

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### New Contact Information

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Ministry Area Teams

We are trying to build Five Ministry Area Teams. Please mark down if you are interested in being a part of one, or any of these teams. These teams will be setting specific goals for their area.

- ☐ **ADMINISTRATION** : Property management, grounds keeping, endowment management, staff evaluations, offering counting, etc.
- ☐ **WORSHIP** : Music ministries, sermon series development, visual arts, sanctuary decor, audio/visual, Live Feed, translation devices.
- ☐ **SERVICE** : Meal site, advocacy programs, little free pantry, clothes drives, coat ministry.
- ☐ **CONNECTION** : Greeters and ushers, hospitality in worship, “We Care” gifts, visitation, grief care, letters to inactive members
- ☐ **DISCIPLESHIP** : Adult Bible studies, Sunday school, book club, youth ministry, baptism and member classes.



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 August 23, 2026

**Swahili Sunday School - 10:45 am Asbury Parlor**  
**Kids & Youth Sunday School - 10:45 am Nursery**

**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.

**Weeknight Study** An adult education night on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. It will extend until September 8. The topic will be Marcus Borg’s “Embracing an Adult Faith.” This is a five-part study that features a DVD portion each week. This is a chance to confront some big, and sometimes painful, questions about faith. What is salvation? Why does Jesus matter today? These are the kind of “keep me up at night” questions that we will dig into as a group.

**Return of Two Rivers’ Choirs** The starting date of the Handbell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir rehearsals have been pushed back a few weeks to give our interim Music Director, Mark Swessinger time to prepare. Both choirs will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9. The Handbell choir rehearsal will be from 6:30pm to 7:15pm and the Sanctuary Choir will begin at 7:15 and go until 8:15pm. All all invite to join the choirs and help us make wonderful music for the Lord.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving



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**August 23, 2026**

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, peoples far away.

The LORD called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my mother’s womb.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of God’s own hand.

He made me a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God’s quiver,<sup>3</sup> saying to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I show my glory.”

<sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have wearied myself in vain. I have used up my strength for nothing.”

Nevertheless, the LORD will grant me justice, my reward is with my God.

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD has decided—the one who formed me from the womb as his servant—to restore Jacob to God, so that Israel might return to him.

Moreover, I’m honored in the LORD’s eyes; my God has become my strength.

<sup>6</sup> He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the survivors of Israel. Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD, redeemer of Israel and its holy one, says to one despised, rejected by nations, to the slave of rulers: Kings will see and stand up; commanders will bow down on account of the LORD, who is faithful, the holy one of Israel, who has chosen you.

# GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” - C. Converse/M. Mier

## GREETING

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 53)**

One: It is now Act II and the people are weary. The exile is long and the hope that was once possible now seems distant. A new voice enters the story. Not a king, not a conqueror, not a wizard, but a servant.

All: **“Look, my servant will succeed. He will be exalted and lifted very high. ”**

One: Worldly power grasps for control and searches for uniformity. The Wizard believes that controlling the message will deliver glory, but God has other plans.

All: **“Just as many were appalled by you, he too appeared disfigured, inhuman, his appearance unlike that of mortals ”**

One: Her green skin is shocking. Her dress is peculiar. Her presence is unwelcome. She is mocked and isolated by the elite, yet it is the suffering servant who will deliver the people, not the privileged few dancing through life.

All: **“But he will astonish many nations. Kings will be silenced because of him, because they will see what they haven’t seen before; what they haven’t heard before, they will ponder”**

**\*HYMN #529 UMH “How Firm a Foundation” vs. 1, 2, 5**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: The Prophet Isaiah makes it clear that we have fallen short of God’s call upon our lives. Our leaders lack the will to do what is right. The powerful care only about profit, do not act justly, and use their influence to extract more power. The people suffer and turn to idols for distraction and a false sense of security. Forgive us for our complicit obedience in this unjust world. Help us to listen to the artists and the poets who tell stories of hope and sing songs of liberation. Send your Spirit of grace upon us. Sanctify this time of worship so that we may be transformed. Forgive us and prepare us for an eternal, meaningful, and grace-filled life.

*Pause for silent confession and reflection*

One: Thus says the Lord: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow.... All who change their lives will be redeemed.” In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER SONG #2193 FWS “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER**

# PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

All: Holy Spirit, speak through the Prophet Isaiah that your light may break upon us. Open our hearts to hear your promise of justice, mercy, and a world made new. Amen

**SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 49:1-7 (CEB)**

MUSICAL OFFERING "The Wizard and I" from *Wicked* sung by Myka Walljasper

SERMON *The Prophet of Courage: Elphaba* - Rev. Robb McCoy

# RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

**RESPONSE HYMN #246 UMH “Joy to the World” vs. 1-3 & 5**

**\*OFFERTORY #2236 FWS “Gather Us In” (vs. 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*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

All: God of Justice and Compassion, we thank you for the Prophet Isaiah whose words help make a way in the wilderness. We thank you for stories and songs that enliven your gospel, and for the prophetic imagination of artists who help us see your Kingdom.

We thank you for prophets with the courage to speak truth to power, those who know that real strength is found not in controlling others, but in the vulnerable courage of love. We give you thanks for the suffering servant, not because of the pain they endured, but for their unwavering commitment to righteousness. They reveal the path for all who are called to serve. You have appointed us to be light to the nations so that your salvation may reach the end of the earth and so...

We offer you this gift as a sign of thanks for the stories that empower, the songs that inspire, and for the good news that is offered to all. Use this gift to strengthen this house of God, where there is room enough for all. Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

**\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” - J. Hughes/C. Berry

*\*=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

August 23, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_