



June 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|--|
| 1 Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little free Pantry 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:30 am Retirement Reception for Mark Swessinger 8 p.m. Light Up Pride @ Spotlight Theater | 2 12:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Ellie McCoy Grad Party | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 12 pm Meal Site |
| 8 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship with Baptisms and New Member Welcome 10:45 am Sunday School | 9 12:00 pm Bible Study | 10 | 11 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion | 12 | 13 | 14 10 a.m. Bi-State Unity Pride Parade 12 pm Meal Site |
| 15 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & First Youth Handbell Rehearsal | 16 10:00 am. Two Rivers Readers 12:00 pm Bible Study | 17 | 18 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion | 19 <i>July Compass Deadline</i> | 20 | 21 12 pm Meal Site |
| 22 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & Handbell Rehearsal | 23 12:00 pm Bible Study | 24 YWCA Pre-K Graduation in the Sanctuary | 25 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion | 26 | 27 | 28 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site 3 p.m. Pride Party at Bass Street Landing |
| 29 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & Handbell Rehearsal | 30 12:00 pm Bible Study | | | | | |



a publication of



TWO RIVERS CHURCH
A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION



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Thank you, Mark!

Mark, for the last ten years the last words you wanted to hear from me were, “I’ve got an idea.” This usually meant some strange request and an elaborate scheme. Yet somehow, we’ve made some amazing things happen. Together, we’ve brought music and theology into a beautiful partnership. Gospel According to Broadway, Acts I and II; a production of *Godspell*; two Beatles Sundays; the “Roots” series that included the late great Ellis Kell; and many jazz Sundays with the exuberant Edgar Crockett, we make these “I’ve got an idea” moments into memorable and meaningful worship. You gave me a hard time when I had some crazy idea, but I also think that’s when we did our best work together.



You make excellent music, but more than this, you elevate the art of worship. Not just with your incredible baritone voice, but with the passion of your teaching, the thoughtful work of music selection, your spiritual leadership, and your dedication to justice, inclusion, generosity, and love.

For twenty-one years you have made wonderful music at Two Rivers United Methodist Church. You have seen an enormous amount of change in that time, and you have told me many times that the proudest accomplishment was becoming a Reconciling church. What I will remember most dearly, however, is not any of these big moments. It will be the early Sunday conversations in your office, the Christmas Eve hugs, the Monday morning “business” and laughter, the shared sense of purpose and mission, and the consistent brilliance of a small but mighty choir. Every week you brought something sublime out of a small group of people who love God and love each other.

I am proud of what we have done together, and I am proud of you for stepping away. It is never an easy decision to make, but I am happy for you and Tamara. I’ve never heard a couple make more beautiful music than the two of you. I know you will keep singing, but now you won’t have to worry about the next time that I’ve got an idea.

Your Friend,

Robb



| | |
|-------|------------------|
| 06/02 | Karen Dahlstrom |
| 06/15 | Rita Anderson |
| 06/15 | Gregory Etzel |
| 06/17 | Jake Favre |
| 06/17 | Matthew McGinnis |
| 06/19 | Ray Logsdon |
| 06/21 | Sandra Etzel |
| 06/25 | Khloe Littlejohn |
| 06/27 | Michelle Curtis |
| 06/30 | Judy Shryack |

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



IGRC Annual Conference 2025

The 2025 Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, June 5 to Saturday, June 7 at the Peoria Civic Center.

The theme this year is *Rivers of Grace: Hope That Doesn't Disappoint*, taken from Romans 5:5.

Pastor Robb McCoy and Lay Member to Annual Conference, Charlotte Peterson will be attending the conference in-person this year.

Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will meet on **Monday, June 16 at 10:00 a.m.** (note the date change) in the back of the sanctuary to discuss their next book, "I Took the Wrong Path" by Aubrey Barnes.

This is a book of poetry written by a friend and partner of Two Rivers UMC. Aubrey has shared his beautiful spoken word poetry with us on several occasions and is the founder of Young Lions Roar, a poetry writing class for teens that currently meets here at the church on Saturday afternoons. This poetry book will be available for purchase at the church. Call the church office for more information on how to obtain a copy.

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

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



"We Care" Gift Bags For Our Senior Members

Sunday, June 8 will be the day to deliver "We Care" gift bags to our senior members. If you would like to help with delivery, please call or leave a message at the church office: 309-788-9384.



Music Director Search

We have had a few applicants for the position of music director with various levels of experience and skill. Pastor Robb and SPRC Chair, Candy Canik have interviewed four candidates. The next step will be for the qualified candidates to meet with the choir. Choir members will be asked to come to a special rehearsal where the candidates will teach them an anthem of their selection. This will be a great way for the choir to meet each candidate, see their teaching style, and provide important input to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee as they work toward hiring a new music director.



Organ Update

As many have noticed in the last few weeks in worship, the organ is on its last legs. This organ was purchased in 1972 and was a wonderful instrument when it was purchased. In fifty years, organ technology has changed a lot, and fixing the current organ is not feasible. A small committee has been studying organs and has determined that a Viscount digital organ would be a wonderful instrument that would last another 40 years or more. This would obviously be a major purchase. The Trustees are currently working with United Methodist Foundation director Ted Frost to determine if a capital campaign for such a purchase would be feasible. There are other projects that the church might need in the near future, and other financial considerations to be made. In the meantime, the piano will be our main instrument used in worship, as a new custom organ installation would take many months once the purchase is made.

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-

Please be in prayer for all those in need of healing and strength, as well as their caregivers.

Our presence—

| | |
|--------|------|
| May 4 | = 90 |
| May 11 | = 68 |
| May 18 | = 75 |
| May 25 | = 63 |

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

| | |
|--------|------------|
| May 4 | \$3,625.35 |
| May 11 | \$4,217.10 |
| May 18 | \$2,488.85 |
| May 24 | \$2,579.35 |

Our Service -

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

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| May 3 | — 81 Meal Site |
| May 10 | — 61 Meal Site |
| May 17 | — 61 Meal Site |
| May 24 | — 98 Meal Site |

Our Thanks—

We give a big "Thank you" to Shari and Rick Cole for their diligent work with keeping the Two Rivers Little Free Pantry stocked with our donated food and hygiene items each week.

Thank you to Harold Truitt for donating the beautiful stone birdbath to our west entrance garden.



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.

June 8 Outside Worship

On June 8 – Pentecost Sunday – we will gather in the south parking lot for a special worship service. We will provide many folding chairs, but people can bring their own lawn chairs as well to make sure we have enough seating. The purpose of the outdoor service is to have baptisms in the style of full immersion. We will have a wading pool set up in the parking lot for baptisms. While the United Methodist Church does not require this as a part of our polity, it is important to some of our members. Please let Pastor Robb know as soon as possible if you or someone in your family wants to be baptized on June 8.

Anyone who wishes to be baptized can be on June 8. We do not do re-baptisms, but if you would like to participate, we can talk about what a baptism renewal means to you.

Young people in grades 6-9 who have not been baptized, you can also be a part of this service. There are plans in place to have a confirmation class start this fall. For those baptized this summer, you will still be invited to be a part of the confirmation class.



Finding God in the Waves



Starting June 15, there will be a new sermon series based on the book *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found it Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. The first half of the book is a personal memoir about a man who nearly lost his faith as he dove into the world of modern atheist writers like Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins. The second half of the book however, presents a thoughtful way of integrating scientific logic with a spiritual life of prayer, Bible, and faith in Jesus. While some of

McHargue's conclusions might not sit well with everyone, he presents a work that is much deeper than "Science vs Religion." This series might appeal to a significant group of the demographic known as "Nones" who have a sense of spiritual depth, but have trouble reconciling that with their modern understandings of science. This five week series will ask probing questions and find a depth of truth that goes beyond caricatures and straw men. This is a great series to invite someone to who might label themselves as a "seeker."

Summer Sunday School



The kids and youth will continue to have Sunday school all summer. There will be two options for them to spend extra time together after worship. Starting at 10:45 each Sunday, there will be a choice between the youth bell choir and working on the puppet show.

The kids picked the story of Joseph to be the subject of their puppet show. Pastor Robb is writing a script and the kids are learning how to puppet. The kids will record their lines and perform the shows as a series when we share a Joseph sermon series during the second half of the summer. Preparations are being made now for the performances in August. We need help with creating a set background

for the show. If you have some artistic ability and ideas of how to create a background, please let Pastor Robb or Sarah McCoy know.

The youth bell choir will begin practicing on June 15. A.J. Pollock will teach the kids the basics of bell ringing and pick a few simple songs to learn. No experience is necessary. The group will have a lot of fun learning to make music together and they hope to present in worship by the end of the summer.



Affirming Congregations of the QC

Pastor Robb has been instrumental in organizing a new group of churches known as Affirming Congregations of the Quad Cities (ACQC). This is a coalition of congregations that advocate for the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and leadership of the Church and advocates for human rights and justice for all people.

Among the churches involved include First Presbyterian (Davenport), Church of Peace UCC (Rock Island), St. Johns Lutheran (Rock Island), First Congregational UCC (Moline), Hope UCC (Moline), Edwards UCC (Bettendorf), and Metropolitan Community Church (Bettendorf). The group is coordinating efforts of our churches to provide a united front to share the Gospel in the community in the face of growing religion-inspired discrimination.

The first event sponsored by ACQC will be Light Up Pride, which will take place on June 1 at 8:00 p.m. at the Spotlight Theater in Moline. The lights of the Spotlight theater are a significant part of the night sky as you cross the I-74-Bridge. On the first night of Pride Month, civic, non-profit, business, and religious leaders will gather to celebrate the importance of Pride Month and watch as the setting sun reveals the rainbow beauty of the Spotlight Theater.

On June 14, members of Two Rivers are invited to walk with the ACQC float at the Bi-State Unity Pride Parade. We will gather with the other congregations at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the parade in Davenport, walk in the parade to Schwiebert Park. Participants in the parade are encouraged to wear Royal Blue – as each church has a different color to wear.

On June 28, all are invited to be a part of the ACQC table at the Pride Party at Bass Street Landing. Many churches that used to have individual tables are coming together to show that people of faith can cooperate in the name of love and welcome. This act of unity will show the community that affirming congregations are not a small group of congregations, but is a wide and growing movement within communities of faith.



World Relief Summer Camp

World Relief Quad Cities is hosting an "Arts in English" Fine Arts summer camp at Two Rivers Church from June 9-21. 80 refugee kids in grades K-6 that are connected to World Relief are signed up for this incredible two-week experience.

There will be five stations around the church, with small groups of kids rotating through each station every day. The stations will be games, English learning, music, arts, and academics. They will gather in Epworth Hall every morning at 8:30 a.m. and leave at 12:30 p.m.

World Relief has station leaders and some other volunteers already lined up, but there are opportunities for others to volunteer. Group Leaders will be assigned to one group and lead them from class to class. Support volunteers provide extra hands, clean-up and set-up help. Donations can also be made to help with snacks and/or field trip tickets.

All the registration for students is done through World Relief. Contact Laura at 309-644-1241 or LSauer@wr.org to find out if there are spots available or to volunteer.



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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.



Two Rivers
Donate QR Code

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **July** issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, June 19, 2025**. 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.

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