

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 30, 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 30, 2026
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended, that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out: “Clear the Lord’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The Lord’s glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the Lord’s mouth has commanded it.”

A voice was saying: “Call out!” And another said, “What should I call out?” All flesh is grass; all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field. The grass dries up and the flower withers when the Lord’s breath blows on it.

Surely the people are grass. The grass dries up; the flower withers, but our God’s word will exist forever. Go up on a high mountain, messenger Zion!

Raise your voice and shout, messenger Jerusalem! Raise it; don’t be afraid; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” Here is the Lord God, coming with strength, with a triumphant arm, bringing his reward with him and his payment before him.

Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock; he will gather lambs in his arms and lift them onto his lap. He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE Selection from *Les Miserables*

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Isaiah 54:4-8)

One: The conflict has come to a head. The clash is over. The city has been besieged.
The Temple has been razed. The people have been ripped from their homes and
forced to settle in a foreign land.

All: **“Fear not, because you won’t be ashamed; don’t be dismayed because you
won’t be disgraced”**

One: The barricades have been dismantled. There are only empty chairs and empty
tables. The pursuers are persistent. Javert demands punishment to be carried out
into eternity.

All: **“For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great mercy I will bring you
back,”**

One: The climax of the story is at hand, but the solution is comfort, not distress. The
stars in their multitude do not cry out for vengeance, they cry out for compassion.
Do you hear the people sing? They sing for Grace.

All: **“In an outburst of rage, I hid my face from you for a moment, but with
everlasting love I have consoled you,” says your redeemer, the LORD.**

***HYMN #124 UMH “Seek the Lord” vs. 1-3**

***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 40:1-11 (CEB)

MUSICAL OFFERING “Stars” from *Les Miserables* by Claude-Michael Schonberg
sung by Charles Cooley accompanied by Nancy Schwegler

SERMON *The Prophet of Grace: Not Javert* - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #121 UMH “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” vs. 1-3

***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 who pursue justice. For trials that refine us and the
struggles that shape our character, we give thanks. Keep our feet on the path of
mercy and courage, teaching us to seek compassion before we seek vengeance.
For God’s love has two rivers, justice and compassion, and to love another
person is to see the face of God. 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 “Do you hear the people sing” - from *Les Miserables*

**=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 30, 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:
