

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:

- Donate bottled water to the Little Free Pantry.
- 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.
- Donate non-perishable food, hygiene products and rain gear 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.
- 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. Get behind the scenes and help create a meaningful worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those watching from home.

Welcome Statement



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

From the beginning of the Jesus movement, followers of Christ declared that there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free, nor is there male and female. We, the people of Two Rivers United Methodist Church join in this movement of the Holy Spirit and declare that we celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood and the world.

We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual and affectional orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We believe that the body of Christ is more vital in its ministry when the whole diversity of the human family may enjoy full participation and leadership in the Church.

We welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the Church and society, and acknowledge the pain caused by the exclusionary policies of the United Methodist Church. We will continue to work toward a more inclusive Church and invite you to join us in following Jesus Christ on the Way, marked by greater hospitality, kindness, justice, peace, understanding, and mutual respect.

Announcements for July 23, 2023

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

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study will not meet again until Monday, July 17 in Epworth Hall at noon. Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time meets 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.

Church Picnic at Camp Milan We will have a church picnic at Camp Milan Retreat Center this **Thursday, July 27 at 6:00 p.m.** All are invited to this pot-luck dinner. Youth who will be participating in Confirmation will be invited to stick around for an overnight retreat.

The Gospel According to Broadway Returns Starting next Sunday we will be featuring music from The Wizard of Oz, Fiddler on the Roof, The Full Monty, Children of Eden, Lost in the Stars, Godspell and Rent. The performers will come from the stages of the Quad City Music Guild, the Spotlight Theater, The Black Box Theater, and other theaters throughout the area. We are excited to bring you on this musical journey with us again for the months of July, August and into September. Invite your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, and the stranger walking down the street to this great musical sermon series. Sit back, relax, for the curtain is about to rise on The Gospel According to Broadway, Reprise!

Liturgist Needed If you would like to be a part of the worship experience and assist Pastor Robb with readings and possibly communion, please sign up for a Sunday or more on the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

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



Donation QR Code



July 23, 2023

Luke 8:4-15

(CEB)

When a great crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from one city after another, he spoke to them in a parable: “A farmer went out to scatter his seed. As he was scattering it, some fell on the path where it was crushed, and the birds in the sky came and ate it. Other seed fell on rock. As it grew, it dried up because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorns grew with the plants and choked them. Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced one hundred times more grain than was scattered.” As he said this, he called out, “Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “You have been given the mysteries of God’s kingdom, but these mysteries come to everyone else in parables so that when they see, they can’t see, and when they hear, they can’t understand.

“The parable means this: The seed is God’s word. The seed on the path are those who hear, but then the devil comes and steals the word from their hearts so that they won’t believe and be saved. The seed on the rock are those who receive the word joyfully when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while but fall away when they are tempted. As for the seed that fell among thorny plants, these are the ones who, as they go about their lives, are choked by the concerns, riches, and pleasures of life, and their fruit never matures. The seed that fell on good soil are those who hear the word and commit themselves to it with a good and upright heart. Through their resolve, they bear fruit.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

July 23, 2023



PRELUDE "10,000 Reasons" - Redman/Angrisano

GREETING

*OPENING HYMN #117 UMH "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" vs. 1 & 6

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love, we admit to you your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others, your justice has grown on us, but we have inadequately implemented it, your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste, your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to set fruit. Most loving God, please sow in us again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Pause for silent reflection and confession

One: Christ was willing to die even while we were sinners. This proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and empowered. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER HYMN #352 UMH "It's Me, O Lord" 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING "In Christ There Is No East or West" - Reinagle/Hayes
Nancy Schwegler, piano

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 Luke 8:4-15 (CEB)

SERMON Good Soil - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE HYMN (See Screens) "The Sower"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*OFFERING HYMN #87 UMH "What Gift Can We Bring" vs. 1 & 3

(All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering container at the front of the sanctuary as we sing)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen .

*DOXOLOGY #94

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "All Good Gifts" - Schwartz

* 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

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: _____