Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 **12:00 pm** Bible Study **6-8 pm** Beloved Community @ Two Rivers	**2**	**3** **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	4 **Happy Independence Day!** Church Office Closed	5	**6** **12 pm** Meal Site
7 **Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little Free Pantry** **9:30 am** Worship/ Communion **10:30 am** 10 year Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Robb	8 **12:00 pm** Bible Study **6-8 pm** Beloved Community @ Two Rivers	9	10 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	11	12	13 **12 pm** Meal Site
14 **9:30 am** Worship	15 **10:00 am** Two Rivers Readers **12:00 pm** Bible Study	16 **6:00 pm** Leadership Meeting	17 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	18	19	20 **12 pm** Meal Site
21 **9:30 am** Worship	22 **12:00 pm** Bible Study **6-8 pm** Beloved Community @ The House	23 *August Compass Deadline*	24 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion	25	26 Men's Retreat at Wheatland Prairie Retreat Center	27 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
28 **10:30 am Worship at Schwiebert Park**	29 **12:00 pm** Bible Study	30	**31** **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion			

a publication of

TWO RIVERS CHURCH
A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

July 2024
Vol. 32 No. 7

Compass

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

Worship at Schwiebert Park

On Sunday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. the people of Two Rivers are invited to join in a multi-church worship service at Schwiebert Park. There will not be worship at the church that day. Instead, everyone is invited to bring a lawn chair to the bandshell at Schwiebert Park for a time of worship.

This will be a community celebration to recap our Beloved Community sermon series as well as a tremendous chance for building community and witnessing to Christ's love in Rock Island and beyond.

BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Next Sermon Series
"Beloved Community: The Revised Social Principles"

June 30	Social Community	Galatians 3:26-29, Gen. 1:26-27, Philippians 2:3-8
July 7	Created Community	Romans 8:22-24, Matthew 6:26-30
July 13	Economic Community	Amos 5:7-13
July 20	Political Community	Luke 4:14-21, Romans 13:1-10
July 28	Community Celebration at Schwiebert Park	

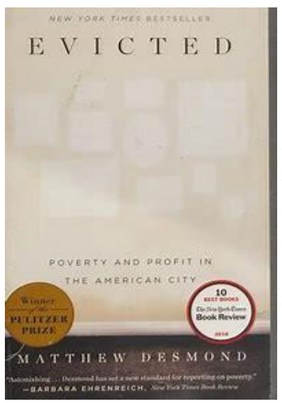
Beloved Community Sessions Continue Through July

These sessions are an important opportunity to join a movement for positive change in our community. People from three churches are participating in this groundbreaking program. Two Rivers UMC, The House, and Riverside UMC come together for frank discussions and powerful learning. The workshops take place from **6:00-8:00 p.m. on Mondays**. The location schedule for the last three sessions is listed below.

July 1 - Two Rivers
July 8 - Two Rivers
July 22 - The House (2623 5th Ave, Rock Island)

07/01	Paula Johnson
07/04	Colin Muir
07/04	James Muir
07/04	Belva Thorpe
07/05	Candy Canik
07/07	Russell Kennedy
07/09	Pastor Robb McCoy
07/11	Dorothy Bundy
07/17	Florence Uwimana
07/18	Pat Burton
07/18	Jane McGinnis
07/19	Marilyn Beam
07/19	Simon Cooley
07/26	Mason Dean

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



Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will meet on July 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary to discuss our next book, *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond.

Set in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Matthew Desmond tells the story of eight families and their experiences with eviction and poverty. The families are diverse in race, age, and gender, yet all struggle with rent payments, which consume the majority of their already meager income.

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.

Bishop Beard to go on long-term disability

Bishop Frank J. Beard announced June 11 that he has been approved for long-term disability due to his ongoing battle with glaucoma.

In a letter to the North Central Jurisdictional College of Bishops Secretary, Lanette Plambeck, Bishop Beard requested to be relieved from the performance of all regular episcopal duties, effective Aug. 1. Under the Wespath Comprehensive Protection Plan, long-term disability can span up to 34 months, at which time Bishop Beard would either return to active service or retire from the episcopacy.

