Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____

Advent Preparations

Our time of preparation for Christmas is here! There are some extra volunteer and growth opportunities.

- ❑ **I want to help with Advent banner designs and special decorations.**
- ❑ **I want to be a part of the Christmas Eve service hospitality team.**
- ❑ **I will help with "Breakfast Church" on the Sunday after Christmas.**

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 November 29, 2026

Adult Sunday School -10:45 am 1st floor classroom
Swahili Sunday School - 10:45 am Asbury Parlor 2nd Floor
Kids & Youth Choir and Sunday School - 10:30 am 3rd floor classrooms

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 tomorrow, Monday, **November 30 at 10 am** to discuss the book *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik. The group meets in the back of the sanctuary with snacks provided. Their discussions are always insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun.

MARKED Every tattoo tells a story, and so does every life. Marked is a new gathering at Arch Rivals Tattoo where we tell those stories. Come hang out for food and snacks, real conversation, and some arts and crafts, and get to know your neighbors. You don't have to believe anything or belong anywhere to join us. Our first gathering is Thursday, **December 3, from 6:00 to 7:15 pm** at Arch Rivals Tattoo, 2256 State St, Bettendorf IA. We hope it becomes a regular Thursday gathering in the new year.

Guest Wifi

Online Giving

Subscribe to weekly Email

TWO RIVERS CHURCH

A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

VIDEO PRELUDE "Until the Dawn" Lyrics & music by Sam Allen

ADVENT POEM "A Multiple Choice for Beginning" by Sarah Speed

*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

One: Here at the start, may we remember.
All: that a voice calls out in the wilderness.
One: Here at the start, may we believe
All: that the Spirit is at work and hope is not lost.
One: Here at the start, may we embody
All: welcome, joy, and an active faith.
One: Here at the start, may we listen
All: for God's invitation, for God's word of love.
One: Here at the start, we light a candle to guide our way.
All: It is a candle of hope and no darkness will ever overcome it.

* HYMN #214 "Savior of the Nations Come" (vs. 1, 2, 5)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God of Grace, when John the Baptist was preaching, the whole city went down to the river,
All: but I would rather stick with what I know.
One: When John the Baptist was preaching, the whole region got baptized in water,
All: but I have been known to stay on dry land.
One: When John the Baptist was preaching, he spoke of earnest repentance,
All: but my apologies have been half-hearted at best. Forgive the steps I have not taken, and give me the courage to try again. Give me the courage to start somewhere. Give me the courage to move toward the water. With hope for the promised day, we pray. Amen.

<Pause for silent reflection and personal confession>

One: Family of faith, many years ago, John the Baptist spoke about the forgiveness of sins. That grace—that mercy—still exists for you. Our God calls you "beloved." So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
All: We are seen, forgiven, and freed. May God grant us the courage to start again. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

**=please rise if you are able*
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book) FWS = Faith We Sing (black book).
Music used with permission under CCLI License:

GATHERING SONG #2092 "Like a Child" (v. 1)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

PRAYER SONG #2092 "Like a Child" (v. 3)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Carol for Advent" (Don Besig) – Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, John the Baptist told the crowds to prepare the way, so today, we prepare our hearts. We prepare our hearts to hear your Word read aloud. We open up space inside ourselves to consider your Word anew. Startle something awake in us. Speak to us, as only you can. With hope, we pray and prepare. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8 (CEB)

SERMON "Start Somewhere" (Rev. Robb McCoy)

RESPONSE HYMN "Closer to Peace" (words by Anna Strickland)

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*OFFERTORY #211 "Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v. 1, 2, 4)

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe even on the longest nights— when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold— that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day. So instead of giving in to the great unknown, we move, in spirit, toward that light.
We summon our courage. We carry each other. We dance under the stars.
We listen for the angels. And we believe the good news of the gospel, which says that God loves humanity so fiercely that God became flesh to be with us.
This is the truth that sustains our journey. In this, we believe. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK
November 29, 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:

_____

_____

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