

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:

- Sign up to donate blood this Thursday for Olivia.
- 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.

March 19, 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 The Adult Sunday School Class continues its Passion Week study with the fourth topic, "The first dinner (woman anoints Jesus with costly oil) - risking rejection." All adults are welcome to join in the lesson and discussion at 10:45 in Asbury Parlor.

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.

UMCOR Sunday Today is UMCOR Sunday. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Please look for the special UMCOR envelope in your bulletin and give generously. Thank you.

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. This 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.

Open Arms for Olivia Blood Drive This Thursday, March 23 from 3-7pm in Epworth Hall. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code or contact Tracy Waytenick at tmkranchi@me.com. Use group code 4741 at registration.



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



Donation QR Code

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Matthew 25:14-30(CEB)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

"After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

"His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "O Danny Boy"
Mark Swessinger, baritone

GREETING

*OPENING HYMN #405 "Seek Ye First"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liturgist—Ellie McCoy

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" vs. 1

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 "As the Bridegroom to His Chosen" - Marshall
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 25:14-30(CEB)

INTERLUDE "Take My Life, and Let It Be" Cesar Malan/arr. Bill Wolaver
UMH 399 Tune: HENDON
Nancy Schwegler, piano

SERMON *Strange Kingdom: Parable of the Talents* - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE HYMN #475 "Come Down, O Love Devine"

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 "Keep Your Lamps" - Spiritual

* 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

March 19, 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: _____