



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY! Church Office Closed	2	3 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 3:30—6pm YLR 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	4 8:30 pm Big Steppers	5	6 12 pm Meal Site
7 Confirmation Sunday Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little free Pantry 9:30 am Worship/ Communion 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 11:30 am Un-decorating the church	8 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 4:00 pm Grief-Share	9 3:30—6pm YLR	10 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 3:30—6pm YLR 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	11	12 WinterFest Youth Retreat @ Camp Milan Jan. 12-15th	13 12 pm Meal Site
14 Human Relations Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 4:00 pm Grief-Share	16 3:30—6pm YLR	17 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 3:30—6pm YLR 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	18 8:30 pm Big Steppers	19	20 12 pm Meal Site
21 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 11 am New Member Luncheon	22 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 4:00 pm Grief-Share	23 3:30—6pm YLR <i>February Compass Deadline</i>	24 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 3:30—6pm YLR 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	25	26	27 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
28 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages	29 10:00 am Two Rivers Readers 12:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study 4:00 pm Grief-Share	30 3:30—6pm YLR	31 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 3:30—6pm YLR 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal			



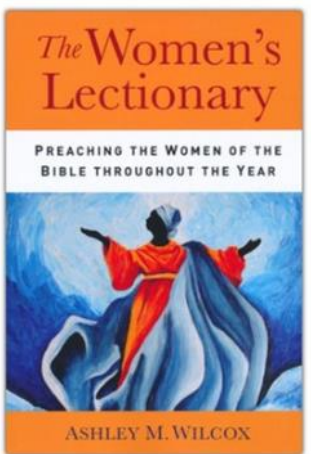
Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be January 7. There is a group of young people who have been working together for many weeks, answering questions of identity, belonging, and purpose. Each confirmation student will share their “Theme Verse” and the families of each student are invited to share in the laying-on-of-hands and blessings that will be offered. The Scripture of the day was selected by the class as their “Group Verse.” It is Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Women’s Lectionary Sermon Series

Two Rivers Church will continue many of the important themes from the Advent stories of The Grandmothers. Starting on January 14, we will begin an important journey through the Women’s Lectionary. We will center stories of and about women from now through Pentecost. While there might be smaller sermon series between now and then, every week will be under the larger umbrella of Women of the Bible.

A companion book, *The Women’s Lectionary: Preaching the women of the Bible Throughout the Year*, by Ashley Wilcox, will be our guide for both Sunday worship and the Monday Pastor’s Bible study. This book is available for purchase on Amazon and includes brief commentary on every Scripture passage for each Sunday of the year. Every week will include a reading from both Testaments.



A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 12-week group, you’ll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what’s “normal” in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you’ll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

The group at Two Rivers Church will be led by a team that is a combination of laity and clergy. It will meet on Mondays at 4:00 p.m., starting January 8. It is open to all – you do not need to be a member of Two Rivers Church to participate. There is a \$10 registration fee, which helps cover the cost of the GriefShare workbook. Each session will include a video presentation, group discussion, and each week people will be invited to share reflections in their workbook.

To learn more, go to www.griefshare.org. While our group is not registered yet, we hope that it will be soon.



01/01 Jerome Mutsinzi
01/01 Sterine Sikujua
01/01 Anete Umuganwa
01/03 Meghan Cooley
01/04 Angel Bizimana
01/06 Claudia Applegate
01/15 Judy Smiley
01/17 Elizabeth McCoy
01/17 Viminda Shafer
01/18 James Hanna
01/19 Amie McKinley
01/21 Jan McCollum
01/28 Elias Gaul
01/31 Rhonda McHenry

If you have a birthday in January and we've missed it, please call the church office to update our records.



Weather Closings

In case of inclement weather, please know that we never want anyone to travel if they are uncomfortable. If main arteries are clear, we will probably still have worship. Our parking lot often has patches of ice, even if it has been cleared, so please use caution. If it is determined that worship needs to be cancelled it will first be posted on the church Facebook page at: facebook.com/RITwoRivers. Also follow the Church Closings on Channels 6 and 8, and online at <https://kwqc.com/weather/closings>.

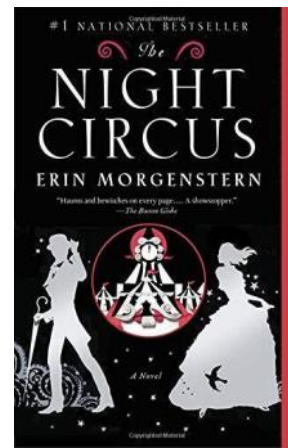
Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will meet on January 29 at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary to discuss our next book, *The Night Circus*, by Erin Morgenstern.

Two star crossed magicians engage in a deadly game of cunning in the spellbinding novel that captured the world's imagination. "Part love story, part fable ... defies both genres and expectations." —The Boston Globe

As always, our group is safe and nonjudgmental, and our discussions are insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun.

We'd love to have you join us!
Questions? Please contact the church Office.



A Beautiful Advent and Christmas Season at Two Rivers

The Two Rivers visual beauty during Advent and Christmas was the product of willing workers who decorated the church on Sunday, November 26. Thank you, everybody!

We are also grateful for the Sunday morning Advent readers and candle lighters: Dick Lee and Abby Pollock, Jasumine Aline and Jacques Barutwanayo, Richard Kelly and Charles Cooley, and Lilah Durbin and Chris Cisne. A huge thank you also goes to Nancy Schwegler and Mark Swessinger for all the beautiful music and extra work put in to make the season come alive.

Whatever your role, the many hands who have done such excellent work are sincerely appreciated. To complete the season's project, we'll need a crew on Sunday, January 7 after Sunday school to Un-Decorate the Church. Please let the church office know if you'll be available.

Coat Ministry Donations Requested

Donations of warm winter wear began in October, and our stock is getting lower. In addition to the coats, hats, and scarves provided to our meal site and Operation Safety Net patrons, 15 coats, 14 stocking caps, and 15 scarves were given to a teacher for distribution to her Edison Junior High students. We have historically provided winter wear to those experiencing homelessness or who are otherwise in need. As you examine your own closet, or if you've a new coat this season, please consider donating your gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves, or boots to this worthy and most appreciated ministry. We especially need mittens and gloves in adult sizes. We also accept new items, as well as cash donations and checks made out to Two Rivers UMC; please designate either cash or checks for the COAT MINISTRY. With many thanks for your continued support, this ministry is entering its 27th year! Please contact Claudia Applegate at 309-738-2055 for more information.



2023 Contribution statements will be mailed out the week of January 7th. If you have any questions regarding your 2023 contributions, please contact Charlotte Peterson at char1728@aol.com or through the church office at 309-788-9384.



Prayer Chain

Charlotte Peterson
793-7783
Nancy Schwegler
781-5334

If you want the prayer chain to pray for your concern or you wish to be part of this prayer ministry, please call one of the persons listed above. They will alert the remaining chain members.

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-

All those in need of prayers for healing and strength.

Our Sympathies to -

The Swessinger family on the passing of Nancy Swessinger on November 18. The Family and friends of Gay Nefzger who passed away on December 1. And, our former pastor, Dr. Don Batz who passed away on November 28.

Our presence—

December 3 = 70
December 10 = 84
December 17 = 82
December 24 = 49
Christmas Eve Service = 72

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

December 3 \$2,588.95
December 10 \$5,484.95
December 17 \$3,514.95
December 24 \$1,211.95
Special Christmas Eve Offering = \$974.00

Our Service -

Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

December 2 — 61 Meal Site
December 9 — 74 Meal Site
December 16 — 56 Meal Site
December 23 — 55 Meal Site



A HUGE THANKS for the Christmas goodie bag. With all those homemade cookies it was hard to decide which one to eat first. They all look delicious. It is so good to know I am thought of by so many people from Two Rivers Church. May the good Lord bless each and every one of you.

