

NAME: _____

- First time guest
- Returning guest
- Member
- Interested in membership or Baptism

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Random acts of kindness:

- Leave handwarmers in your mailbox for your mail carrier.
- Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.
- Pray for peace in the world.

Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- Provide blankets, hats and cheap cotton gloves to Operation Safety Net.
- Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products for our Little Free Pantry.

Worship team opportunities to serve:

- Greeter—Greet people at the West parking lot.
- Usher—Greet people as they come into the service. Help with offering and Communion.
- Tech Support -Video recording, editing, sound board and /or slides. Get behind the scenes and help create a meaningful worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those watching from home.

January 1, 2023 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 placed in the collection bowl at the front of the sanctuary 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.

Adult Sunday School—10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)
Kids Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)
Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets in-person every week in Epworth Hall at noon. Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time also continues to meet 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 dial 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation. *(No Bible Study Dec. 26, Jan. 2 or Jan. 9)*

Starting January 8 during the Sunday school hour, Pastor Robb will lead a discussion / 7-week study and writing process at the back of the sanctuary. Two Rivers Church member Viminda Shafer will assist in leading the discussions. After the study and writing process, we will enter a 28-day call to prayer for the entire congregation. The study portion of the process will utilize the Wesleyan Quadrilateral – a tool for theological and spiritual discernment as described in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

Un-Decorating the Church We will “Un-Decorate the Church” next Sunday, January 8, after a short time of Sunday School. We need several workers to get finished quickly. If you will be available to help please stay after service and see Mark Swessinger for instructions.

Contribution statements 2022 Contribution statements will be available on Sunday, January 8. You may pick up your statement from the table located in the back of the sanctuary. Any statements not picked up by January 22 will be mailed.

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



Donation QR Code

January 1, 2023
Epiphany Sunday



Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Love Has Come" - Troccoli/Maher/Digesare

GREETING

*OPENING HYMN #245 "The First Noel"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT POEM "A Blessing For The Seekers" by S. Speed

ADVENT REFRAIN #196 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs 1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of starlight, every part of us is trying to seek you: our bodies that carried us into this space, our heads bowed in prayer, our hearts that keep whispering, "There is more than just this." We are seeking you. "Find us," we plead. Quiet the rest of the world. Open the door to us with rich laughter and say, "Come on in!" We seek you in these words. Find us in this story. Gratefully we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

SERMON "We Keep Seeking" - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION (see screens)

You are invited to come forward with your prayers. Write down something that you seek, and place it in the offering plate. These things will be named during the Prayers of the People after Communion. After you place your prayer in the offering plate, pick up a Star Word. The words are intentionally face-down.

Bring your Star Word with you to the railing. Kneel only if you wish and linger as long as you like. Servers will come to you and offer you the bread and cup.

After you have taken Communion, you are invited to take a moment and dwell with your Star Word. It may not make sense to you now, but allow it to linger. Let it be a point of prayer and focus for the year. Next year at this time reflect on how this Star Word helped guide you on your journey with Christ.

COMMUNION MUSIC "Child of the Poor/What Child is This"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*DOXOLOGY

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN #206 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" vs 1, 3
(all are invited to place your offering in the offering container at the front of the sanctuary as we sing our closing hymn)

*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "We Three Kings"

* 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

January 1, 2023



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Epiphany Sunday

Write down something you seek. This can include practical, spiritual, or emotional needs that you are searching for.

PRAYERS TO SHARE

This prayer will be shared with our e-mail Prayer Chain and in our Wednesday Facebook Live prayer group. Personal details will not be shared on Wednesday.