"My ongoing battle with glaucoma has caused me to become legally blind," Bishop Beard wrote, in which copies were also sent to the Dr. Barrie Tritle, chair of the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy and Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, president of the Council of Bishops. "It has been a very difficult decision for me and my family, but we believe that the Lord will continue to direct our paths and guide us through this season of challenge and change."

As a result of Bishop Beard's notification, the NCJ College of Bishops will share the information with the NCJ Committee of Episcopacy and after an affirmative vote, the final approval will come from the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops will then assign an interim Bishop to cover the episcopal area.

The Council of Bishops could assign a retired bishop in the interim or could select an active bishop who would assume additional responsibilities in the Illinois Area as well as their episcopal area. The latter course of action was taken in July 2021 when Bishop Beard went on short-term disability for six months and Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer was assigned to the Illinois Area in addition to West Ohio. (From IGRC.org)

July 2024 Marks Two Big Anniversaries Here at Two Rivers UMC.

20 years ago in July of 2004, Mark Swessinger was welcomed onto the staff as our new Director of Music. For 20 years Mark has been providing beautiful music for worship and other special events. From conducting the Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choir to arranging for soloist and group musicians to perform at the church, Mark has always gone with the flow and used his great expertise to enhance the music experience at Two Rivers. Please join us in congratulating him on this great milestone by sending cards of appreciation and congrats to the church office (1820 5th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61265). At the end of the month we will forward all cards to Mark as he is at home recovering from knee surgery.

10 years ago this month, Pastor Robb McCoy was appointed to Two Rivers UMC! We have all been truly blessed by his hard work, enthusiasm, creativity, love and guidance over the last 10 years. Please join us on Sunday, July 7 for cake and refreshments in a special celebration of reaching a whole decade with such an inspirational leader.

p.s. July 9 is also Pastor Robbs birthday.

"We Care" Bags

Thanks to everyone who delivered "We Care" bags to our shut-ins again this year. Our shut-in members are all so appreciative of being remembered by our church and look forward each June to receiving the bags as well as catching up on recent news about their church. Thanks also to those members who donated money toward this project. Without your support we could never pack the bags as full as we do. God Bless you all for making our work easier by always being willing to help out with the deliveries.

Avalon and Judy

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-

Rita Anderson, Ginny Cline, Mark Swessinger and all those in need of prayers for healing and strength.

Our presence—

June 2	= 62
June 9	= 46
June 16	= 41
June 23	= 40

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

June 2	$5,694.94
June 9	$3,658.94
June 16	$2,234.94
June 23	$2,041.94

Our Service -

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

June 1	— 55 Meal Site
June 8	— 54 Meal Site
June 15	— 52 Meal Site
June 22	— 78 Meal Site

Our Thanks—

Thank you for the "We Care" gift bag. There were lots of goodies as well as other useful items The Cross is one of my favorite. I have it standing on my desk where I see it a lot I enjoyed visiting with Roger, catching up on old time. God's Blessings to each and everyone of you. Edie Hafeman

A special thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls I have received in the past few weeks. I feel truly blessed by all the love and support I have received from my church family.

With all my love and appreciation,

Rita Anderson

Thursday, July 4th in observation of Independence Day

Men's retreat coming July 26-27 to Wheatland Prairie Retreat Center

Men - join this retreat to gain a spiritual insight about masculinity that is centered on Christ, not cultural expectations of manhood.

Robb and Aubrey have worked together for many years and will bring to this retreat a unique blend of talents and insights. Robb is an excellent preacher and student of the Bible. His knowledge and insight into the Scripture is the foundation for his passion for social justice, healthy masculinity, inclusion, and reconciliation. At home he facilitates a small group of men who grow together through regular meetings of conversation, vulnerability, and an occasional pint.

Aubrey is a gifted poet and performer. His energy as a spoken-word poet and rapper is contagious and his writing is witty, concise, biting, and convicting. He engages students with intriguing prompts, guides, and helps them find their own hidden creativity. In this retreat men will be given an opportunity to explore their relationships, express their struggles, find healing in their own writing, and grow spiritually and emotionally. This weekend will include time for discussion, interaction, and space for one's own creative reflection.

$100 fee includes meals and accommodations

Register at www.chmiowa.org/retreat

Find "Prairie Calendar" under the News & Events tab. Scroll down to the Big Steppers event to register.

Fusion Fest in Moline

WHERE: The Riverside UMC Life Center, at 712 16th Street, Moline
WHEN: Saturday, August 10
WHO: All students from middle school through high school
WHAT: A day of concerts, food and worship
WHY: Outreach to our community youth. This is an event that will appeal to people who are not connected to churches or faith communities, but show that we are a people who care about all of our community youth.
NEEDED: Adults who can be on the planning team for this event. We are trying to work in closer contact with our sister church, Riverside UMC, and we're hoping to build leaders who can help out across our church youth events.

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.

Photo from AIR Camp at Little Grass week of June 16

2024 Annual Conference Report

Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church held Annual Conference June 6, 7, and 8 at the Peoria Civic Center. I attended the IGRC for Unity meeting and celebration on Wednesday night before the Conference got underway. Ellie McCoy gave a testimonial of what the changes at General Conference mean to her. This meeting included a recap of what was accomplished during the postponed 2020 General Conference held in Charlotte, NC in April and May 2024. I have a five-page summary of the major actions of the General Conference, if anyone is interested. The major accomplishments were the three R's: Remove, Revise, Regionalization. That is removing the restrictive language related to LGBTQ+ persons, revise the Social Principles, and move toward restructuring under the plan of regionalization.

The easiest way to explain about regionalization is to look at this change in the social principles concerning marriage: Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith, an adult man and a woman of consenting age, or two adult persons of consenting age, into union with one another and to deeper relationship with God and the religious community. On the surface to us in America this seem very straight forward as inclusive of LGBTQ+ persons. Here is what it means to our African brothers and sisters. It is condemning polygamy; it is condemning child brides; and is allowing continuation of the United Methodist Church in countries were gay marriage is outlawed. What works for the UMC in the United States may not work or even be applicable around the world; hence, the move to regionalization.

As for our annual conference, the theme this year was "A Time to Dance" from Ecclesiastes 3:4. The clergy and laity sessions began the work on Thursday morning, followed by a memorial service and celebration of life worship after lunch. This included honoring those who had died over the past year and honoring the completed missions of the nineteen closing churches . At 3:45 the first conference business session got underway with several reports, the introduction of the budget for fiscal 2025, and the presentation of clergy candidates.

Thursday evening offered an opportunity to celebrate Mission with the Midwest Mission Center. I was able to participate in four station demonstrating mission projects. I have a bag with mission ideas and ways our congregation can participate going forward.

Friday was filled with reports and legislative business. That doesn't mean we didn't have fun or weren't entertained. We had three occasions where a dancer or dancers were part of the worship experience. We had plenty of singing, in the best Methodist tradition. And our afternoon session on Friday was opened with a drum line.

Only three items of legislation were even slightly controversial. One was to agree to possibly hold elections next year for delegates to a General Conference if the Council of Bishops calls a Special General Session in 2026. One was to "receive with joy the adoption of Worldwide Regionalization. . ." and vote to ratify it at 2025 Annual Conference. And the third was to create a committee of 24 persons LGBTQ+ Ministry Team at the Conference level. Robb McCoy's name was brought up during the discussion of this piece of legislation as an example of someone who is doing it right. All passed.

Saturday morning was the ordination of five candidates and the acceptance in to UMC clergy of an ordained minister of another denomination. Appointment were also fixed and we have Robb for another year.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Peterson, Lay Member of Annual Conference

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.

Online Giving at Tworiversumc.org

Two Rivers Donate QR Code

1. Website Giving:
Go to www.tworiversumc.org to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to give any time.

OR

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.

Pastor
Rev. Robb McCoy
mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Director of Music
Mark Swessinger
mswess@mchsi.com

Church Office Manager
Brianna Pollock
office@tworiversumc.org

Volunteer Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson
char1728@aol.com

Church Custodian
Brianna Pollock

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Accompanist
Russell Rursch

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers
All of us

Newsletter deadline

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

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.

1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
Office Phone: **(309) 788-9384** email: **office@tworiversumc.org**
Office Hours: **Monday -Thursday 8 am—2 pm**
Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org — www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers — twitter.com/RITwoRivers**