

Calendar for December 24– December 31

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

9:30 AM Worship

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!!

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

12:00 PM Prayer/ Devotion via FB & Zoom

Saturday, December 30

11:00 AM Operation Safety Net

12:00 PM Meal site

Sunday, December 31

9:30 AM Worship

10:45 AM Baby Shower for Mary in Epworth Hall

Pastoral Leadership

Rev. Robb McCoy
mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Program Staff

Director of Music
Mark Swessinger
mswess@mchsi.com

Temporary Accompanist
Nancy Schwegler

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

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Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8am—2pm

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



Love



WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday Luke 1:57-66

Monday Luke 2:1-20

Tuesday Isaiah 42:5-14

Wednesday Isaiah 49:1-7

Thursday Isaiah 43:1-7

Friday Isaiah 66:8-13

Saturday Matthew 1:18-25

Elizabeth gives birth

Mary gives birth

Like a mother in labor

Called in the womb

Bring daughters

Comfort like a mother

Mary gives birth

Reflections on Christmas Eve.

- ◇ Mary gave birth. Have you ever witnessed a birth? What was the experience like? What are the emotions—positive and negative—that come with a new birth?
- ◇ How can a new baby change lives? How much more so does the birth of Christ?

Thinking about next week, Epiphany.

- ◇ Why do we bring gifts to new mothers and babies? What are gifts that a new child most needs? What are gifts that a new mom needs?
- ◇ Consider coming to the Baby Shower for Mary on December 31 after church. Our Confirmation Class is hosting. We will play games, share snacks, and bring gifts for moms in need through Family Resources.

Advent Love

- ◇ How can you cultivate loving relationships this Christmas season?

Upcoming Sermon: Grandmothers of Jesus

Dec. 31 Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-15

Jan. 7

Confirmation Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7 and Galatians 6:2

Luke 1:56-66 (CEB)

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John."

They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.

After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him.

2 Samuel 11:1-15 (CEB)

In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

One evening, David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: "Isn't this Eliah's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" So David sent messengers to take her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home. The woman conceived and sent word to David.

"I'm pregnant," she said.

Then David sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. Then David told Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."

Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master's servants. He didn't go down to his own house. David was told, "Uriah didn't go down to his own house," so David asked Uriah, "Haven't you just returned from a journey? Why didn't you go home?"

"The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents," Uriah told David. "And my master Joab and my master's troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!"

Then David told Uriah, "Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master's servants, but he did not go down to his own home.

The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. He wrote in the letter, "Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die."



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.