

Name _____

☐ First time guest

☐ Returning guest

☐ Interested in baptism or membership

☐ Member

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Rally Day Brunch Sept. 20

We are planning a Rally Day Brunch on September 20 after worship. Instead of a typical pot-luck, we are looking for a few people to bring specific items. If you can help out, please sign up below

☐ Egg Casserole

☐ Biscuits and Gravy

☐ Potatoes

☐ Cheesy potato hot dish

☐ Fresh Fruit

☐ Pastries/Donuts

☐ Juice

☐ OTHER _____



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 September 6, 2026

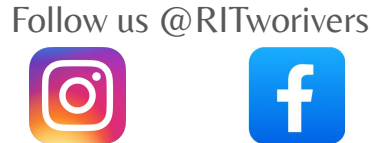
Swahili Sunday School - 10:45 am Asbury Parlor
Kids & Youth Sunday School - 10:45 am Nursery

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.

Two Rivers Readers The Two Rivers Readers will gather on **Tuesday, September 8 at 12 pm** to discuss the novel, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. The group meets in the back of the sanctuary with snacks provided. Their discussions are always insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun. They'd love to have you join them!

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.



September 6, 2026
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1-8

The LORD says: Act justly and do what is righteous, because my salvation is coming soon, and my righteousness will be revealed.

Happy is the one who does this, the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not making it impure, and avoids doing any evil.

Don't let the immigrant who has joined with the Lord say, "The Lord will exclude me from the people." And don't let the eunuch say, "I'm just a dry tree."

The Lord says: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, choose what I desire, and remain loyal to my covenant. In my temple and courts, I will give them a monument and a name better than sons and daughters.

I will give to them an enduring name that won't be removed. The immigrants who have joined me, serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure, and those who hold fast to my covenant:

I will bring them to my holy mountain, and bring them joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.

My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,says the Lord God, who gathers Israel's outcasts.

I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “One Hand One Heart” *from West Side Story* - Leonard Bernstein

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 57)

One: The exile is over, but the story has not ended. A road must be built. A path must be cleared. The people can return, but the struggle will continue.

All: “Survey, survey; build a road! Remove barriers from my people’s road!” The LORD says ‘I am reviving the hearts of those who have been crushed.’

One: The fighting is over. There has been so much suffering. We have wept bitter tears, but we believe that somewhere there is a hope for peace. Somewhere, there is a place for us.

All: “I won’t always accuse, nor will I be enraged forever. I was enraged about their illegal profits. I struck them. In a rage I withdrew, but I will heal them.

One: So we mourn what has been lost, but are resolute and thankful for the ways we have survived, and we look forward with hope to what will be rebuilt.

All: The LORD says, “I will guide them, and reward them with comfort. And for those who mourn, I will create reason for praise: utter prosperity to those far and near, and I will heal them.”

*HYMN #375 UMH “There is a Balm in Gilead” vs. 1-2

*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

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 56:1-8 (CEB)

SERMON *The Prophet of Belonging: Anybodies* - Rev. Robb McCoy

MUSICAL OFFERING "Somewhere" *from West Side Story*, sung by Meghan Cooley

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HOLY COMMUNION AND LORD’S PRAYER

*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 cry out for inclusion, who build bigger tables instead of higher walls. We thank you for being God who gathers the eunuch, the immigrant, and still others who are in need of love and community. We thank you for calling us to your holy mountain and giving us a place of bread and wine; community and forgiveness. 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. Somewhere there is a place for all. Let it be here. Let it be us. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “America” *from West Side Story* - Leonard Bernstein

**=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 September 6, 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:
