

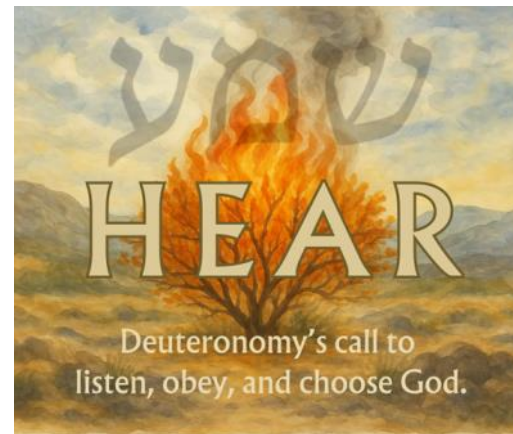
# 2025 JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <i>Happy Independence Day</i>	5 12 pm Meal Site
6 Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little free Pantry 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:30 am Youth Bake Sale 10:45 am Youth Handbell Rehearsal 12 pm Youth Car wash fundraiser	7	8	9	10	11	12 12 pm Meal Site
13 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & Handbell Rehearsal	14	15	16	17	18	19 12 pm Meal Site
20 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & Handbell Rehearsal	21	22 <i>August Compass Deadline</i>	23	24	25	26 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
27 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Youth Puppets & Handbell Rehearsal	28 10:00 am. Two Rivers Readers	29	30	31		



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## Hear: Deuteronomy's call to Listen, Obey, and Choose

In July we will share a three-part series on the Book of Deuteronomy. The final book of the Biblical section known as the Torah (or Pentateuch, or Five Books of Moses), Deuteronomy means “Second Words.” It is framed as Moses speaking to the people on the eve of entering the Promised Land. The three-part series will coincide with the three parts of Deuteronomy.

The first part is Moses’ initial speech in which he summarizes the people’s story of escape from Egypt. Here we have the famous “Shema” of Deuteronomy 6:1-9, which is known as the most important law of the Torah. The second part is the summary of the laws, including Deuteronomy 10:12-22, the Ten Commandments. The final part is Moses’ final speech admonishing the people to obey and warnings that prophets would come to set the people straight when they strayed. It is a call to choose God as seen in Deuteronomy 30:11-20.

## Worship at Schwiebert Park

On **August 3** we will once again gather at Schwiebert Park at 10:30 a.m. Two other churches, The House: A Local Congregation and Gaines Chapel AME will also be there. 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.







07/01	Paula Johnson
07/04	Colin Muir
07/04	James Muir
07/04	Belva Thorpe
07/05	Candy Canik
07/07	Russell Kennedy
07/09	Pastor Robb McCoy
07/11	Dorothy Bundy
07/13	Sarai Shy
07/13	Rick Cole
07/17	Florence Uwimana
07/18	Pat Burton
07/19	Marilyn Beam
07/19	Simon Cooley
07/26	Mason Dean

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

## HELP WANTED – OFFERING COUNTERS

**Requirements:** A member of the church. Not related to Brianna Pollock or Charlotte Peterson. Available for 30 minutes at 9 a.m. on Monday mornings (occasionally Tuesday morning when Monday is a bank holiday). A rotating schedule will be established. Ability to read sloppy handwriting and write legibly.

**Duties:** Count offering and prepare bank deposit with guidance from the Voluntary Financial Secretary.

**Apply:** Call the church office 309-788-9384 or tell Charlotte Peterson.

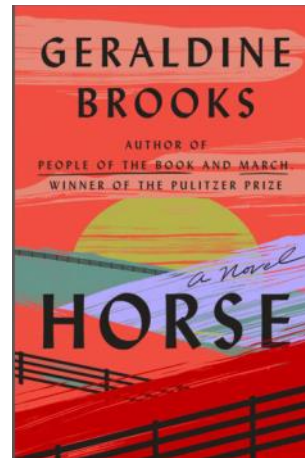


## Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will meet on **Monday, July 28 at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of Ellen Pohlman to discuss their next book, “Horse” by Geraldine Brooks.

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.



## Midweek Interruptions

Due to other commitments, the mission trip, and vacation, the Monday Bible study and the Wednesday online prayer group will not meet in

July. Bible study will meet again on Monday, August 4 at 12:00 p.m. and the prayer group will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, August 6 at 12:00 p.m.

## Celebration of Life Picnic for Gary Johnson

Paula Johnson would like to invited all who knew and loved Gary to a picnic at the Quad Cities Botanical Center in Rock Island on July 13 from 1-4pm. Food will be provided.

