September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Jazz Sunday** **Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little Free Pantry** **9:30 am** Worship/ Communion	2 **Labor Day** Church Office Closed	**3**	4 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **6:00 pm** Bell rehearsal **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	5	6	7 **12 pm** Meal Site
8 **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Sunday School **4-7pm** Youth Rally at Camp Milan	9 **12:00 pm** Bible Study	10	11 **Patriot Day** **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **6:00 pm** Bell rehearsal **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	12	13	14 **12 pm** Meal Site
15 ***RALLY DAY!*** **9:30 am** Worship **11:00am** Two Rivers Ministries Fair	16 **12:00 pm** Bible Study	17	18 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **6:00 pm** Bell rehearsal **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	19 *October Compass Deadline*	20	21 **12 pm** Meal Site
22 **9:30 am** Worship	23 **12:00 pm** Bible Study	24	25 **12:00 pm** Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion **6:00 pm** Bell rehearsal **7:30 pm** Choir rehearsal	26	27	28 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
29 **9:30 am** Worship	30 **10:00 am** Two Rivers Readers **12:00 pm** Bible Study					

a publication of

TWO RIVERS CHURCH
A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

September 2024
Vol. 32 No. 9

Compass

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

September Sermon Series— "Do Unto Others"

Belittle. Reject. Blame. Attack. Win at all costs. These seem to the dominant values we see today. As red and blue yard signs spring up all over our yards and neighborhoods, maybe we can provide something else. What if we were kind, compassionate, humble, respectful, and loving? Never mind winning an election, could that change the world?

Is it possible that the values of Christ transcend our political posturing and partisanship? Can we come together to find common ground, shared values, and build community based on kindness?

If you believe that there is another way, then consider joining this movement. "Do Unto Others," is not just a pithy statement. It is a part of the foundation of the Gospel that includes loving your neighbor, loving yourself, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly.

Order a yard sign now to help your neighbors know about a different way. Share on social media. Share with your friends who feel burned out from the negativity. This fall is an important evangelical moment.

Rally Day

On September 15 we will have a celebration of the mission and ministry of Two Rivers Church with a Rally Day. The choir will return to worship, bringing an extra level of excitement and energy.

After worship we will have a ministry fair, full of snacks, fellowship, and information. You can learn about the many ways you can get more involved in Two Rivers Church. There are many ways to serve, learn, and grow as a follower of Christ.

We will have presentations and information about our administrative, hospitality, mission, youth, and worship support teams. As we move forward into a new era of being Two Rivers Church, we will present many chances to "wade in" a little deeper.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/03	Larry Dalton
09/03	Keith Glass
09/03	Lilly Hanna
09/10	Benise Nyambanguka
09/10	Emma Pollock
09/12	Kala Lee
09/14	Ike Mejia
09/17	Susan Lorenzen
09/21	Abby Pollock
09/27	Ted Litherland

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

HELP WANTED – OFFERING COUNTERS

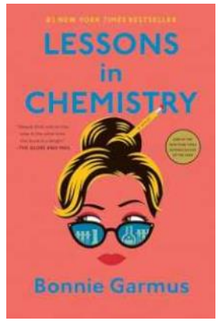
Requirements: A member of the church. Not related to Brianna Pollock or Charlotte Peterson. Available for 30 minutes at 9 a.m. on Monday mornings (occasionally Tuesday morning when Monday is a bank holiday). A rotating schedule will be established. Ability to read sloppy handwriting and write legibly.
Duties: Count offering and prepare bank deposit with guidance from the Voluntary Financial Secretary.
Apply: Call the church office 309-788-9384 or tell Charlotte Peterson.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, the nations leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Two Rivers United Methodist Church on **Friday, October 18, 2024**.

The church office has 2 complimentary screening vouchers valued at $85.00 to give to anyone that is interested. Please call the church office at (309)788-9384 for more information on the 2 available vouchers. Register by calling 888-814-0466 and use promo code HSCA001 or text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at LLSA.SOCIAL/HC .

Two Rivers Readers



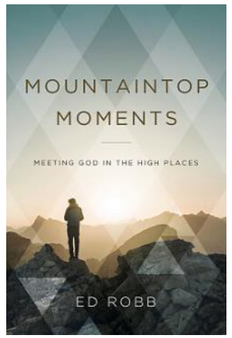
The Two Rivers Readers will meet on September 30 at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary to discuss our next book, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

This blockbuster debut set in 1960s California features the singular voice of Elizabeth Zott, a scientist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the star of a beloved TV cooking show.

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.

Start of Adult Sunday School



Adult Sunday School will begin the fall with a 6 week series, *Mountaintop Moments: Meeting God in the High Places* by Ed Robb. The study is described as: Mountaintop moments—those moments when we experience the power, love, and grace of God in a way difficult to capture with words. They give us a sense of God's presence in our lives and often change our perspective of who God is and who we are.

Each week will look at a different encounter with God in a high place: Moriah, Sinai, Carmel, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabor, and Zion. Each week's lesson includes a video. Each video has a different narrator. A study book is available by the same name, but not necessary.

Come and join us in Asbury Parlor starting September 8th. All adults are welcome.

Congrats to David & Sher Nay Nduwikunda!

