

NAME: _____

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

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Scan this Code to schedule a time you can be an usher, liturgist, or greeter.



Help pick the 2025 sermon series
What sounds interesting?

- The Spirit, tracing the Holy Spirit through the Bible
- Revelation, what is truly revealed?
- Eating through Luke
- The love letter, a look at the end of 1 Corinthians

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 December 1, 2024

One-Church Sunday School –10:45am—Downstairs in Epworth Hall

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.

Advent Season During Advent this year we will be having an intergenerational/cross-cultural One-Church Sunday School after worship in Epworth hall each Sunday in December. This will be a great chance to connect with all the different ages and nationalities that make up Two Rivers. We will also have special Advent devotionals available for you to take home to continue your Advent journey all week long.

Holiday Homebound Gift Bags Donations of homemade or purchased treats (peanut butter, nut free) cookies, crackers, gum, are being collected and may be left in the kitchen of Epworth Hall. Please mark the donations “Holiday Homebound Baskets” and bring them any time up to/before service on Sunday, December 15 when they will be assembled and will be ready for delivery. We currently have 12 members we will deliver to. Volunteers for delivering these gift are needed, please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after service on Dec. 15.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
12/01	Charlotte Peterson	David Dehnel & Candy Canik	
12/08	Donna Burroughs	Roger Pohlman, Jerry Etzel, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
12/15	The Muir Family	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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



Donation QR Code



December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Echolocation" - Shaun & Abigail Bengson

INTRODUCTION

MUSICAL OFFERING "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" -D. Wagner
Two Rivers Handbell Choir

FOR THE BEGINNING "Joy and Celebration" - Rev. Sarah Speed

*ENTRY OF THE LIGHT (see screens) "We'll Dress the House"

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: We begin with the good news. We begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a generous God. We begin with music and singing. We begin with warmth and welcome. We begin with hope.

One: Yes! We begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world,

All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

One: May hope shine out from here, Amen.

*HYMN (see screens) "We'll Dress the House"

*CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE

All: Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmation through prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting that truth. Forgive us for assessing our worth by society's measuring stick. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray these things.

(Pause for silent confession and prayer)

One: Family of faith, I don't know if you know how beloved you are. So in case no one ever told you, hear these words from Isaiah:

All: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

One: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

All: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. May we live it. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* HYMN (see insert) "In Case No One Ever Told You"

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of beginnings, create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

REFRAIN (verse one) "In Case No One Ever Told You"

SERMON You are a blessing - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

COMMUNION (see screens)

ANTHEM "People Look East" - Mitchell
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

* HYMN #196 UMH "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
(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)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was bestowed upon the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. We trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope we believe that because of this blessing we are covered in love. We are more than enough. We can begin again. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
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PRAYERS FOR 12/1/2024

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:

