

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ First time guest
- ☐ Returning guest
- ☐ Interested in baptism or membership
- ☐ Member

### New Contact Information

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Opportunities to Serve

#### Volunteer opportunities:

- ☐ Be a part of a team that will adopt a family from World Relief.
- ☐ Help serve at Saturday meal site.

#### Outreach opportunities:

- ☐ **Donate used grocery bags for use at Meal Site.**
- ☐ **Donate household items to Operation Safety Net (pots, pans, dishes, towels, blankets, small appliances, small furniture that one person can carry, etc.)**
- ☐ Donate non-perishable food items, water and hygiene items to the Little Free Pantry.

#### Worship volunteers:

- ☐ **Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- ☐ **2nd & 4th Sunday Ushers** —Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository.
- ☐ **Counters** - Monday mornings, help take account of Sunday offering (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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 history of 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 May 18, 2025

**Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom**

**Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor**

**Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am in Youth room upstairs**

**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 dialing 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation.

**We Care Gift Bags** Sunday, June 8 will be the day our “We Care” gift bags for our senior shut-in members will be ready for delivery. If anyone wishes to make a monetary contribution to this worthy cause, please send your contribution to the church office by June 1 and designate that it’s for the “We Care” gift bags. Once again, volunteers will be needed to help with the delivery of these gift bags. If you would like to help with delivery, please call or leave a message at the church office: 309-788-9384.

**Adult Sunday School Study** This morning the Adult Sunday School class will be continuing their five-week study of Max Lucado's, *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*, upstairs in Asbury Parlor at 10:45am. All are welcome to join this enriching program.

**UM Student Sunday** United Methodist Student Day is May 25. It calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Gifts on United Methodist Student Day support U.M. scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund. Look for a Special Sunday offering envelope in next Sunday's bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving



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May 18, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! He is the compassionate Father and God of all comfort. He’s the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble. We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God. That is because we receive so much comfort through Christ in the same way that we share so many of Christ’s sufferings.

So if we have trouble, it is to bring you comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is to bring you comfort from the experience of endurance while you go through the same sufferings that we also suffer. Our hope for you is certain, because we know that as you are partners in suffering, so also you are partners in comfort.

Brothers and sisters, we don’t want you to be unaware of the troubles that we went through in Asia. We were weighed down with a load of suffering that was so far beyond our strength that we were afraid we might not survive. It certainly seemed to us as if we had gotten the death penalty. This was so that we would have confidence in God, who raises the dead, instead of ourselves. God rescued us from a terrible death, and he will rescue us. We have set our hope on him that he will rescue us again, since you are helping with your prayer for us. Then many people can thank God on our behalf for the gift that was given to us through the prayers of many people

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “We Have Come to Join in Worship” - arr. B. Ingram  
*Two Rivers Handbell Choir*

GREETING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Sarah McCoy

One: Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all Creation. The God of power. The God of love. The God of our salvation.

All: To God all praise and glory

One: The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.

All: To God all praise and glory

One: Let all who name Christ’s holy name give God all praise and glory, let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story

All: To God all praise and glory. Amen.

\*HYMN #126 UMH “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Resurrection, we are an Easter people full of hope. Yet in the midst of suffering, anxiety, and fear, we sometimes lose our way. We will sing “It is well,” but the sin of the world, the corruption of our culture, the injustice of our systems, and our own shortcomings have made our souls unwell. Remind us that when we suffer, this is not a sign of being lost or forgotten. It is a chance to join in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ. We are one with Christ when we share the ups and downs together. Forgive us. Heal our dis-ease. Restore the wellness of our world and our soul.

*<Pause for silent confession and reflection>*

One: Hear the good news: the sin of the world could not be overcome by a cross. Your sin is forgiven by the one who conquered the grave.

All: God has rescued us before. God will rescue us again. In the name of the Risen One, we are forgiven. Amen.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

Prayer Song #420 “Breathe On Me Breath of God” vs. 1

PASTOR PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

CHORAL ANTHEM “Let the Praise Go Round” - Hopson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, bless the reading and hearing of this sacred text. Speak through these words and reveal to us the living Word of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (CEB)

HYMN #432 “Jesu, Jesu” vs. 1

CONVERSATION WITH MARK: “It is Well With My Soul”

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #377 “It is Well With My Soul”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

\*HYMN #57 UMH “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” vs. 1-4

*(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)*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: One voice, one mouth, one tongue does not feel like enough to praise our risen Lord. My praise alone feels inadequate. I need the help of the Church.

All: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer’s praise!

One: I praise God for the glory of Resurrection. I stand in awe of the victory Christ has won.

All: The glories of my God and King, the triumph of his grace.

One: I wish I could share with all the world the joy I feel today. I need the Holy Spirit to give me the right words to describe the grace of Jesus.

All: My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim

One: May every corner of the world know that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

All: To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy name. Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Ride On in Majesty” - Dorothy Wells

*\*=please rise if you are able*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal. You can use the red books in front of you.  
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PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK  
May 18, 2025

Your Name\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for our Church and its ministry:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for people I know:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have permission to publish this prayer.  
☐ I do not have permission to publish this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for myself:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_