Married at Two Rivers UMC on August 17th

Jazz Sunday

Join us for a Sunday morning worship filled with the amazing sounds of jazz. On Sunday, September 1, the Edgar Crockett Trio will be here to get your toes tapping and your hands clapping to some wonderful jazz beats. Don't miss it!

Choir News

Choirs to Begin

Happy fall, everyone! Schools are back in session, there soon will be a nip in the air and it is Pumpkin Spice Latte Season which means that it is time for us to return to choir rehearsals. Mark is more or less healed up from his summer of knee replacements and is eager to make music with anyone who is interested. At present there are two adult musical ensembles in which you could participate.

First is our bell choir. Join this choir if you have an interest in making music as a team. Bell ringers must work together to coordinate their individual parts to create a tuneful and harmonic whole. For this ensemble there is no experience necessary, only the ability to count to four. All other skills will be taught in the rehearsal setting. Bells offer music once a month during the fall, winter and spring. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 p.m. and meet every following Wednesday.

The Sanctuary Choir is our adult singing choir. They lead worship every week beginning in the fall through to Pentecost. Again, no experience is necessary, only the desire to make a joyful noise in praise of the Lord. There is no need to feel any nervousness about singing. There are several voices on each part, providing you encouragement and support as you learn. Our music team teaches notes and rhythms so that even if you don't read music, you can still learn and participate. Rehearsals also begin on Wednesday September 4th, but at 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or text Mark Swessinger at 309-738-0260.

Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

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

Our presence—

August 4	= 50
August 11	= 40
August 18	= 65
August 25	= 48

Our gifts—
General Fund Offerings

August 4	$4,682.94
August 11	$2,772.94
August 18	$4,052.94
August 25	$1,320.94

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

August 3	— 52 Meal Site
August 10	— 50 Meal Site
August 17	— 68 Meal Site
August 24	— 70 Meal Site

Our Thanks—
I would like to offer my thanks to all who have held Tamara and me in prayer this summer as I have undergone two knee replacement surgeries. I knew that this would be a challenge for us physically, emotionally and spiritually. Through prayer, commitment, and love, we have managed to survive the trials and the pain, and are emerging stronger because of it. I truly believe that the power of prayer has made this ordeal easier for us. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Mark Swessinger

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.

Installation Service for Bishops Bard, Bigham-Tsai slated for Sept. 28

NORMAL -- Bishops David Alan Bard and Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai will be installed as presiding bishops of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2:30 p.m. at Normal Calvary UMC.
Both bishops will begin serving the Illinois Area on Sept. 1. Bishops Bard and Bigham-Tsai will also have additional oversight responsibilities. Bishop Bard also serves as bishop of the Michigan Area and Bishop Bigham-Tsai serves as bishop of the Iowa Area.

The Installation Service is a worship experience and the public is invited to attend.

Bishop David Alan Bard was elected a bishop in 2016 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria, and has served since as bishop of the Michigan Area. He also served as interim bishop of the Minnesota Conference in 2021-2022. Bishop Bard explains that among the most important roles for a bishop, and one he attends to thoughtfully, prayerfully, relationally and carefully is helping create a culture for an annual conference. As a group of Jesus followers in the Wesleyan tradition, our annual conferences should be places where the love of God in Jesus is evident, where we are deeply hopeful, trusting that the Spirit of God continues to work in us and through us, where we long to work together for personal and social transformation, where there is graciousness and spaciousness, and where there his joy for the journey.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai was assigned as the resident bishop for the Iowa Area, effective January 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2022. Before her election, she served as the chief connectional ministries officer of the Connectional Table for the United Methodist Church since 2018. The Connectional Table is the body that discerns and articulates the vision for the worldwide United Methodist Church. She also served as a district superintendent in the Michigan Annual Conference where she had supervision of 70+ churches and their pastors. In addition, she has served as a pastor of churches in Kalamazoo and East Lansing, Michigan.

The Illinois Area and its corresponding Illinois Great Rivers Conference is comprised of 664 churches spanning between Interstate 80 and the Kentucky border with a combined membership of 87,642.
Article from igrc.org

Google

Church Website Redesign

The church website has been updated to focus on new people coming to visit church for the first time. One thing you can do right now to help the church reach new people is go to Google, search "Church in Rock Island," and scroll down (unfortunately, we aren't on the first page any more, so it might take a while) and click on our page. Google searches are often based on what others find important, so this can help us move up the list. If you have a google account, give the church a 5-star rating and review too.

The best way to stay updated on church news is to subscribe to our weekly e-mail. The e-mail includes a recap from the sermon, pictures from recent events, and news of things that are coming.

Youth Rally For Kindness

Youth are invited to Camp Milan Retreat Center on September 8 for a "Rally for Kindness." This will kick off our year of youth ministry with other churches in the area. There will be dinner, worship, and games as we reconnect with each other and get to know some other church groups.

The event will be from 4:00-7:00 on Sunday, September 8. There is a registration link and a $5 fee to help defray the costs. You can find the links to register in recent emails as well as the youth page of our website at https://tworiversumc.org/ministries/youth/

Compass

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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.

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Volunteer Financial Secretary
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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 **October** issue of the *Compass* is **Thursday, September 19, 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.

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