

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 Hand out meals in the parking lot.
- Clean-up crew. Come around 12:00-1:00pm.
- Provide grocery bags and/or socks for Meal Site & Operation Safety Net

Worship team opportunities to serve:

- Greeter—Greet people at the 5th Ave and Handicap Entrances.
- 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 25, 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.

Bell Choir returns to Two Rivers Bells are back and rehearsing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary. Anyone can be a member of the bell choir. All that's needed is a desire to learn and an ability to count to four. If you have an interest in ringing, please contact Mark Swessinger at mswess@mchsi.com, or by phone at (309)738-0260. If you haven't been vaccinated, no problem. You will be welcome. Social distancing and masks will be enforced for participation.

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



April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Acts 8:26-39

An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. 36 As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Prelude "God is so Good"

Greeting

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they protect me. You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the Lord's house as long as I live.

Psalm Song "On the Path of Justice" 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 #608 in UMH "This is the Spirit's Entry Now"

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 "Kumbaya" - arr. Bill Ingram
Two Rivers Handbell Choir

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 8:26-39

Sermon Phillip Baptizes the Ethiopian -Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn #605 in UMH "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

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.

Hymn #304 "Easter People Raise Your Voices"

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

*Postlude "God is so Good"

Hymnal music provided by Mark Swessinger, baritone and 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 25, 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: _____