May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **3:30—6pm** YLR **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	2	3	4 **12 pm** Meal Site
5 **Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little Free Pantry** **9:30 am** Worship/ Communion **10:30 am** Argrow's House Pop-up Shop **10:45 am** Sunday School for all ages	6 **12:00 pm** Pastor's Bible Study	7 **3:30—6pm** YLR	8 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **3:30—6pm** YLR **6:00 pm** Bell rehearsal **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	9 **8:00 pm** Big Steppers	10	11 **12 pm** Meal Site
12 ***Happy Mother's Day!*** **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Sunday School for all ages	13 **12:00 pm** Pastor's Bible Study	14 **3:30—6pm** YLR	15 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **3:30—6pm** YLR **7:30** pm Choir rehearsal	16	17	18 **12 pm** Meal Site
19 ***Pentecost*** **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Sunday School for all ages	20 **12:00 pm** Pastor's Bible Study	21 **3:30—6pm** YLR	22 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **3:30—6pm** YLR	23 **8:00 pm** Big Steppers *June Compass Deadline*	24	25 **11 am** Operation Safety Net **12 pm** Meal Site
26 **Peace With Justice Sunday** **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Sunday School for all ages	27 **Memorial Day** ***Church Office Closed***	28 **3:30—6pm** YLR	**29** **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **3:30—6pm** YLR	**30**	**31**	

a publication of

TWO RIVERS CHURCH
A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

May 2024
Vol. 32 No. 5

Compass

Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org** **www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers**

Pop-up Mother's Day Shop

Argrow's House is a healing house that offers free services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse. It's also a social enterprise, which hires survivors to create bath and body products that are sold online and in local stores. On **May 5th**, after worship they will be having a Mother's Day Pop-up shop in the back of the sanctuary. They will be featuring the following products: Argrow's House Bath and Body Mother's Day Gift Sets (Bath and Body), Island Handcraft Crystal Earrings (Charleston, SC), Hon's Honey (Baltimore, MD), Thistle Farms Candles (Nashville, TN), New Hope Girls Handbags (Dominican Republic), and Vi Bella Jewelry (Mexico and Haiti).

Wear Purple on the 5th and Red on the 19th

On May 5 our sermon series, "The Women of Acts" will bring us to Lydia, the woman who made purple cloth. She was likely a wealthy woman, and became an important leader in the church. To honor her story, everyone is invited to wear purple to worship.

May 19 is Pentecost, the day in the Church when we recognize the fire of the Holy Spirit by adorning the sanctuary – and ourselves – in red. May the fire of Pentecost ignite in us burning desire for justice, peace, righteousness, and love.

On Easter Sunday Two Rivers welcomed new members!

The new members are: Susan Moore, Rhonda McCarthy, Dorothy Bundy, Jeff Peterson, Godstone Arakazza, Claudine Nduwayo, Anna Uwimana, James Nishinwe, Joram Ndereyimana, Justin Greiff, Danielle Greiff, and Celeste Greiff. Rhonda also asked to reaffirm her baptism. Celeste was a part of our confirmation class in January.

05/02	Sandra Atkinson
05/03	Liam Muir
05/04	Charlotte Peterson
05/05	Kole Littlejohn
05/08	Roger Pohlman
05/12	David Nduwikunda
05/15	Avalon Gibson
05/17	Seth Bikorimana
05/26	Ellen Andrews
05/26	Calla Kean
05/29	Eliza Hanna
05/31	Bonnie Combs

If you have a birthday in May and we've missed it, please call the church office to update our records.

Special Episode of Pulpit Fiction

Pastor Robb was able to record a special episode of his podcast, Pulpit Fiction, for General Conference. For a great overview of what is happening, what is at stake, and what many hope for, you can go to pulpitfiction.com. Click on the red box and then find the "play" button to listen to this 50 minute discussion. He hopes to make another episode at the end of General Conference to debrief all that went on during the 10 day conference.

General Conference

General Conference will convene until May 3, but important legislation has already been passed. Many groups have endorsed the idea of 3 R's at this General Conference.

Regionalization: The proposal would create eight distinct regional governing bodies in what are currently the seven central conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines as well as in the United States. Each region would have the same authority to adapt portions of the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, to their missional context.

Revised Social Principles: Multiple petitions submitted by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, that revise the denomination's social witness. The proposals are the result of an eight-year revision process prompted by the 2012 General Conference to make the denomination's social teachings "more globally relevant, theologically founded and succinct." More than 4,000 United Methodists from around the globe have contributed to the revisions. As proposed, the revision would no longer make reference to homosexuality at all.

Removal of harmful language: This would eliminate the words and phrases in our Book of Discipline that have been harmful to LGBTQ+ people since 1972. Also known as "the incompatibility" clauses, removing this language from our Discipline would help make the UMC a more inclusive church and end decades of discrimination and injustice.

During the morning plenary session on April 25, many of the petitions regarding regionalization passed. While some details are still being worked out in committee, the bulk of regionalization, including a petition that required 2/3 approval, passed with overwhelming support. Regionalization however, is a constitutional change which will require voting at annual conferences with a 2/3 majority.

You can watch all of the worship, reports, and plenary sessions by going to ResourceUMC.org and finding the "Watch Livestream" button.

"We Care" Gift Bags For Our Senior Members

Sunday, June 9 will be the day our "We Care" gift bags for our senior shut-in members will be ready for delivery.

If anyone wishes to make a monetary contribution to this worthy cause, please send your contribution to the church office by May 28 and designate that it's for the "We Care" gift bags.

Once again, volunteers will be needed to help with the delivery of these gift bags. If you would like to help with delivery, please call or leave a message to: Avalon Gibson at (309)799-3124 or Judy Shryack at (309)798-9300.

Peace With Justice Sunday

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. A special Peace with Justice offering envelope will be available in your Sunday bulletin on May 26th. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Prayer Chain

Charlotte Peterson
793-7783

Nancy Schwegler
781-5334

If you want the prayer chain to pray for your concern or you wish to be part of this prayer ministry, please call one of the persons listed above. They will alert the remaining chain members.

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-
All those in need of prayers for healing and strength.

Our presence—

March 31	= 118
April 7	= 43
April 14	= 85
April 21	= 67
April 28	= 44

Our gifts—
General Fund Offerings

March 31	$1,730.94
April 7	$6,318.94
April 14	$2,137.94
April 21	$9,925.94
April 28	$2,370.94

Our Service -
Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

March 30	— 80 Meal Site; 70 OSN
April 6	— 47 Meal Site
April 13	— 55 Meal Site
April 20	— 51 Meal Site
April 27	— 83 Meal Site, 74 OSN

Our Thanks—
Thank you to Shari Cole for decorating our tables in the back of the sanctuary with beautiful centerpieces each month.
Thank you to those that volunteered to deliver Easter lilies to our senior members.

Thank you for the beautiful Easter lily that Sandy and Gerald Etzel delivered to me. It is so good to know I am thought of by friends from church.
May God's Blessings be upon all of you.
Edie Hafeman

Office Closed

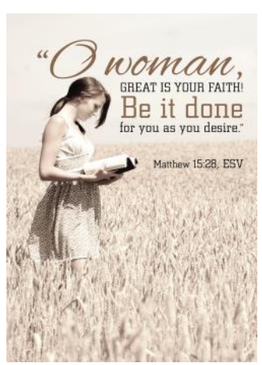
The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Narcan Training Completed

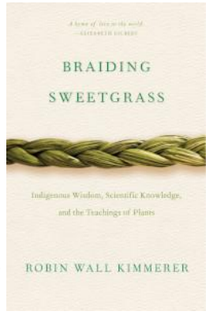
Six Two Rivers members who also volunteer at our Saturday meal site were trained in the administration of Narcan in cases of opioid overdose or suspected overdose. Narcan is one of the brands of naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids when given in time. Opioids are commonly used for the treatment of pain, and include medicines such as morphine, fentanyl and tramadol. Overdose using prescribed opioids may occur accidentally. Opioids' non-medical use, prolonged use, misuse and use without medical supervision can lead to opioid dependence and other health problems. Opioids can cause breathing difficulties, and opioid overdose can lead to death. Thanks to Ibrahim Tarawneh, Naloxone Grant Coordinator with UnityPoint Robert Young Center, for providing clear information, answers and training to care for individuals who overdose or are suspected of overdose. There's no such thing as being too prepared. If you would like to learn more or have a legitimate desire to have Narcan available for personal use, please contact the church office.

Women's Faith and Growth Opportunity

I would like to invite women of our church community to join me in a women's study / devotion / growth group. There are many women of inspiration and faith in the stories of our Bible, in the life of our church and in our own circles of friends and families. I would benefit from time spent with other women learning and growing in faith. Please let me know if you would be interested in participated and I will follow up with more information about topics/ themes/ times and dates. Hoping that in the near future we can organize a women's retreat as well. I look forward to hearing from you. Sarah McCoy - mccoy01@gmail.com



Two Rivers Readers



The Two Rivers Readers will meet on June 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary to discuss our next book, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants is a 2013 nonfiction book by Potawatomi professor Robin Wall Kimmerer, about the role of Indigenous knowledge as an alternative or complementary approach to Western mainstream scientific methodologies.

As always, our group is safe and nonjudgmental, and our discussions are insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun.

We'd love to have you join us!

Questions? Please contact the church Office.

