

Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Learn more about ways to help:

Worship

- Ushers needed on the fourth Sunday of the month
- Learn about slide changing and audio

Community Meal

- Preparing food
- Greeting
- Server

Administration

- Staff-Parish Team
- Groundskeeping
- Office help

Evangelism Events

- Pet Fest
- Rally Day
- Camp Milan Picnic

Youth Mission Retreat (June 29-Jul 2)

- Chaperone
- Transportation
- Food preparation



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 May 17, 2026

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am Asbury Parlor
Kids & Youth Sunday School - 10:45 am 3rd floor
Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am 1st floor

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.

Church Yard Work Day This afternoon at 1:00 pm we will gather at the church to do some spring clean up of the landscaping beds around the building. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work”. A lot of work was done last fall so depending on how many volunteers we have it shouldn’t take more than an hour or two. We really appreciate all the help we can get.

We Care Gift Bags Sunday, June 7 will be the day our “We Care” gift bags for our senior shut-in members will be ready for delivery. If anyone wishes to make a monetary contribution to this worthy cause, please send your contribution to the church office by May 31 and designate that it’s for the “We Care” gift bags. Once again, volunteers will be needed to help with the delivery of these gift bags. If you would like to help with delivery, please call or leave a message at the church office: 309-788-9384

Two Rivers Readers Two Rivers Readers will meet tomorrow, Monday, May 18 at 10 am in the back of the sanctuary to discuss the Cold War spy novel, *The Women of Arlington Hall* by Jane Healey. All are invited to join the discussion.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving



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May 17, 2026 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Esther 4:5-17

Esther then sent for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whose job it was to wait on her. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why he was acting this way. Hathach went out to Mordecai, to the city square in front of the King’s Gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He spelled out the exact amount of silver that Haman promised to pay into the royal treasury. It was in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave Hathach a copy of the law made public in Susa concerning the Jews’ destruction so that Hathach could show it to Esther and report it to her. Through him Mordecai ordered her to go to the king to seek his kindness and his help for her people. Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: “All the king’s officials and the people in his provinces know that there’s a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven’t been called to come to the king for the past thirty days.”

When they told Mordecai Esther’s words, he had them respond to Esther: “Don’t think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you’ll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. In fact, if you don’t speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family.”

Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: “Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren’t to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it’s against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will.” So Mordecai left where he was and did exactly what Esther had ordered him.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" - arr. Darrell Day
Two Rivers Handbell Choir with Al Pellemoine, cello

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, for we are called for such a time as this!

All: We stand ready to seek God's will and follow God's call.

One: Though fear surrounded her, Esther stepped forward in faith.

All: With courage we trust that God is working in our lives.

One: Then let us worship the Lord, who gives us strength for every moment.

All: We will go where God leads, for God is counting on us, Amen.

*HYMN #322 UMH "Up From the Grave He Arose"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, at Creation you gave us light and life,

All: But we choose death and separate ourselves from you.

One: You called Abraham to be the Father of a great nation

All: Even while we obey the call, we cannot trust fully.

One: You delivered the people out of slavery in Egypt

All: But we lose hope in times of Wilderness, and turn to idols made of gold

One: You gave the people a King that they required

All: But we abuse our power and exploit the weak.

One: You called the prophets to bring the people back to justice

All: But we ignore the prophets and pursue unjust paths.

One: You so loved the world that you gave us your only Son, so that we may be saved by grace.

All: But he is rejected and despised.

One: Christ revealed your love by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, and speaking truth to religious and empire power.

All: And he was crucified by fear and the wickedness of humanity.

Pause for silent confession and reflection

One: Fear not. I know that you expected Jesus crucified, but he is risen. Go and tell.

All: So we have been raised with Christ. We seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Amen. (Colossians 3:1)

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER SONG #2056 FWS "God is So Good"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

ANTHEM "Children of the Heavenly Father" - arr. Dan Forrest
accompanied by Jesslyn Cohen, harp; Anna Winn, flute; and Al Pellemoine, cello

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Risen Christ open our hearts to your living Word that we encounter in this reading. By your Spirit, let resurrection light guide our understanding. Amen

SCRIPTURE - Esther 4:5-17 (Common English Bible)

SERMON *Called: We Are Called for such a time as this* - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

MUSICAL OFFERING "Esther (Such a Time As This)" - Rachel Hoffman
Oliver Cooley and Jon Hansen, accompanied by Nancy Schwegler

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

*OFFERTORY #593 UMH "Here I Am, Lord" (v. 1-2)

All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front as we sing

TUMAINI CHOIR

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Good and gracious God, Thank you for Esther, who rose to the occasion and inspires us to do the same. Thank you for Mordecai, who spoke the truth she needed. Thank you for the community of prayers and support. Thank you for this moment and our place in it.

We thank you for calling us to this time and place for a purpose. When fear and uncertainty rise, you give us courage to stand firm in faith. When we face the unknown, you give us discernment. When the task before us feels too great, you help us remember the times you have made a way.

We bring you these gifts so that you may use them for such a time as this. We share our service, creativity, ideas, and resources because they were all first given by you. Thank you for calling us, just as you first called Esther. We will follow you. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Jesslyn Cohen, harp

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

May 17, 2026

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:

**=please rise if you are able*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book) FWS = Faith We Sing (black book).
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