

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.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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 7, 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.

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.

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. On **December 14th**, before and after worship they will be having a Christmas Pop-up shop in the back of the sanctuary.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving Follow us @RITworivers



Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations.

- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.
- ³ You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice.
- ⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.
- ⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

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 waiting for Jesus.
All: Jesus brings peace.
One: We are a people waiting in darkness. We are waiting for the light of justice to shine upon us.
All: So we light the Advent candles to prepare. We keep the light of justice burning. We keep the light of hope alive.
One: We wait for Jesus.
All: For Jesus brings peace.

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, by the power of his death and resurrection, grants us peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “We Are Waiting” - arr. Priscilla Lamparter Landis

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:1-7 (CEB)

*HYMN #202 UMH “People, Look East”
Children are invited to gather at the Chrismon tree as we sing.

SERMON We Are Waiting: PEACE – Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

UMH #17 HOLY COMMUNION AND LORD’S PRAYER

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
December 7, 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:

