

JANUARY

2026



January 2026
Vol. 34 No.1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2	3 12 pm Meal Site
4 Fill the Pantry Sunday Baptism of Theodore Griffith 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:45 am Sunday School	5 12:00 pm Bible Study	6	7 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
11 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	12 12:00 pm Bible Study	13	14 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
18 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Martin Luther King, Jr. Service @ Trinity UMC in Milan	19 12:00 pm Bible Study	20	21 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 <i>February Compass Deadline</i>	23	24 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site 2-6pm Change-Makers Retreat
25 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	26 10:00 am Two Rivers Readers 12:00 pm Bible Study	27	28 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31 11 am Young Lions Roar 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site

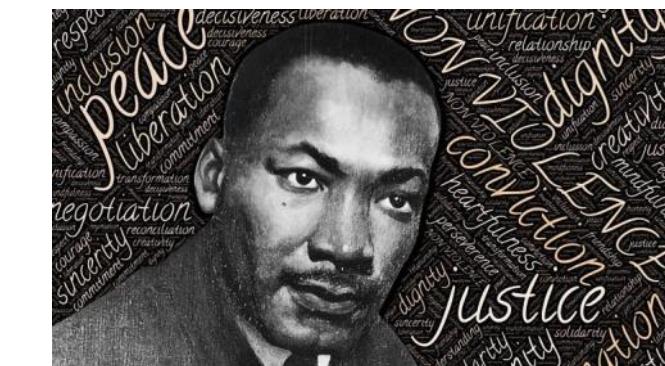
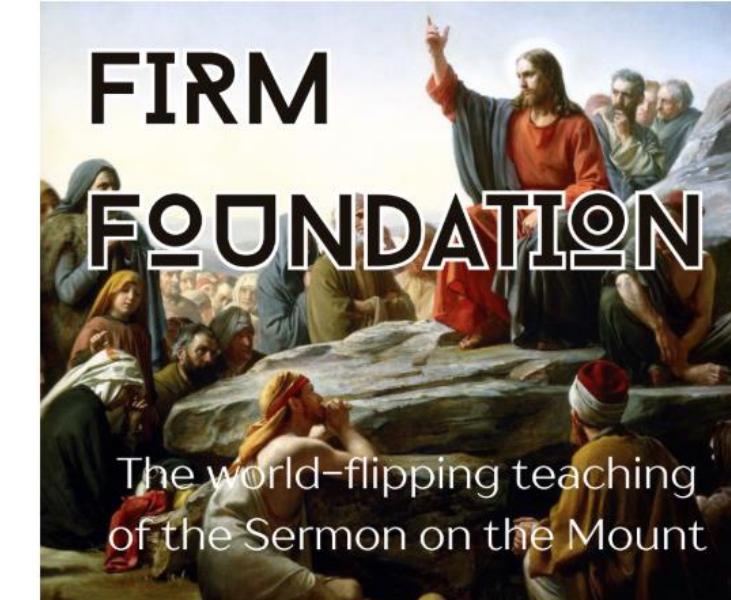
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www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers

The Foundation

Pastor Robb has said many times that if you were only to read a small part of the Bible, the best three chapters to read are the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of the Gospel of Matthew, also known as The Sermon on the Mount. On January 11, we will begin a new series called "Firm Foundation." This six-week series will walk us through the foundational teachings of Jesus as found in this incredible passage of Scripture.

Matthew 5-7 provides the basis of Jesus' world-flipping ethic. These three chapters are the center of Jesus' teaching and ministry. It includes some of the most beloved phrases and oft-quoted verses of the Bible. In it, the Law is redefined. The place of public piety is examined. The worth of our treasure is questioned. With this brief section of Matthew, Jesus defines what is to be in the Kingdom of Heaven.



Martin Luther King Service

The Quad Cities Methodist Coalition is hosting a special worship service to honor the ministry and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This second annual service will be held at Trinity UMC in Milan on Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m. Clergy and youth from many of the area United Methodist Churches will participate in this service. It promises to be a powerful afternoon of worship and building a more powerful United Methodist connection.

Changemakers Team Retreat

The Change Makers Team will have a retreat meeting on Saturday, January 24 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Benet House Retreat Center (2200 88th Ave W, Rock Island, IL)

The meeting will be facilitated by Rev. Eric Swanson, the Director of Connectional Ministries of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Eric grew up in the Quad Cities, and is excited about coming back to help us launch our Change Makers Team.

The purpose of the retreat will be to identify our core values, configure our ministry areas, and begin the process of creating a new vision statement and mission statement. This is important work for the future of the church. We are hoping to engage a wide spectrum of people from the congregation. Long time members, leaders, youth, immigrant families, and new friends are encouraged to be a part of the meeting.

There will be a dinner provided, so an RSVP by January 12 will be needed.





01/01 Malakee Shy
01/01 Anete Umuganwa
01/01 Jerome Mutzinzi
01/01 Sterine Sikujua
01/01 Mwee Heh
01/03 Meghan Cooley
01/04 Angel Bimana
01/06 Claudia Applegate
01/15 Judy Smiley
01/17 Elizabeth McCoy
01/17 Viminda Shafer
01/18 James Hanna
01/19 Amie McKinley
01/21 Jan McCollum
01/31 Rhonda McHenry

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



Jump in to Music Ministries

This is a great time to jump into the music ministries at Two Rivers Church. If you have been on the fence about joining the bell choir or choir, but felt uncomfortable getting in the middle of it, January 7 is your chance. Because the last two Wednesdays were Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, both choirs have had extended breaks. So if you come to your first rehearsal on Wednesday the 7th, you'll be starting new pieces just like everyone else.

First time ringers are especially needed. Bell ringing is a simple way to help make wonderful music in worship. It really is about counting to four and following along. No need to read music, we'll help you highlight and mark up your notes so that it is easy to get into. Bells rehearse at 6:00 and choir rehearses at 7:00 on Wednesday nights.

Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will gather on **January 26 at 10am** to discuss the novel, *Fourteen Days*.

Fourteen Days is a collaborative novel by the Authors Guild, edited by Margaret Atwood and Douglas Preston, set in a Lower East Side apartment building during the early COVID-19 lockdowns. The book features a diverse cast of neighbors who gather on the rooftop to tell stories, creating a "Decameron-like" narrative that explores community, connection, and the pandemic experience through the voices of 36 different authors, including Celeste Ng, Tommy Orange, and John Grisham, though their contributions are initially anonymous.

The group meets in the back of the Sanctuary. 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.



A Beautiful Advent and Christmas Season at Two Rivers

The special Two Rivers visual beauty during Advent and Christmas was mostly the product of willing workers who decorated the sanctuary on Saturday, November 22. Thank you, everyone!

We are also grateful for those that assisted in our special Hanging of the Greens Worship service: AJ Pollock, Ben Georgia, Zoe Snell, Sophie Fletcher, Grayson Perion, Mary Baker and friends.

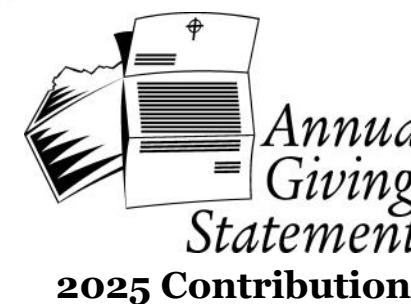
After church on January 4, we will take down and put away all of the Christmas Decorations that have adorned our church this holiday season. All are welcome to help. We will need loving hands to remove the Chrismon's from the tree and gently place them in their boxes; kind hands to put away the Creche and the Advent Wreath; strong hands to disassemble and store the Chrismon Tree and its platform, the West Entrance tree and the assorted garlands. Many hands make light work.

Confirmation

Confirmation events will continue this winter and spring as we work with other United Methodist Churches in the area. Mark your calendars for the Bishop's Confirmation Rally on March 21 in Springfield, Ill, and the Good Friday service on April 3.

HUMAN RELATIONS Day

Sunday, January 18 is Human Relations Sunday. Your gifts to the Human Relations Day offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Look for the special offering envelope in the January 18 worship bulletin.



2025 Contribution statements will be mailed out the week of January 5th. If you have any questions regarding your 2025 contributions, please contact Charlotte Peterson at char1728@aol.com or through the church office at 309-788-9384.

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-

November 23	= 85
November 30	Service canceled due to weather
December 7	= 46
December 14	= 37
December 21	= 86
December 24	Christmas Eve = 100
December 28	= 55

Our gifts-

General Fund Offerings

November 23	\$2,938.87
November 30	\$1,159.35
December 7	\$4,354.35
December 14	\$3,939.35
December 21	\$2,951.35
December 28	\$2,595.35

Our Service -

Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation

Safety Net (OSN):

November 22	— 118 Meal Site
November 29	— 56 Meal Site, 31 OSN
December 6	— 61 Meal Site
December 13	— 37 Meal Site
December 20	— 75 Meal Site
December 27	— 108 Meal Site, 95 OSN

Our Thanks-

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia and to everyone who contributed to and helped deliver Holiday Goodie bags. Thank you to everyone who donated socks, underwear and sweatpants for the RI Academy school.



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

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **February** issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, January 22 2026**. 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
Rev. Robb McCoy
mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Church Office Manager
Brianna Pollock
office@tworiversumc.org

Director of Music
Jonathan Hansen
jon55hansen19@gmail.com

Accompanist
Russell Rursch

Volunteer Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson
char1728@aol.com

Church Custodian
Brianna Pollock

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Ministers
All of us