

Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Ways to Serve

OUTREACH

- ☐ Donate food and/or funds to Two Rivers Meal Site, Operation Safety Net and Little Free Pantry ministries.
- ☐ Volunteer on Saturdays at Meal Site, set up, serving, cleanup, or all of the above.

WORSHIP

- ☐ **Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- ☐ **Video** - Work the camera in balcony to improve YouTube video
- ☐ **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 November 30, 2025

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom
Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am (K-5 grade in the Nursery & 6-12 grade in the 3rd Floor Youth Room)
Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in Asbury Parlor

Discipleship Schedule

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.

Making Sense of the Bible Class December 2 @ 6pm The ‘Making Sense of the Bible’ class will meet in the Asbury Parlor this Tuesday at 6pm. All are invited to attend.

Caring Tree (Socks, underwear and sweatpants) Our Caring Tree in the sanctuary will be used to collect items for Rock Island Academy. All through the Advent season, you are encouraged to bring in children’s socks, underwear, and sweatpants. These are items that are always needed at elementary schools. Please bring new packages of socks, underwear, and new sweatpants of various sizes and place them under the Caring Tree.

Holiday Homebound Gift Baskets Donations of homemade or purchased treats, (peanut butter, nut free) cookies, crackers, gum—anything you want, are being collected and may be left in the kitchen of Epworth Hall. Please mark the donations “Holiday Homebound Baskets” and bring them any time up to/before service on Sunday, December 14 when they will be assembled and will be ready for delivery. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer on this project please contact the church office at 309/788-9384.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving Follow us @RITworivers



1st Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025

Isaiah 8:5-17

The LORD spoke again to me: Since this people has rejected the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and instead rejoices over Rezin and Remaliah’s son— therefore, look, the Lord is raising up against them the powerful floodwaters of the Euphrates, the king of Assyria and all his glory. It will rise up over all its channels, overflowing all its banks, and sweep into Judah, flooding, overflowing, and reaching up to the neck. But God is with us; the span of his wings will cover the width of the land.

Unite yourselves, peoples, and be shattered!

Listen, all distant places of the earth!

Prepare to be shattered!

Prepare to be shattered!

Create a plan, but be frustrated! Speak a word, but it won’t stand, for God is with us.

The LORD spoke to me, taking hold of me and warning me not to walk in the way of this people: Don’t call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy. Don’t fear what they fear, and don’t be terrified. It is the LORD of heavenly forces whom you should hold sacred, whom you should fear, and whom you should hold in awe

God will become a sanctuary—

but he will be a stone to trip over and a rock to stumble on for the two houses of Israel;
a trap and a snare for those living in Jerusalem.

Many of them will stumble and fall,
and be broken, snared, and captured.

Bind up the testimony; seal up the teaching among my disciples. I will wait for the LORD, who has hidden his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in God.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “We Three Kings of Orient Are” - J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

GREETING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We are waiting for Jesus
All: We are waiting with hope.
One: We are shattered by grief. We are scattered by fear. Our plans have been frustrated, and our efforts have proven feeble.
All: So in the darkness we light this candle. It is a beacon of hope. It is a reminder that God is still God.
One: May God be our sanctuary. May Jesus be our shepherd. May the Holy Spirit light our path as we do more than wait.
All: We wait for the Lord but we are not idle.
One: We wait for Jesus.
All: We wait with hope.

ADVENT REFRAIN (See screens) “We are Waiting for Jesus”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Advent expectation, we confess to you that our waiting is often far too idle. We see the Christmas lights as we drive in our neighborhoods, but are blind to the neglected unhoused on our streets. We listen to Christmas music but do not hear the cries of families torn apart by cruelty or abuse. We taste the treats of Christmas parties while hungry children have visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads. Forgive us. Restore the love of Christ in our hearts, and move us to do more than wait.

Pause for silent confession and reflection

One: Hear the good news: We do not have to wait for Jesus’ love until Christmas. Forgiveness is a gift that we may open today.
All: We are forgiven by Christ, who loves us, strengthens us, and empowers us to active, faithful hope. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER SONG #211 UMH “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, open our hearts and fill us with Advent hope as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah and reflect on the coming of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 8:5-17 (CEB)

*HYMN #196 UMH “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Children are invited to gather at the Chrismon tree as we sing.

SERMON We Are Waiting: HOPE – Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #209 “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*OFFERTORY #204 UMH “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”
All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front as we sing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in hope. It is courageous and tenacious. It is a hope that remembers where we have been and what we have already overcome.
We believe in peace. It is the shalom that God intended for creation. It is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice. It is not only in the calming of the storm. It is also in the breaking of the bread.
We believe in joy. It is the true happiness that is bigger than a momentary feeling. It is rooted in God’s Instruction and walking in God’s ways.
We believe in love. It is steadfast and endures forever. It pursues goodness and mercy. It seeks the good for others no matter the cost.
We believe in the Kingdom of God, the Coming of Christ, and the fulfillment of hope, peace, joy, and love in this life and the next. Amen.

DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Do You Hear What I Hear” - N. Regney & G. Shayne

*=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
November 30, 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:

