



Luke 6:31-36 (CEB)

Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

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 September 8, 2024

Swahili Sunday School— 10:45 am in the Swahili Class Room
Adult Sunday School— 10:45 am in 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 dialing 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation.

Youth Rally For Kindness at Camp Milan Today from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Youth from middle school through high school are invited to this Youth Rally. There will be worship, dinner and games. This will be a great way to kick off our youth ministry season. There is a small fee to help cover costs - \$5 per student.

Adult Sunday School Adult Sunday School will begin today in Asbury Parlor with a 6 week series, *Mountaintop Moments: Meeting God in the High Places* by Ed Robb.

Rally Day/ Ministries Fair September 15 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.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
9/8		Jerry Etzel, Roger Pohlman & Brianna & Kevin Pollock	
9/15			
9/22			

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



Donation QR Code

NAME: _____

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

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- 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.)*
- Tech Support** -Video recording, editing, sound board and /or slides. Get behind the scenes and help create a meaningful worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those watching from home.

ENTRY OF THE LIGHT

PRELUDE "Air and Variation" - Ludwig Van Beethoven

INTRODUCTION

HMYN #273 UMH "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" v. 1

ENTRY OF THE LIGHT

One: God of Mercy, we ask you to come might close, for ware a divided world, and we are not sure of our footing in this moment.

All: Steady us, and invite us to "do unto others" in ways that build up your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

One: We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center that Holds.

All: And in the power of the Holy Spirit who transforms. Amen

HYMN #273 UMH "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" v. 2

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of light and darkness, you are as present in the shadow as you are in the warmth of the sun. Illuminate the shadowy places of our heart, where winning is more important than what is right; where arguments and outrage are quick to rise; where silos and conformity are comfortable. Reveal to us a pathway of kindness, where reconciliation is possible and new life is born from the darkest tomb.

(Pause for silent confession and prayer)

One: Hear the good news, Jesus came to love the world, not to condemn it. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people.

All: We are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

PEACE ACROSS THE DIVIDE

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*HYMN #121 UMH "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

SHINING THE LIGHT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and light for our path. As we open the scriptures today, illuminate the path of grace, hospitality, kindness, and love so that we may walk humbly with you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:31-36 (CEB)

SERMON

"Kindness Matters"

Robb McCoy

HYMN #408 UMH

"The Gift of Love"

SPREADING THE LIGHT

PRAYER FOR KINDNESS

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN #557 UMH "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" vs. 1, 2, 4
(All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front of the sanctuary as we sing)

*UNISON CALL TO ACTION

Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that our worship will create actions of kindness that extend far beyond our knowing. We wonder what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us Do Unto Others with an understanding that lasts far beyond this moment. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope that we can survive, even thrive together--no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing these words, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" knowing that the blessings that flow from kindness can ripple forth from here, spreading healing to all in this land.

*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the Holy One show you the way to Do Unto Others with Kindness.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.

May the Spirit show forth through you in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve. And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding, especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, "Amen!"

POSTLUDE

March from "Scipio"

- G.F. Handel



PRAYERS FOR 9/8/2024

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:

