

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.



- Greeter on Blue Christmas
- Greeter/Usher on Christmas Eve
- RSVP to Christmas day party at 3:00 p.m.

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 15, 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.

Holiday Homebound Gift Bags Volunteers for delivering these gifts to our Homebound members are needed. Please see Brianna Pollock in Epworth Hall after today’s service.

Blue Christmas Service On Saturday, **December 21 at 4:00 p.m.** we will share our annual Blue Christmas service. The service will include Communion, prayer, a ritual for healing, and a chance for individuals to express their grief.

Christmas Eve Worship On Christmas Eve we will have our special service for Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. This Christmas Eve service will feature “candles”, carols, and Communion.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
12/15	The Muir Family	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
12/22	The Cooley Family	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
12/24	Harold Truitt		

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



Donation QR Code



December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:7-16

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?”

He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Echolocation" - Shaun & Abigail Bengson

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE BEGINNING "Harvest" by 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: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy.

One: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so. Amen.

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

*CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE

All: Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

(Pause for silent reflection and confession)

One: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the right thing. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* HYMN (see insert) "Do the Good That's Yours to Do"

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 3:7-16

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

REFRAIN (verse one) "Do the Good That's Yours to Do"

SERMON Do the Good That is Yours To Do - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN #209 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Prepare Ye The Way" - Pote 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

One: When the crowd gathered in the wilderness to hear John, they asked him, "What shall we do?" Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer? What shall we do?

All: In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we proclaim that we are not discouraged by the weight of the world. Instead, we hold fast to hope. We roll up our sleeves. We feed the hungry, tend the garden, and make sure everyone has a coat in the cold winter. We do the good that is ours to do, and in so doing, we see God. In so doing, we find joy. We do so because we believe: no act of love is too small. No act of love is ever wasted. With the joy of Christ we declare these things. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "O Come All Ye Faithful"

* You are invited to stand as you are able. Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License



PRAYERS FOR 12/15/2024

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:

