

NAME: _____

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

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Random acts of kindness:

- Pray for peace in the world.
- Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.
- Donate socks, hats and gloves to Operation Safety Net.


Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- Donate new or used household items to 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.)*

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 24, 2024

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. **Note: No bible study or prayer group this week.**

Christmas Day Gathering 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Day, all are invited for a special celebration. Barutwanayo Jacques has shared that it is tradition for African families to gather on Christmas Day for food and music. On Christmas afternoon we will share a Christmas party in Epworth Hall. There will be African food such as fufu, greens, beans and rice, and various stews. We will share music videos of African songs. People are encouraged to bring desserts to share or food from their own family tradition. Everyone is invited to come to the party – even if you don't bring food. This will be a lively celebration of Christ's birth with church family.

Christmas Eve Special Offering It is our tradition to give away our Christmas Eve offering. The money collected on Christmas Eve this year will be divided between our Good Samaritan Fund and the Midwest Distribution Center. The Good Samaritan Fund is our local fund to help people in need. Requests are made to Pastor Robb to help with housing or utility bills. We also have an arrangement with the Rock Island Housing Authority so that people who need help catching up on past bills can make arrangements to find affordable housing. This fund has kept several families in their homes over the last year, and will continue to do so with the help of your generosity. The Midwest Distribution Center is near Springfield, Illinois. It is an incredible storage facility for disaster relief and many other mission projects. We recently supported their feeding programs with a rice packing day at Riverside UMC (Moline). You can learn more about this ministry by visiting www.midwestmission.org.

| Date | Liturgist | Ushers | Assistant Greeter |
|-------|---------------|---|-------------------|
| 12/24 | Harold Truitt | Dave Dehnel & Candy Canik, Charlotte Peterson | |
| 12/29 | | Kevin & Brianna Pollock | |
| 01/05 | | Dave Dehnel & Candy Canik | |

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



Donation QR Code



December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Joy to the World" -arr. David Lanz

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE BEGINNING "Hey Love" poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

***ENTRY OF THE LIGHT #250 UMH (vs. 1-2)** "Once in Royal David's City"

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

All: Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love..

One: Yes, we begin now with Christ, for Christ surely knows you by name. Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place. And while it may not be silent, this night is surely holy for the Spirit is near.

All: Love knows us by name, and we can rest in the good news that unto us a child is born. A light will shine in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth. Good will to all!

***HYMN #250 UMH (vs. 3-4)** "Once in Royal David's City"

***CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE**

One: Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born,

All: They dropped everything and ran. They trusted the invitation. They believed that your love was born for them. We wish that we were more like that.

One: Instead, somewhere between the angels in the field and the manger, we have lost our way.

All: We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could be born for us. We doubt that God would call us by name. Show us again the name on the invitation. Show us in the song. Show us in the word proclaimed. Show us in the bread that is broken and shared. Show us in the cup that is blessed and poured out.

One: Family of faith, the angels are singing: "Unto YOU a child is born." The invitation has your name on it. Love knows you by name.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

MUSICAL OFFERING "On This Glorious Christmas Night" - Donnelly/Strid
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, as we open the Scriptures and read the Christmas story, may our joy be like children running to the tree. We have found one with our name on it. Open up the joy of this good news as we hear the story again. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

SERMON Love Knows Your Name - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

COMMUNION

ANTHEM "He is Born" - Kern
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*** HYMN #238 UMH** "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(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)

*** DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

All: We believe that on a night like this one, a baby was born and placed in a manger. We believe that baby was God's love made flesh. We believe that child grew up to change the world. We believe that Jesus' love was so powerful that it could not be contained in one life. We believe that through the Holy Spirit, that love can reach and transform us all. We believe on this night, in this place, even though there are no shepherds gathered here, the angels remain all around. We join their chorus and proclaim to each other, "On this day, a savior is born to you!" That night could not have been silent, but on this holy night we sing and allow the light of Christ to spread. Our hearts are not calm, they are stirred by love. You call us by name, and we sing and seek your heavenly peace.

***HYMN #239 UMH (verses 1-3)** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

***HYMN #239 UMH (verse 1 acapella)** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

** You are invited to stand as you are able.
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PRAYERS FOR 12/24/2024

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:

