

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 our World Relief Good Neighbor Team that is assisting a family settling into the community.
- ☐ 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:

- ☐ **Counters - Monday mornings, help take account of Sunday offering (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)**
- ☐ **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.



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 July 27, 2025

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom
Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am

Today’s Guest Preacher, Pastor Becky Butterfield. Rev. Butterfield serves as the Associate Pastor at Port Byron First United Methodist Church. Her primary ministry focus is with children, youth, and families. She received her Master of Divinity from The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2015 and was ordained in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church as a deacon in 2017. Since her appointment to Port Byron First UMC is part-time, she’s bi-vocational. The other half of her week she works for the Riverdale School district as a substitute teacher, high school speech coach, and assistant play director. Becky and her husband Chad have three sons and a granddaughter. She loves to travel, watch live theatre, read, be in nature, and share a good meal or cup of coffee with family or friends.

August 3rd Worship at the Park NEXT SUNDAY, on August 3rd we will gather at Schwiebert Park at 10:30 a.m. with two other local churches for a special community worship service. Pastors Greg Hampton, Mason Parks, and Robb McCoy will create a program focused on community building and lifting up the connection between our churches. There will be more information in the coming weeks, but we are hoping to create a pot-luck picnic atmosphere, with a chance for people to get to know each other over food and conversation.

Discipleship Schedule
NO BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER GROUP IN THE MONTH OF JULY
Monday Bible Study meets at noon in Epworth Hall. 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.


Guest Wifi



Online Giving



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7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 27, 2025

1 Thessalonians 5:9-18

God didn’t intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Take My Life and Let It Be” - arr. Stan Pethel

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION OF OUR GUEST PREACHER

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from 1 Thes.4:1-12) Liturgist: Dave Dehnel

One: Siblings, you are urged, in the name of Lord Jesus, to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Do more and more to love one another.

All: For this is the instruction we have from God. It is God’s will that we are sanctified, that we abstain from sin, that we do not exploit, or get lost in impurity. For God has called us to holiness.

One: You have been taught by God to love one another.

All: Indeed we do love all of our siblings. We will strive to do more and more. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen

***HYMN #496 UMH “Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (adapted from 1 Thes. 5:1-11)

All: Holy and Gracious God, we know that Christ will come like a thief in the night, so we must be prepared. We cannot put off the good that could be done today. We cannot sleep on injustice or ignore the suffering of others. Keep us awake, always ready to do your will. Keep us be armed with faith and love. Forgive us from our slumber so that we can rejoice in our hope.

<Pause for silent confession and reflection>

One: Hear the good news: God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live in him.

All: Through the grace of the Lord, we take courage in one another and build one another up in forgiveness and love. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER SONG #347 UMH “Spirit Song” VS. 1

PASTORAL 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

MUSICAL OFFERING “Amazing Grace”
Olinda Gunther, mezzo soprano & Tamara Baugh, Soprano
Nancy Schwegler, piano

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 1 Thessalonians 5:9-18 (CEB)

SERMON “Pray Without Ceasing” by Rev. Becky Butterfield

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #395 “Take Time to Be Holy” vs. 1, 2, 4

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

***HYMN #2129 FWS “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”**

(All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front as we sing)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (adapted from 1 Thes. 5:18-28)

Holy and Gracious God, we give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. We will not stifle the Spirit. We will not despise the words of prophets. We will test everything and hold fast to what is good. We will abstain from every form of evil.

In so doing, the God of peace will sanctify us. Our spirit, soul, and body will be kept sound and blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for calling us faithful. Thank you for your promise of life everlasting. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE “Coro” - G.F. Handel

**=please rise if you are able*
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book) FWS = Faith We Sing (black book).
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PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK
July 27, 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:
