

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

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

**New Contact Information:**

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Opportunities to serve**

**New Member Luncheon on January 21**

- Interested in membership, and can be at the luncheon on January 21. The count for the luncheon is: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interested in membership, but cannot make it to the January 21 lunch. Please contact me about how to proceed.
- Long-Time member, and would like to come to the luncheon to meet some new people. The count for the luncheon is: \_\_\_\_\_.


**Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:**

- Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products to 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.
- 2nd & 4th Sunday Ushers**—Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository. *(Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)*

**Welcome Statement**



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 January 7, 2024**

**Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class Room**  
**Confirmation Class—10:45 am in the Youth Room on 3rd floor**  
**Adult Sunday School—10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor**  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY, JAN. 7 DUE TO THE UN-DECORATING OF THE CHURCH**

**Discipleship Schedule** Monday Bible Study meets every Monday 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.

**Love Gift** Our accompanist, Mary, Ellen Carroll, has resigned effective immediately. We will miss her beautiful piano solos, and her support of our choir and guest soloist. Please keep her in our prayers for healing and health. We will have a card to sign in the west entrance on January 7. Love gifts can be brought to the offering on January 7 or sent to the church office as a farewell gift.

**GriefShare** A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 12-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. This group will be led by a combination of laity and clergy. It will meet on **Mondays at 4:00 p.m., starting January 8**. It is open to all – you do not need to be a member of Two Rivers Church to participate. There is a \$10 registration fee, which helps cover the cost of the GriefShare workbook.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
01/07	Confirmation Class	Candy Canik & Dave Dehnel	
01/14	Dave Dehnel	Jerry Etzel, Roger Pohlman, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
01/21		Dick and Kala Lee and Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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



Donation QR Code



January 7, 2024

Baptism of Christ

**Galatians 6:2 (CEB)**

Carry each other's burdens and you will fulfill the law of Christ.

**Mark 1:4-15 (CEB)**

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

# GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

GREETING

\*HYMN "Breathe on me Breath of God" #420 UMH (v. 1-3)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Ruth Duck (UMBOW 483)

All: God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation, to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth.

Pause for silent confession

One: Hear the good news, God's forgiveness and grace is offered before we even ask for it. The God who knows us well, forgives us fully.

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S GATHERING "On Eagles Wings" #143 UMH

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: We are about to hear the story of God's love for the people God loves.

All: May the Words of Scripture kindle in us a love for God and God's people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Mark 1:4-15

THEME VERSES OF THE CLASS Galatians 6:2

MUSICAL OFFERING "On Eagles Wings" -Michael Joncas  
Performed by The Cooley Family and Nancy Schwegler, piano

SERMON "Identity. Belonging. Purpose." Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

CONFIRMATION AND BAPTISM

\*HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #557 UMH

COMMUNION AND LORD'S PRAYER #15 UMH

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

One: God of redemption and new life, we have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate the baptism and confirmation of these young people and remember Jesus, who was baptized by John in the Jordan.

All: We are overjoyed at the decision they have made and welcome the chance to share in the baptism of Jesus and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection.

One: On this first Sunday of a new year, let this be a day of new life, fresh starts, and recommitment to Christ.

All: We celebrate the promises that have been made, and commit ourselves to faithfulness, generosity, justice, love, and grace. In faith we pray. Amen.

\*HYMN "One Bread, One Body" #620 UMH (v. 1)

(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)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Who are you?

All: I am wonderfully created by God. I am redeemed by the grace of Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. I am a Christian.

One: Where do you belong?

All: I belong to God and with God. I belong among God's people and am welcomed in Christ's Church just as I am. In the Church I find siblings in faith who are teachers, prophets, and servants. Together, we are encouraged, challenged, and empowered by Christ to grow in faith.

One: What is your purpose?

All: I was created to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. We are called to carry each other's burdens, and in so doing, we will fulfill the Law of Christ.

\*DOXOLOGY #94

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

\* You are invited to stand as you are able.  
Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License



January 7, 2024  
Baptism of Christ

### PRAYER MINISTRY

YOUR 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: \_\_\_\_\_