Edie Hafeman

NEW MEMBER Luncheon

FIND OUT ABOUT TWO RIVERS CHURCH

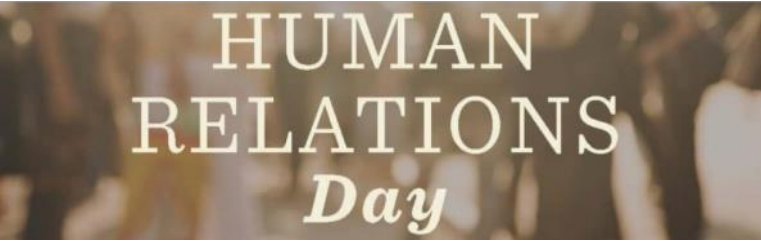
MEET NEW PEOPLE FROM THE CHURCH

JANUARY 21, 11:00 A.M.

All are invited to a luncheon for new members on Sunday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in Epworth Hall and share a luncheon for those who are interested in membership at Two Rivers United Methodist Church.

We will have a short presentation from members of the church as well as some time to get to know each other. We will also pick an upcoming Sunday for new people to take their official vows of membership. If you are transferring membership from another congregation, we will need to know which congregation to contact so that they can update their records as well.

Please RSVP on the church website or in upcoming worship bulletins.



Sunday, January 14 is Human Relations Sunday. Your gifts to the Human Relations Day offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Look for the special offering envelope in the January 14 worship bulletin.

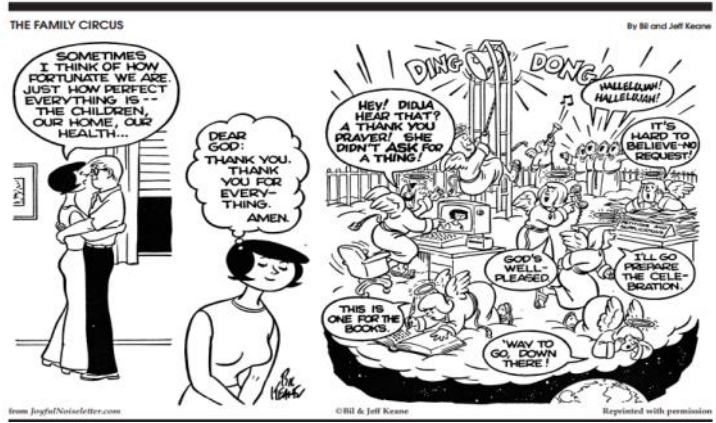


The Surge youth group from Bloomington/Normal and our youth are invited to Camp Milan for a retreat weekend January 12-15. The event will include a trip to Snowstar (weather permitting), and other fun activities in the Quad Cities. Pastor Robb will be the primary speaker and the worship will be led by Matt Sherrill, a talented worship leader from Wesley UMC. Students can register online at TwoRiversUMC.org/ministries/youth.



Love Gift

Our accompanist, Mary, Ellen Carroll, has resigned effective immediately. We will miss her beautiful piano solos, and her support of our choir and guest soloist. Please keep her in our prayers for healing and health. We will have a card to sign in the west entrance on Sundays December 31 and January 7. Love gifts can be brought to the offering on January 7 or sent to the church office as a farewell gift.



Donald Batz Obituary

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium Ltd on Dec. 19, 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Donald L. Batz entered the Kingdom of Heaven on November 28, 2023 in Lake Forest, Illinois. He touched the lives of thousands having served for 71 years as a pastor under appointment in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and then following retirement in the Iowa and Indiana Conferences. He retired (again) in December 2021.

He was born on August 11, 1934 in Peoria, Illinois, the only child of Velma and Otto Batz. He attended Peoria Central High School and upon graduation in 1952, entered the United Methodist ministry at the age of 17,

with his license to preach, as a pastor in DeWitt, Illinois and as a student at Illinois Wesleyan University from which he graduated in 1956.