Congratulations Graduates!

We'd like to congratulate the Class of 2024! Two Rivers UMC has a couple members that are celebrating graduations. AJ (Abby) Pollock is graduating from Moline High School in June, and Florence Uwimana will graduate from Northern Illinois University in December.

AJ will be attending Blackhawk College this fall along with continuing their welding apprenticeship with John Deere.

Annual Conference Offerings

Every year at Annual Conference, several offerings are given. Members of local congregations are invited to make contributions to these offerings which I will place in the offering baskets as part of my duties as your Lay Member of Annual Conference. Besides accepting care kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, these are the offerings which will be collected this year:

John Kofi Asmah School; Joyce Helms Francis Scholarship; Tom Brown Scholarship, Wiley College; and the Ordinands' Trip Fund. Below are explanations of each offering's goal.

Joyce Helm Francis Scholarship – An endowed scholarship to Africa University is memory of Joyce Helm Francis, a member of Peoria Bethel UMC and a member of the Africa University Task Force.

Tom Brown Scholarship, Wiley College – The Tom Brown Scholarship is one which assists a student of Wiley College, one of the 11 historical Black Colleges. Beginning in 1987, the former Central Illinois conference, named a scholarship in memory of the Rev. Tom Brown, a long-time supporter of the Marshall, Texas-based school. Rev. Brown was often the one who stood at the microphone after the presentation by the visiting Black College intern and would move that the annual conference session take up a special offering for Wiley College.

Ordinands' Trip – An offering will also be taken for the Ordinands' Trip. This trip is used to form spiritual leaders at the beginning of their ministry.

If you are moved to contribute to these offerings, please have your donation to the church office by May 31 as Annual Conference will begin on June 6.

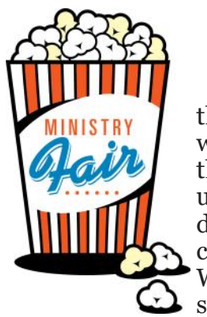
Thank you in advance for your generosity, Charlotte Peterson, Lay Member of Annual Conference

Becoming Beloved Community

This summer Two Rivers Church is invited into a transformational experience. Individuals will be encouraged to step forward into a six week process of Becoming Beloved Community. This is a project of the Kaleidoscope Institute, a ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to building bridges of trust across various aspects of societal division.

Rev. James Fielder of Riverside UMC (Moline) will be the facilitator of this event, which is meant to be the start of a wider movement in the Quad Cities to build community through embracing and celebrating differences. Pastor Greg Hampton of The House Church (Rock Island) has agreed to invite his congregation as well. We are looking for at least one more church to participate.

The sessions will begin in June on Monday nights. There will be a celebration involving both churches at Schwiebert Park on Sunday, July 28 as we hope to continue the process of Becoming Beloved Community. If you are interested in this program, please let Pastor Robb know. There will be more details coming.



Ministry Fair

Have you ever wondered about the different seen and unseen work of our church. Who makes the coffee each Sunday and cleans up after worship? How do all the doors in various locations get secured and opened when needed. Who creates the videos for worship and posts them online? Who counts the people in church each week? We want to help answer your questions and give you a chance to explore new and exciting ways to serve our church as an individual or entire family. There are many ways to support the often unseen work of the church and its members. We are planning a ministry fair to share the daily, weekly, monthly and other ongoing opportunities to strengthen and support the life of our church.

Meal Site Easter Bags and Eggs

Thanks to the amazing donation of dozens of dyed Easter eggs from the Cooley family and 100 candy filled Easter bags beautifully decorated and filled by Kala Lee, Susan Moore, AJ Pollock and friends, the Meal Site attendees on March 30 were able to take home some Easter joy to share with friends and family.

Kids enjoying Children's time, an egg hunt and meeting Bean the Bunny on Easter Morning.

IN OTHER NEWS

Did you select a Jim Shore nativity star ornament from the gifted nativities this past Christmas? The matching display hanger is waiting for you! Please contact the church office or Claudia Applegate, 309-738-2055. Thank you!

Dick Lee poses with his birthday card at Camp Milan on April 14th.

Rev. Dan Lybarger, Pastor Robb McCoy, and Pastor Lisa Wiedman at Camp Milan for our special Native American Ministries Sunday worship on April 14, 2024

Compass

COMPASS (USPS #658-720) is published monthly by Two Rivers United Methodist Church, 1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. Periodicals postage paid at Rock Island, IL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Two Rivers United Methodist Church, 1820-5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.

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2. Tithe.ly Giving App:
Download the Tithe.ly App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select your church and follow the instructions given.

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **June** issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, May 23, 2024.** Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

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Church Custodian
Brianna Pollock

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Interim Accompanist
Nancy Schwegler

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers
All of us

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.

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