




OCTOBER

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
5 World Communion Sunday Fill the Pantry Sunday 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:45 am Sunday School	6 12:00 pm Bible Study	7 6:00 pm Making Sense of the Bible	8 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
12 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 1:30 pm Annual Charge Conference @ Aledo UMC	13 12:00 pm Bible Study 	14	15 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
19 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 2—5pm Confirmation Multi-Church Gathering @ Riverside UMC in Moline	20 12:00 pm Bible Study	21 6:00 pm Making Sense of the Bible	22 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 <i>November Compass Deadline</i>	24	25 11 am Young Lions Roar 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site 5-8pm Fellowship hall rented
26 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	27 12:00 pm Bible Study	28	29 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 Happy Halloween!	

a publication of



TWO RIVERS CHURCH
A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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Compass

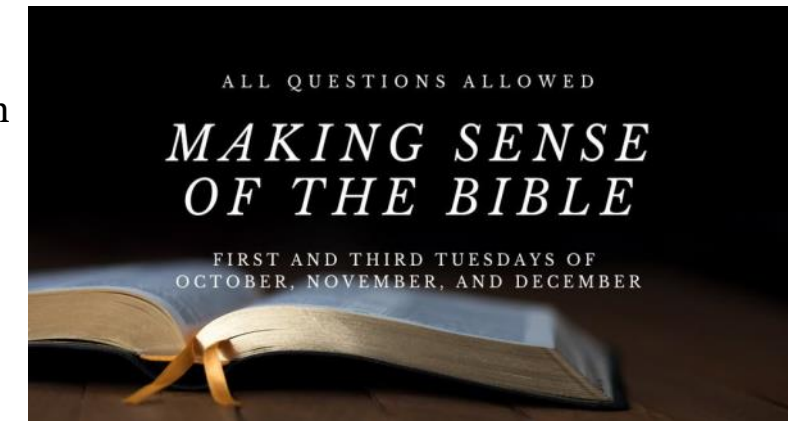
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Making Sense of the Bible

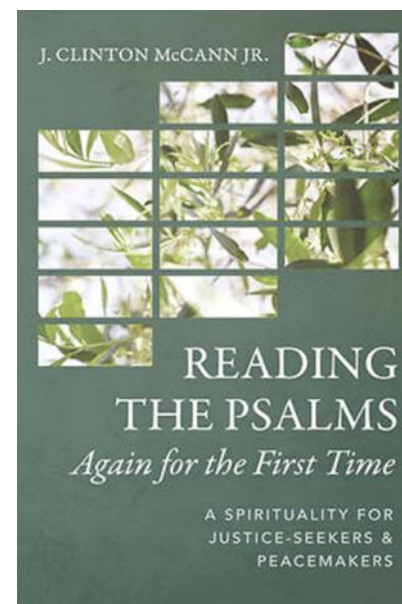
A new weeknight book study will begin on Tuesday, October 7 at 6:00. The group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, including October 21, November 4, 18, and December 2, and 16. These six sessions will be enough to get through Adam Hamilton’s book *Making Sense of the Bible*. Pastor Robb will lead the discussion group.

This is a great resource for those who have wanted to learn more about the Bible, but don’t know where to begin. The Bible can be a tricky book, but this small group will help people learn about historical context, authorship, and the lens of love that can help us untangle difficult passages and complicated theologies. The book is a 250-page paperback that presents difficult concepts in understandable ways. The discussion groups will feature a DVD presentation with author Adam Hamilton.



Justice Seeking Spirituality

Starting October 12 and continuing until Hanging of the Greens Sunday on November 23, our worship series will be based on the book *Reading the Psalms Again for the First Time*, by Clint McCann. In worship we will focus on a different Psalm each week, reading them as prose, reading them responsively, singing them as choir anthems and hymns, and listening to songs based on them. We will dive deep into the Psalms, with special attention to the different types of Psalms. The Monday Bible study will use the book, available at Cokesbury and Amazon for \$18, and on Kindle for \$9.99. The book is not necessary for study, but can be a great way to supplement your learning during this series.





The power of making a pledge or recurring EFT

In the life of a church, few acts are as quietly powerful as making a financial pledge or signing up for recurring electronic giving (EFT). These commitments aren't just about dollars and cents—they're about sustaining ministry, deepening discipleship, and building a future rooted in faith.

Predictability Fuels Possibility. When people pledge or set up recurring gifts, the church gains something invaluable: consistency. That steady stream of support allows leaders to plan boldly—whether it's launching a new outreach, hiring staff, or property maintenance. It transforms ministry from reactive to proactive. Knowing what's coming in allows for thoughtful stewardship and strategic growth. Recurring EFTs, in particular, reduce seasonal dips and help ministries thrive even during summer lulls or holiday absences.

Spiritual growth. Giving regularly is more than a transaction—it's a spiritual rhythm. It reflects gratitude, trust, and intentionality. When you pledge, you're saying, "I believe in this mission. I'm invested in this community." That kind of faithfulness helps empower change.

It Actually Increases Generosity. Studies show that recurring givers contribute 33–40% more annually than one-time donors. Why? Because giving becomes part of their life—not just a moment of inspiration, but a habit of hope.

So whether it's a monthly EFT or an annual pledge card, your commitment helps the church dream bigger, serve deeper, and walk faithfully into the future. It's not just giving—it's building the body of Christ.

In 2025, we had 34 pledges, down from 36 in 2024. Is it possible to reverse that trend and get back to where we were in 2024? Is it possible to go beyond?

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The role of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, often referred to as the SPRC, is to align the professional staff, including the clergy, to the mission and ministry values of the congregation. It is an important leadership role that takes part in evaluating the needs of the church and the gifts of those called to lead. It is analogous to the human-relations department in secular organizations.

The individuals on the team, and the chair in particular, are an important part of the communications system of the congregation. If there are complaints about the staff or pastoral leadership, they should be directed to and documented by the SPRC.

They are also in direct communication to conference leadership, including the District Superintendent, and play a particularly important role in the appointment process.

Trustees

The purpose of the Trustees is to manage the assets of the church. Two Rivers Church has considerable financial investments and property. The church building, the parsonage, and Camp Milan Retreat Center are the properties owned and managed by the Trustees. The trustees are not the ones that do the repairs - they are the ones that help get bids, make decisions, and schedule maintenance.

There are also investment funds that the trustees oversee: a permanent endowment, a capital fund, a parsonage fund, and a Camp Milan fund. To help with this process, the trustees have turned to the United Methodist Foundation to manage the investments in a way that is fiscally prudent and faithfully responsible.

Trustees do not have to be members of the Church, but they are called to be good stewards of the church's resources. They are asked to attend periodic meetings, oversee financial policies, and lend their expertise to help make important decisions.

Evangelism

The Evangelism Team needs members who can help plan events that can draw people into the community of faith. In the past, Evangelism has planned our Pet Fest, which included a pet blessing, vendors, and a photo booth; Kickoff Sunday, which included a concert, a dunk tank, and a community meal; and Trunk or Treat, which drew dozens of kids and families to get candy, take photos, and play games.

A re-imagined Evangelism Team could also oversee the hospitality at worship, scheduling and training ushers and greeters.



The church has changed a lot over the last five years. After a difficult period of instability due to denominational disputes, schism, and the pandemic, it feels like we are finding our footing again. Attendance is growing, new people are finding their way to our doors. We have new, young leadership. This is a time to figure out who we are and where we want to go.

What will the Change Makers Team do? Over the coming months, the team will:

- Ask big questions about how we are organized, what are our needs and resources, and what are the future obstacles we face?
- Reflect deeply on our Wesleyan roots and United Methodist identity.
- Explore how our values—like inclusivity, justice, creativity, and grace—can be lived out more boldly.
- Draft a mission statement that speaks to skeptics, seekers, and people of faith.
- Cast a vision that energizes every ministry of the church and communicates to the world who we want to be.

How Can You Be Involved? The Change Makers Team needs to be a diverse group of people that reflects the makeup of the church every Sunday morning. We need generational members, young people, immigrants, parents, youth, experienced leaders, and people with new ideas. We need people with institutional memory and people who don't even know "how we've always done it."

It will be a communal process. It will take several gatherings, and a flexible plan, creative people, an attitude of compromise, and it must be seeped in prayer. Please start praying now about how you could be involved.

A Church That Reflects God's Future We believe the Spirit is already stirring something new at Two Rivers. The Change Makers Team is here to help us name it, shape it, and step into it with courage. Because when a church knows who it is and who it's called to serve, transformation follows. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage, and keep this team in your prayers as they lead us into a future full of possibility.

Two Rivers Church is entering a season of bold discernment and creative dreaming—and at the heart of this movement is a newly formed group called the **Change Makers Team**.

This team isn't just another committee. It's a prayerfully selected group of leaders, listeners, and visionaries tasked with one of the most important responsibilities a church can undertake: crafting a new mission statement and casting a compelling vision for the future.

Why Now? As our community shifts, so do the spiritual needs and questions of those we serve. The Change Makers Team is forming to articulate who we are, why we exist, and where God is calling us next. This isn't about tweaking a few words—it's about rediscovering our heartbeat.



10/01	Laurie Glass
10/02	Zoey Shafer
10/03	Ruth Hill
10/03	Dave Martin
10/04	Nancy Cornish
10/05	Stacy Smith
10/07	Tim Hanna
10/14	Mark Swessinger
10/15	Lorey Hillyer
10/16	Autumn Glass
10/17	Mike Andrews
10/19	Gerald Etzel
10/19	Kylee Littlejohn
10/21	Beline Shukuru
10/21	Olinda Gunther
10/23	Stacie Dean
10/25	Esther Shy
10/28	Gabriel Nightingale
10/29	Reva Beswick

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



World Communion Sunday is October 5. Special offerings for this Sunday fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. Please look for the special offering envelope in your October 5 worship bulletin. Thank you in advance for your gifts to this special offering.



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a specific time created to highlight the Church's ministers and give thanks for their work. Remember, however, that those who enter ministry have accepted a role that is not a 9 to 5 job, but one that is held 365 days a year.

We should at all times, but especially this Pastor Appreciation Month, tell Pastor Robb and his family how much they mean to us individually and as members of the Two Rivers' family.

Please take a moment to recognize Robb and his family's ministry - tell them how they have positively impacted your life; send a personal note or greeting card; ask how you may help with his ministry (volunteer to be on a Church Committee, help with Sunday School, or be a Liturgist); or otherwise express your thanks for Pastor Robb's work.

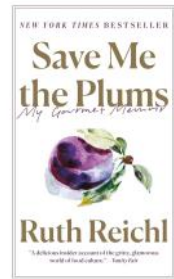
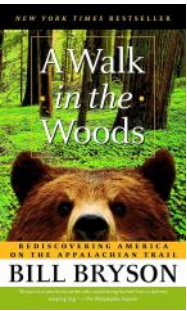


Confirmation Class

On Sunday, September 21, twenty nine young people from six different churches came to Two Rivers Church to share in the first Quad Cities Methodist Coalition confirmation event. The afternoon was a huge success, filled with building relationships and learning about what makes the United Methodist Church unique. They worked through the first unit of *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way*. The kids also learned some history of Two Rivers Church, the oldest church in Rock Island County. The confirmation group will meet again in Moline at Riverside UMC on October 19.

Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers would love to see you at the next Two Rivers Readers gathering on **October 6** to talk about Bill Bryson’s book, *A Walk in the Woods*. A delightful book chronicling his attempt to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail during the spring and summer of 1996.



The group will also meet on **October 27** to discuss a shorter book, *Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir* by Ruth Reichl. Complete with recipes, *Save Me the Plums* is a personal journey of a woman coming to terms with being in charge and making a mark.

The group meets in the back of the Sanctuary at 10 am. Their discussions are always insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun. They'd love to have you join them! Questions? Please contact the church Office.



Vital Conversations on Immigration

The Vital Conversations on Immigration series was developed by the UMC Committee on Religion & Race to help local churches explore a sacred calling: a Church that embodies justice, mercy, and hospitality.

Immigration is not merely a political issue—it is a theological and spiritual matter deeply rooted in our Christian faith. The United Methodist Church has spoken clearly on this matter. With a study guide and accompanying videos, each session invites you into deeper reflection on the realities of immigration today, guided by the voices of faith leaders, theologians, advocates, and immigrants themselves.

You can learn more about this series by going to <https://www.r2hub.org/library/vital-conversations-on-immigration>. Bethel Wesley in Moline is working on a 1 day workshop to look at this series on Oct. 18 from 9am—2pm. Please check our weekly email for more details and confirmation.

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—

August 31	= 73
September 7	= 74
September 14	= 86
September 21	= 77
September 28	=67

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

August 31	\$ 2,087.35
September 7	\$ 4,044.35
September 14	\$ 4,971.35
September 21	\$ 3,460.35
September 28	\$ 1,806.35

Our Service -

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

August 30	— 85 Meal Site, 75 OSN
September 6	— 64 Meal Site
September 13	— 61 Meal Site
September 20	— 83 Meal Site
September 27	— 91 Meal Site, 68 OSN

Our Thanks—

Thank you to Larry Dalton for always greeting all who come to worship on Sundays with a great, warm welcome. Also, thank you to all the ushers, acolytes, communion prepares, musicians and everyone that helps our Sunday morning worship be an inviting and meaningful experience for all.

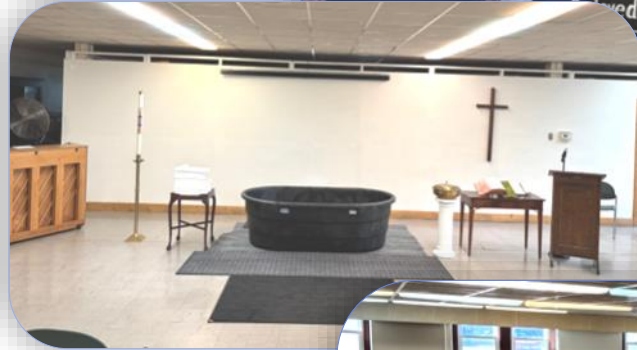


2025 Annual Charge Conference October 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Charge Conference

This year’s Two Rivers UMC Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, October 12 at 1:30pm. Aledo United Methodist Church (301 N College Ave, Aledo, IL) will be the host church for our area this year. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sept. 7th Baptisms



Jon Hansen's Installation as Music Director on Sept. 14



Compass

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Prayer Chain

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 below. They will alert the remaining chain members.



Charlotte Peterson 793-7783
Nancy Schwegler 781-6609



Online Giving at Tworiversumc.org

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.



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.

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **November** issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, October 23, 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.

Pastor

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Camp Milan Caretaker

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All of us

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