

NAME: _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Returning guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in membership or Baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Looking for a church home | |

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Saturday Meal Site opportunities to serve:

- Hosts: Someone who can greet guests and sit with them during the meal.
- Clean-up crew. Come around 12:30-1:30.
- Provide grocery bags and/or socks for Meal Site & Operation Safety Net

Worship team opportunities to serve:

- Greeter—Greet people in the West Entrance or at North Entrance.
- Usher—Greet people as they come into the service. Help with offering and Communion.
- Video—Get behind the camera to make a video recording of the sermon.
- Editor—Take the footage of the worship series and edit into a video to be posted on youtube.
- Sound—Help with the sound board, making sure mic levels are correct during worship.
- Slides—Help switch the slides during the service.

April 18, 2021 Announcements

We are blessed by your presence, and pray that worship is meaningful for you. You are invited to note your attendance and mailing address on the blue attendance tear-off sheet found in each bulletin. This sheet may be left at your seat for the ushers to gather after service. We encourage family participation in worship. We can provide activity bags for children upon request. Please see an usher for more information. Ushers can also provide you with large print bulletins if needed. We extend a special welcome to you and trust you will experience God's presence today.

Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School K—12th Grade @ 10:30am— in the back of the sanctuary

Swahili Bible Study Class @10:30am—Asbury Parlor #210

Adult Sunday School Class @ 10:30am— Epworth Hall and Zoom

Discipleship Schedule Continues on ZOOM Call in to (312)626-6799 or open the Zoom app and enter the Meeting ID: 961 006 728. Adult Sunday School at 10:30am, Monday Bible Study at noon and Wednesday Prayer & Devotion at noon.

Ushers Needed As we begin to gather again in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, there will be a need for more ushers. The usher duties at this time have been reduced due to our new COVID-19 procedures. If you are interested in learning more about being an usher please see an usher at the end of service or call the church office.

Native American Sunday Today is Native American Sunday. Gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday fund scholarships for Native American seminarians and strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American ministries. Please look for a special offering envelope for NAMS in next Sunday's bulletin and give generously.

Network: Two Rivers Sanctuary
Password: TwoRivers2013
www.TwoRiversUMC.org



April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter



Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-8:1

Stephen, who stood out among the believers for the way God's grace was at work in his life and for his exceptional endowment with divine power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose from some who belonged to the so-called Synagogue of Former Slaves. Members from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia entered into debate with Stephen. However, they couldn't resist the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly enticed some people to claim, "We heard him insult Moses and God." They stirred up the people, the elders, and the legal experts. They caught Stephen, dragged him away, and brought him before the Jerusalem Council. Before the council, they presented false witnesses who testified, "This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the Law. In fact, we heard him say that this man Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and alter the customary practices Moses gave us." Everyone seated in the council stared at Stephen, and they saw that his face was radiant, just like an angel's.

"You stubborn people! In your thoughts and hearing, you are like those who have had no part in God's covenant! You continuously set yourself against the Holy Spirit, just like your ancestors did. Was there a single prophet your ancestors didn't harass? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the righteous one, and you've betrayed and murdered him! You received the Law given by angels, but you haven't kept it."

Once the council members heard these words, they were enraged and began to grind their teeth at Stephen. But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!" At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died. Saul was in full agreement with Stephen's murder.

At that time, the church in Jerusalem began to be subjected to vicious harassment. Everyone except the apostles was scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Prelude "Songs without Words, Op. 19 No. 1" - Mendelssohn

Greeting

Psalm 4

Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God! Set me free from my troubles! Have mercy on me! Listen to my prayer! How long, you people, will my reputation be insulted? How long will you continue to love what is worthless and go after lies? *Selah*
Know this: the Lord takes personal care of the faithful. The Lord will hear me when I cry out to him. So be afraid, and don't sin! Think hard about it in your bed and weep over it! *Selah*
Bring righteous offerings, and trust the Lord! Many people say, "We can't find goodness anywhere. The light of your face has left us, Lord!" But you have filled my heart with more joy than when their wheat and wine are everywhere! I will lie down and fall asleep in peace because you alone, Lord, let me live in safety.

Psalm Song "Rest in Shalom" Richard B.C.

*Prayer of Confession

God of Resurrection, we are witnesses to great things, and yet we too often live as if we have not seen your power. Forgive us for living as Saturday people, convinced that death and fear have won the day; and not as Easter people, empowered by your loving Spirit. Forgive us for hiding in fear, comfort, bitterness, selfishness, and status quo and empower us for justice, love, compassion, and new life.
(Pause for silent reflection and confession)

One: Hear the good news, when the women went to the tomb, they found it empty and two mysterious figures proclaimed, "He is not here. Christ is risen!"

All: **He is risen indeed! We are forgiven by the living and risen Christ, Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

Hymn #2272 in FWS

"Holy Ground"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Musical Offering "To God Be the Glory" - W.H. Doane/J. Carter
Nancy Schwegler, piano

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: **Holy God, open our hearts to the story of your love. Open our minds to new ways of knowing you. Open our doors for all whom you would welcome. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-8:1

Sermon "Stephen's Witness" -Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Offering Reflection and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy and Gracious God, we give you thanks. You have given us all. You have given us your breath of life. You have given us your Son to show us the Way. You have given us your forgiveness. You have given us your Spirit. We now return to you our breath, our strength, and our faith. Use us for your Kingdom, empower us through your grace. Amen.

*Doxology #94 in UMH

Hymn #304 "Easter People Raise Your Voices"

*Blessing and Dismissal (Please wait for ushers to dismiss each row)

*Postlude "Songs without Words, Op. 19 No. 1" - Mendelssohn

Hymnal music provided by Mark Swessinger, baritone & Nancy Schwegler, piano

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
FWS - The Faith We Sing (black hymnal)
UMH - United Methodist Hymnal (red hymnal)
Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License

April 18, 2021



PRAYER MINISTRY

NAME: _____

Who would you like to see this prayer?

- Pastor Only.** Only the pastor will see this prayer. He will most likely see it and be in prayer for it on Monday morning.
- Prayer Chain.** These prayers will be sent to those who have signed up for prayer chain email. Names only will be printed in newsletter if it is an ongoing need.

Please be in prayer for:

Please pray for this:

- For this week only.
- Until _____
- This is an ongoing need.

I am interested in being a part of the Prayer Chain:

Email: _____