

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:

- Help deliver a cookie basket to a homebound member today.
- 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.

December 11, 2022

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

Kids Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class

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.

Holiday Baskets for Seniors These holiday goodie baskets are ready for delivery today. If you would like to volunteer to deliver a basket to one of our senior members please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after the service this morning.

Two Rivers Readers The Two Rivers Readers will meet at 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 12, in the back of the sanctuary. Dave Dehnel will lead our discussion of "Leaf by Niggle" by J.R.R. Tolkien and "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. Both books have free audiobook readings on Youtube.com that are 45 minutes and 3 hours respectively. We'd love to have you join us!

Caring Tree Gifts need to be **unwrapped** with the original tag attached and delivered to the church no later than Thursday, **December 15**.

Blue Christmas The Blue Christmas service will be on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. This service, which takes place on the longest night of the year, is a sacred space to recognize the more difficult emotions associated with the holiday season. Blue Christmas is a chance to acknowledge grief, anxiety, and stress that comes at Christmas. The service includes space for silence, contemplative music, reflection, and a ritual for healing.

Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. The service will include wonderful music, the Christmas story retold, and sharing in Holy Communion. Christmas Eve is a unique worship experience. Please join with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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



Donation QR Code

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent



Matthew 1:18-25 (CEB)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,

And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Ready the Way of the Lord" - Hurd

GREETING

LIGHTING THE JOY CANDLE

- Seth Bikorimana, Autumn Glass, Tamara Baugh and Olinda Gunther

*OPENING HYMN FWS #2099 "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION

All: God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

One: Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.

All: This is the good news of the gospel. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHORAL OFFERING "When Will We See the Little One" - Althouse

Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE CHRISMON Daisy with Bud - Autumn Glass

ADVENT POEM "Instructions For A Hard Choice" by S. Speed

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy God, scripture tells us that you came to Joseph through an angel— loud and clear, impossible to miss. Scripture also tells us that Joseph listened. He rearranged his life to follow your invitation. God, we long for that— all of that. We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts. Trace us back to our roots—back to Joseph—who heard and followed. With gratitude we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25 (CEB)

SERMON

"We Can Choose a Better Way" - Greta Long

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Noel Nouvelet" - Wagner

Two Rivers Handbell Choir

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us— believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN (See Screens)

"A Better Way"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*DOXOLOGY UMH#94

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN #206 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" vs 1, 3

*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Emmanuel" - Agrisano

* 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

December 11, 2022



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

We will not bring our prayers forward today, but as you move into a time of prayer, you are invited to reflect on a difficult choice you are facing.



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.

