

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 December 14, 2025

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom
Advent Multi-generational Sunday School - 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall
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.

Argrow's Christmas Pop-up Shop Argrow's House is a healing house that offers free services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse. It's also a social enterprise, which hires survivors to create bath and body products that are sold online and in local stores. This morning before and after worship they will be having a Christmas Pop-up shop in the back of the sanctuary.

Holiday Homebound Gift Baskets Volunteers for delivering these gifts to our Homebound members are needed. Please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after today's service.

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.

Blue Christmas at Church of Peace On the longest night of the year, people of Two Rivers UMC and Church of Peace UCC will gather together to express our struggle, grief, and lament. Blue Christmas is a chance to make room for those who are struggling at Christmas – when everything in our world is shouting “be of good cheer.” The Blue Christmas service will start at 4:00 p.m. and end shortly after sunset on Sunday, December 21, providing a poignant entrance into the longest night of the year. Pastor Robb will share the message. We will share Communion and create our blue Christmas floral display. Church of Peace UCC is at 1114 12th St, Rock Island.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving Follow us @RITworivers



Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

Isaiah 51:1-11

Listen to me, you who look for righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry where you were dug. Look to Abraham your ancestor, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. They were alone when I called them, but I blessed them and made them many.

The Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her ruins. He will make her desert like Eden and her wilderness like the Lord's garden. Happiness and joy will be found in her— thanks and the sound of singing.

Pay attention to me, my people; listen to me, my nation, for teaching will go out from me, my justice, as a light to the nations. I will quickly bring my victory.

My salvation is on its way, and my arm will judge the peoples. The coastlands hope for me; they wait for my judgment.

Look up to the heavens, and gaze at the earth beneath. The heavens will disappear like smoke, the earth will wear out like clothing, and its inhabitants will die like gnats. But my salvation will endure forever, and my righteousness will be unbroken.

Listen to me, you who know what is right, people who carry my teaching in your heart: Don't fear human scorn, and don't be upset when they abuse you.

The moth will eat them as if they were clothing, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness is forever, and my salvation for all generations.

Awake, awake, put on strength, arm of the Lord. Awake as in times past, generations long ago. Aren't you the one who crushed Rahab, who pierced the dragon?

Didn't you dry up the sea, the waters of the great deep? And didn't you make the redeemed a road to cross through the depths of the sea, a road for the redeemed to pass?

Then let those ransomed by the Lord return and come to Zion with singing and with everlasting joy upon their heads. Let happiness and joy overwhelm them; let grief and groaning flee.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "People, Look East" -arr. Sandra Eithun
Two Rivers Handbell Choir

GREETING

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: We are waiting for Jesus
All: We are waiting with hope rooted in the salvation of Abraham and Sarah.
One: We are waiting for Jesus.
All: We are waiting with peace that was born in the parted sea and the pathway of dry land.
One: We are waiting for Jesus.
All: We are not distracted by what disappears like smoke. We are not swayed by refinement that is eaten by moths.
One: Instead, we wait with joy.
All: We wait with joy for the coming of the LORD.

*ADVENT REFRAIN (See screens) "We are Waiting for Jesus"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Advent Joy, we confess to you that our waiting is often joyless. Instead of marveling at the wonder of the season and celebrating the coming of Christ, we fret and worry and allow anxiety and fear to overwhelm. We have built a culture that confuses instant gratification for happiness. Forgive us for ignoring the ways that lead to true happiness. Forgive us for ignoring your Instruction, and for not walking in paths of righteousness. Restore us to your love, O God. Restore us for joyful anticipation.

Pause for silent confession and reflection

One: Hear the good news: We do not have to wait for Jesus' love until Christmas morning. Forgiveness is a gift that we may open today.
All: Joy to the World! The LORD is come. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER SONG #211 UMH "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Advent Echo Carol" - Mary Kay Beall

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 51:1-11 (CEB)

*HYMN #246 UMH "Joy to the World"

Children are invited to gather at the Chrismon tree as we sing.

SERMON We Are Waiting for JOY – Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #2142 FWS "Blessed Quietness"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*OFFERTORY #204 UMH "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" x2

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 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - arr. Dan Coates

**=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

December 14, 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:
