

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:

- Spread the word about our 'Open Arms for Olivia' Blood Drive via FB, flyers or word of mouth.
- Hand out water to unhoused individuals in your city.
- Pray for peace in the world.
- Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.


#### Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- Donate men's and women's sweatpants and sweatshirts to Operation Safety Net.
- Donate Grocery Bags to our Saturday Meal Site & 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 March 17, 2024

#### NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES UNTIL APRIL 7

- Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class Room**
- Kids Sunday School —10:45 am in the Youth Room on 3rd floor**
- Adult Sunday School—10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor**

**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.

**Fellowship with Pastor Robb** Stay after worship this morning and join Pastor Robb for some refreshments and fellowship in the back of the sanctuary. This will be a chance to get to know Robb a little better and for him to get to know you.

**Palm Sunday Trip to Cedar Rapids** After worship next Sunday, March 24, Pastor Robb and people from Two Rivers Church will travel to Cedar Rapids to worship with the people of St. Paul's UMC. Pastor Daniel Niyonzima leads the "African Nationals Ministries" worship service in Swahili, Kirundi, French, and English. It is our hope that we will learn from their worship and get inspired to create something similar at Two Rivers. There are signup sheets available at the back of the sanctuary and in the west entrance for people to RSVP. Pastor Daniel has asked for an approximate number of guests.

| Date | Liturgist       | Ushers                                 | Assistant Greeter |
|------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 3/17 | Kala Lee        | Dick Lee, Brianna & Kevin Pollock      |                   |
| 3/24 | Judy Smiley     | Doug Stephens, Brianna & Kevin Pollock |                   |
| 3/31 | Mark Swessinger | Brianna & Kevin Pollock                |                   |

Network: Two Rivers Sanctuary  
 Password: TwoRivers2013  
[www.TwoRiversUMC.org](http://www.TwoRiversUMC.org)



Donation QR Code

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



### Luke 8:1-15 (CEB)

Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him, along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. Among them were Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had been thrown out), Joanna (the wife of Herod's servant Chuza), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

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 TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE

GREETING

MUSICAL OFFERING "La Casa" - L. Beldon/G. Knipfel  
Oliver Cooley, trumpet & Andrzej Kozlowski, piano

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 103  
One: Let my whole being bless the Lord! Let everything inside me bless his holy name.

All: Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget God's goodness and how God forgives all sins and heals all sickness.

One: God saves your life and crowns you with faithful love and compassion

All: God satisfies with good things and steadfast love. Amen.

\*HYMN #66 UMH "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" vs. 1,2,4

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O God your glory is always to have mercy. Be gracious to all of us who have strayed from your ways. Soften our hearts from the hardness of a sinful world. May your steadfast love restore us to steadfast trust. Help us to choose kindness, compassion, and relationship when temptation makes this choice difficult. Help us to trust your life-giving Word and follow your resurrected Son, Jesus Christ.

Pause for silent confession

One: Hear the good news, God's forgiveness and grace is offered before we 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 MOMENT #277 UMH "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" vs. 1

PRAYER HYMN #109 UMH "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace" vs. 1

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

### PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

ANTHEM "I'll Follow My Lord & Santo, Santo, Santo" - Pote  
Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God's word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. May the light of Scripture illumine the Way of Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL READING Luke 8:1-15 (CEB)

SERMON "In the Company of Others" - Rev. Robb McCoy

### RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #2213 FWS "Healer of Our Every Ill" vs. 1 & 4

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

\*HYMN #100 UMH "God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us" vs. 1&4  
(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

I believe in the power of love to overcome the darkness, and that Sin is that which stands in opposition to love of God, love of others, and love of self.

I believe that love overcomes the power of Sin. Treating others as they wish to be treated, loving my enemy, praying for those who persecute others, and non-violent resistance are the Way toward the Kingdom of God.

I believe that Sin crucified Christ for loving those who were unloved, for feeding those who were unfed, and healing those who were in disease. The Cross was the greatest display of the power of Sin, but was overcome by Christ's power of love.

This Lenten season, I believe that by the grace of God I can turn away from the Sin of the world and toward the love of Christ, and that I can embrace the Cross and not fear it. I believe the grace of Christ empowers us all to eternal life. Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY #95 UMH

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

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

### PRAYER MINISTRY

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for our Church and its ministry:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for people I know:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I have permission to publish this prayer.
- I do not have permission to share this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for myself:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_