As a seminary student at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston and later at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, he was appointed as an Associate Minister at the First United Methodist Church in Peoria, where he had attended as a youth. Upon graduation from Christian Theological Seminary in 1961 with a Master of Divinity degree, he was appointed to Chatham, Illinois and later to Centenary Church in Jacksonville, Illinois. While serving in Jacksonville, he returned to Christian Theological Seminary and received his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1971. Other Illinois churches he served included Murphysboro, McNabb-Magnolia, Ransom, Peoria Bradley Epworth, Quincy Union, and Rock Island First from which he retired in 2004. Upon retirement, he served In the Iowa Conference in Camanche and DeWitt for nine years including three years as pastor of First Congregational Church of Clinton, Iowa. In 2014, he was appointed as pastor of Colfax United Methodist Church in Colfax, Indiana where he served for 5 years. He also served at Braceville United Methodist Church and Mazon United Methodist Church in Illinois for two years where he 'officially' retired from at age 87.

Two churches, Union, Quincy, in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and St. Marks in Camanche, in the Iowa Conference, honored him as Pastor Emeritus. In 2012, he was the recipient of the Peter Cartwright award for outstanding service to the church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. In conjunction with his ministry, he also taught courses for twenty-one years in Ethics, Philosophy and World Religions at three different community colleges at John Wood in Quincy, Illinois, Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa, and Ivy Tech in Lafayette, Indiana. Though his greatest legacy is the infinite love he bestowed unfailingly to his treasured family including his beloved wife, Aleta Satterthwaite Batz, four children: Dr. Lisa McClure of Peoria, Illinois, Donnelle Pressburger of Normal, Illinois, Matthew Batz (Casey) of Campbell, California, and Dr. Cassondra Batz-Barbarich (Luke) of Libertyville, Illinois, three granddaughters: Jolie Kate Pressburger (21), Eden Nicole Pressburger (18), and Ella Rose Batz (6), and one grandson: Bennett LeRoy Barbarich (born November 27th).

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A visitation will be held on January 6th, 2024 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm followed by a memorial service at 3:00 at the First United Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois. It will be officiated by Rev. Lori Kyle.

Teams and COMMITTEES

Leadership Council for 2024

Pastor
Robb McCoy

Church Council/Finance Chairperson
Dave Dehnel

Board of Trustees Chair
Dick Lee

Pastor-Parish (SPRC) Chair
Candy Canik

Lay Leader
Susan Lorenzen

Lay Member to Annual Conference
Charlotte Peterson

Church Treasurer
Brianna Pollock

Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson

Recording Secretary
Brianna Pollock

Children & Youth Chair
TBD (Please contact Pastor Robb or the Church Office if you are interested in this position.)

Outreach Chair
Dave Martin

Worship Chair
Mark Swessinger

Evangelism Chair
TBD (Please contact Pastor Robb or the Church Office if you are interested in this position.)

Discipleship Chair
Sarah McCoy and Dick Lee

Committees for 2024

Finance Committee
Class of 2024
David Dehnel
Charlotte Peterson
Mark Swessinger

Class of 2025
Susan Lorenzen
David Martin

Class of 2026
Candy Canik
Brianna Pollock
Dick Lee

Board of Trustees
Class of 2024
Dick Lee
Taddy Kalas
Jim Nordquist

Class of 2025
Mike Andrews
Roger Pohlman

Class of 2026
TBD

Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Class of 2024
Olinda Gunther
Candy Canik

Class of 2025
Autumn Glass
Charlotte Peterson

Class of 2026
TBD

Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development
Class of 2024
Rev. Robb McCoy
Susan Lorenzen

Class of 2025
TBD

Class of 2026
TBD



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Online Giving at
Tworiversumc.org



*Two Rivers Donate
QR Code*

- 1. Website Giving:**
Go to www.tworiversumc.org to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to give any time.
- OR**
- 2. Tithe.ly Giving App:**
Download the Tithe.ly App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select your church and follow the instructions given.

Pastoral Leadership
Rev. Robb McCoy
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Program Staff
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Mark Swessinger
mswess@mchsi.com

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers
All of us

Support Staff
Church Office Manager
Brianna Pollock
office@tworiversumc.org

Volunteer Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson
char1728@aol.com

Church Custodian
Brianna Pollock

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **February** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, January 23, 2024**. Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

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.

1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

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Office Hours: **Monday -Thursday 8 am—2 pm**

Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org** — **www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers** — **twitter.com/RITwoRivers**