Gary was a beloved member of our congregation and contributed to the life of the church in so many ways. Let us celebrate a life well lived and share stories of his love and kindness.

Gary's obituary can be found at:  
[www.wheelanpressly.com/obituary/Gary-Johnson](http://www.wheelanpressly.com/obituary/Gary-Johnson)



## Music Director Hiring Announcement

Two Rivers UMC has hired a new Music Director. Jon Hansen will start his new role on August 1 and will lead the choir in worship for the first time on September 14. Choir members can expect to start rehearsals a little earlier than usual in order to get to know Jon.

In the hiring process Jon and two other applicants met with a portion of the choir for a trial rehearsal. There was wide consensus that he was an excellent teacher. One long-time choir member said, “We felt safe singing with him.”

Jon is from Lindenwood, Illinois. He is a graduate of Rochelle High School and is a senior at Augustana College. He is a music education major who hopes to get a teaching job in the area when he graduates. He has been an intern at a Redeemer Lutheran Church where he has been a cantor and has experience leading their bell choir. He is the music librarian at Augustana College and is also the Tenor Section Leader for the Augustana Choir. He is also a part of the Augustana Chamber Singers, the Academic Choir, and the Ascension Ringers.



## Prayer Chain

Charlotte Peterson	793-7783
Nancy Schwegler	781-6609

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-

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

### Our presence—

June 1	= 84
June 8	= 55
June 15	= 70
June 22	= 58

### Our gifts—

#### General Fund Offerings

June 1	\$4,734.35
June 8	\$2,329.35
June 15	\$2,969.35
June 22	\$2,701.35

### Our Service -

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

May 31	— 98 Meal Site, 74 OSN
June 7	— 71 Meal Site
June 14	— 74 Meal Site
June 21	— 72 Meal Site

### Our thanks—

Thank you to those who delivered “We Care” gift bags to our Homebound members in June.



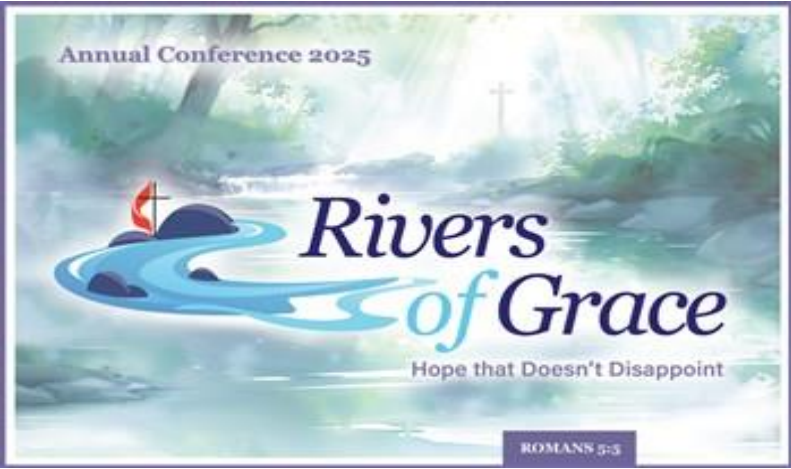
## Fundraiser For Mission STL

The Two Rivers youth are going to Saint Louis for an Immersive Learning trip to LifewiseSTL. To help pay for the week of service, study, and fun, they are going to have a car wash and bake sale on July 6. Anyone willing to bring an item for the bake sale can bring them to church on July 6. What doesn't get sold after worship will be available in the afternoon as the kids have a car wash in the parking lot at 12:00 p.m.



## 2025 Annual Conference Report

The 2025 Annual Conference of Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church was held June 5 through 7 in Peoria, Illinois. The theme for this year’s conference was Rivers of Grace: Hope that Doesn’t Disappoint with Romans 5:5 as the Bible reference.



Friday mornings work began with a opening worship service lead by Bishop Kennetha Bingham-Tsai and included an offering for Africa University. Her message was on HOPE - Healing, Outreaching, Peace Seeking, Everlasting Grace. This was followed by Laity and Clergy sessions. The laity session included an offering for the John Kofi Asmah School Maintenance Fund. The John Kofi Asmah School in Liberia was built by lay donations from the Great Rivers Conference and we try to keep it maintained and functioning.

The afternoon session began with a memorial service and celebration of life and an offering for the IGRC Camping Scholarship. At 3:30 we got down the legislative work of the conference. The first test vote was on whether anyone would address Bishop Bard as Bishop Beard. We were pretty confident it would happen, and it did. The first order of business after approving the rules was to vote on the four Constitutional Amendments from the 2020/2024 General Conference. These Amendments came with headings of Regionalization, Inclusiveness, Racial Justice, and Clergy Education Requirements. For the amendments to pass they must receive an affirmative vote of two thirds of all those voting in all annual conferences worldwide. The results of vote will be announced some time in November. The vote of our conference is never announced. The afternoon ended with an order of business of an apology past pain caused by the Church over sexual misconduct. Councilors were available for those who needed them at the end of the session.

Friday morning began at 8:30 with a Service of Ministry Celebration which included the consecration of a Deaconess/Home Missioner. This service also included an offering for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley University. The legislative session got underway at 10:00. The afternoon session began at 2:00 with a Service of Recognition for Retirees and an offering for IGRC Campus Ministries. The final legislative session began at 3:15 in the afternoon.

For the most part the whole conference was very upbeat. A few wanted to argue that the Church is in crisis and possibly dying. Most held the view that we have come through some very difficult times and are healing and moving forward. We had the usual reports from Preachers’ Aid Society and the Board of Pensions. Six items were passed as part of a consent agenda, including one designating the Verla Ewing Retreat Center as one of twenty-five Conference Historical Sites. Equitable Compensation and Clergy Health Insurance Allowance were passed at written without too much debate. The most contentious items on the agenda this year were Financial Support for Little Grassy and Exploring the Sale of the Conference Center.

Saturday morning was the joyous Service of Ordination and fixing of appointments. An offering was taken for the Bishops’ Study Trip for Ordinands. Our tandem bishops were having so much fun playing with the babies baptized as part of the service that they lost their place in the liturgy. The sermon to the newly ordained was delivered by Bishop David Bard.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Peterson, Lay Member of the IGRC Annual Conference.



## Calling all Confirmation Candidates

Confirmation is a program for young people to claim their own faith. It is common in churches that baptize infants or young people to “make firm” the commitment that was made on their behalf when they were an infant. The age for confirmation is not strictly defined, but it is usually for youth ages 11-15.

This fall we are going to begin a confirmation class with other United Methodist Churches in the area. The idea is for the class to meet on Sunday afternoon in a rotating model between churches in Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, and Colona. We believe that each church has 1-5 youth interested in confirmation, and this will give us a class large enough to have good discussion and build bonds between our churches.

If you have a student in this age group, please let Pastor Robb know that they are interested in Confirmation. The group will begin to meet in the fall with Confirmation Sunday coming the first Sunday of 2026. If your young person has not been baptized, we are planning on having baptisms in August at an outside worship service. Those who are baptized this summer should still participate in confirmation.

## Subscribe to Weekly Email

Get more updates about what is going on at Two Rivers Church through our weekly email. The weekly email usually comes on Thursday afternoon and it appears to come from “Pastor Robb.” It is usually two pages – the first with updates and news on what is going on at Two Rivers. It also has the weekly GPS readings, a great resource for Bible readings. The second page is a recap from last Sunday’s sermon. Scan the QR code to be taken to the online form to subscribe today.



Dearest friends,

I write this while the gratitude is still fresh in my heart. Thank you, thank you, thank you! for the amazing ride the past 21 has been. It has been my great joy to make music with and for you to the infinite glory of God.

When I was first hired, I thought of the Church as just another gig, but gradually fell in love with the people, the purpose and the mission of the church. I hold so many memories that are dear. Those that have gone before and those that remain. I am truly a blessed man.

It is my dearest hope to continue to be a part of Two Rivers. To worship, celebrate and revel in the glory of God’s abundance and love. Again thank you for putting up with my nonsense for 21 wonderful years. You are a blessing in my life.

Much love, Mark







Photos from the Bi-State Unity Pride Parade on June 14, 2025

# Compass

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Two Rivers  
Donate QR Code

**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.

#### Pastor

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[mccoy@tworiversumc.org](mailto:mccoy@tworiversumc.org)

#### Director of Music

TBA

#### Church Office Manager

Brianna Pollock  
[office@tworiversumc.org](mailto:office@tworiversumc.org)

#### Volunteer Financial Secretary

Charlotte Peterson  
[char1728@aol.com](mailto:char1728@aol.com)

#### Church Custodian

Brianna Pollock

#### Camp Milan Caretaker

Kent Hessman

#### Accompanist

Russell Rursch

#### Ministers

All of us

### Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **August** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, July 22, 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.

1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

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