

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### New Contact Information:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Opportunities to serve

#### Observe a Holy Lent:

- Attend the NAACP Community Day event and hear how you can make a difference in racial justice.
- Dedicate yourself to a fast or to start a spiritual discipline that will draw you closer to God.
- Determine to attend the evening Vespers services on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15.

#### Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products for our Little Free Pantry.

#### Worship team opportunities to serve:

- Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- Greeter**– Greet people at the West parking lot.
- 4th Sunday Usher**—Open the church for Sunday worship, make coffee, greet people as they come into the service, and help with offering and Communion.
- Tech Support** Video recording, editing, sound board and /or slides.

## February 26, 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 at the end of the 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 Asbury Parlor**  
**Family Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall**  
**Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class**

**Adult Sunday School** Today the Adult Class begins a new 6-session DVD study "Entering the Passion of Jesus." If you have never thought about Holy Week having risks and motives, this is the right study for you. Today's topic is "Jerusalem - risking reputation." Author Amy-Jill Levine will provide the background, and Charlotte Peterson will open up the topic from there. Come to Asbury Parlor and 10:45 and bring your curiosity and questions!

**Discipleship Schedule** Monday Bible Study will **NOT** meet on February 27, but will resume meeting in-person on March 6 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.

**NAACP Community Day** This special service of worship will be at Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church (Moline) TODAY at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Robb will be the keynote speaker at this event.

**Wednesday Night Vespers** Every Wednesday night in Lent (from March 1-April 5) there will be a service in the sanctuary from 5:30-6:15. These will be a time to reflect on the day and "check-in" with your spiritual journey through the Lenten season.

**Youth after Vespers** Kids and Youth are invited to come to the Vespers service from 5:30-6:15, and then remain with Pastor Robb for a time of Bible study, discussion, and games. We will stay from 6:15-7:30 and take a closer look at the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Then we will have time for active games, group activities, and fun team-building.

**Change in Handbell Rehearsals** During this time of Lent (March 1—April 5), the Two Rivers Handbell Choir rehearsal time will be moved to 6:30—7:30 on Wednesday nights to make time for the Wednesday Vespers services.

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



Donation QR Code

February 26, 2023  
First Sunday of Lent



### Matthew 18:15-35 (CEB)

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "The Heart of Worship" - Matt Redman

GREETING

\*OPENING HYMN #549 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" vs 1, 5 & 6

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Strange, mighty, and loving God, you are strange to us because in our sin, we have trouble understanding what perfect love looks like. It is difficult for us to be a part of your Kingdom of Heaven because we are born into a system powered by greed, power, fear, and scarcity. Your Kingdom is strange because it disturbs our comfortable concepts of how the world operates. Forgive us for misunderstanding. Forgive us for missing the signs of your Kingdom all around. Forgive us for falling short of the perfect love. Heal us, and help us to dwell in the mystery, grace, and wonder of the Kingdom of Heaven that is at hand.

*Pause for silent reflection and confession*

One: Hear the good news: Forgiveness does not come just seven times, but seven times seventy. God's mercy is wider than we can ever imagine. Forgive yourself because you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER HYMN #142 "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

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.

ANTHEM "O Lord, Most Holy" - Althouse  
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy and gracious God, the stories that Jesus told about your Kingdom are strange. Fill us with your Spirit as we dwell in the mystery of your parables and journey together in a Holy Lent. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 18:15-35 (CEB)

SERMON *Strange Kingdom: Forgiveness, 70 x 7* - Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE HYMN #121 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION Page 48 UMH

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

\*OFFERING HYMN #269 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" vs 1 & 5  
*(all are invited to place your offering in the offering container at the front of the sanctuary as we sing our Offering hymn)*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Lord Jesus, you revealed to us the mystery of your strange kingdom with stories of forgiveness, subverted fairness, invitation, preparedness, and judgment. We thank you for these glimpses into the Kingdom of Heaven. We thank you for the forgiveness you offer that defies worldly logic. We thank you for the many ways you guide us in a Holy Lenten season. Thank you for your continued provisions on our journey. Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "God With Us" - Hart/Thompson

\* 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

February 26, 2023



## 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. They will also be prayed for by first name only during our Wednesday online prayer service.

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: \_\_\_\_\_