteress? Victim? Widow? Queen Mother?
- ◇ Concepts such as mutual consent and power dynamics were not part of the cultural understanding of relations between men and women. How would you describe what David did to Bathsheba?

Advent Joy

- ◇ What can you do to cultivate joy this Advent season?

Upcoming Sermon: Grandmothers of Jesus

Dec. 24	4th Advent at 9:30 a.m.	Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1-15
		Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 31	Epiphany Sunday	Matthew 2:1-15
Jan. 7	Confirmation Sunday	Isaiah 43:1-7 and Galatians 6:2

Luke 1:46-55 (CEB)

Mary said,
"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because
the mighty one has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.
He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who
honors him as God.
He has shown strength with his arm.
He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the
lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,
just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Ruth 3:1-18 & 4:13-17 (CEB)

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shouldn't I seek security for you, so that things might go well for you? Now isn't Boaz, whose young women you were with, our relative? Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. You should bathe, put on some perfume, wear nice clothes, and then go down to the threshing floor. Don't make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying. Then go, uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what to do."

Ruth replied to her, "I'll do everything you are telling me."

So she went down to the threshing floor, and she did everything just as her mother-in-law had ordered.

Boaz ate and drank, and he was in a good mood. He went over to lie down by the edge of the grain pile. Then she quietly approached, uncovered his legs, and lay down. During the middle of the night, the man shuddered and turned over—and there was a woman lying at his feet. "Who are you?" he asked.

Ruth 3:1-18 & 4:13-17 (Continued)

She replied, "I'm Ruth your servant. Spread out your robe over your servant, because you are a redeemer."

He said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter! You have acted even more faithfully than you did at first. You haven't gone after rich or poor young men. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I'll do for you everything you are asking. Indeed, my people—all who are at the gate—know that you are a woman of worth. Now, although it's certainly true that I'm a redeemer, there's a redeemer who is a closer relative than I am. Stay the night. And in the morning, if he'll redeem you—good, let him redeem. But if he doesn't want to redeem you, then—as the Lord lives—I myself will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

So she lay at his feet until morning. Then she got up before one person could recognize another, for he had said, "No one should know that the woman came to the threshing floor." He said, "Bring the cloak that you have on and hold it out." She held it out, and he measured out six measures of barley and placed it upon her. Then she went into town.


She came to her mother-in-law, who said, "How are you, my daughter?"

So Ruth told her everything the man had done for her. She said, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said to me, 'Don't go away empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

"Sit tight, my daughter," Naomi replied, "until you know how it turns out. The man won't rest until he resolves the matter today."

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife.

He was intimate with her, the Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi, "May the Lord be blessed, who today hasn't left you without a redeemer. May his name be proclaimed in Israel. He will restore your life and sustain you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law who loves you has given birth to him. She's better for you than seven sons." Naomi took the child and held him to her breast, and she became his guardian. The neighborhood women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They called his name Obed. He became Jesse's father and David's grandfather.



Hosted by the
Confirmation Class

BABY SHOWER FOR


Mary

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31 | 10:45 A.M.

Two Rivers Church
Epworth Hall


Games, refreshments,
inter-generational
activities.

Gifts to honor Mary
and baby Jesus will be
donated to Family
Resources.



SUGGESTED GIFTS

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Wipes
- Formula
- Onesies (for newborns)
- Simple outfits
- Swaddling blankets
- Diaper bags
- Baby wash cloths
- Baby wash, lotions



Family Resources is a
Quad Cities non profit
that provides survivor
services for abuse
victims, crisis care for
mothers, adoption and
fostering group care,
and many other
services.