

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

Putting Away of the Greens After church on January 5, we will take down and put away all of the Christmas Decorations that have adorned our church this holiday season. All hands are welcome to help. We will need loving hands to remove the Chrismon’s from the tree and gently place them in their boxes; kind hands to put away the Creche and the Advent Wreath; strong hands to disassemble and store the Chrismon Tree and its platform, the West Entrance Wreath and the assorted garlands. Many hands make light work. If we work with a plan, the chore will be accomplished in a short amount of time.

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
12/29	Ellie McCoy	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
01/05		Dave Dehnel & Candy Canik	
01/12		Gerald Etzel, Roger Pohlman, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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



Donation QR Code



December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

PRELUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” - David Lanz

INTRODUCTION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: For the last four weeks we have asked “In a weary world, how do we begin?” Well, the beginning has come. Christ has come. Joy has been born into the world. We can begin again. So now, close your eyes. Really, go ahead and close your eyes... What gives you joy? It could be as simple as a cup of coffee in your hand and a dog on your lap, or as grand as looking up at the Eifel Tower. Take a moment and picture joy in your life... Now open your eyes I invite you to turn and find someone sitting next to you. Share with one another what brings you joy in your life. Talk amongst yourselves for a moment.

One: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear:

All: God is in our joy.

One: God is in this room.

All: We have reason to celebrate.

One: We have reason to sing.

All: Thanks be to God for the bright hope and joy of this day.

MUSICAL OFFERING Ding Dong Merrily/He is Born - arr. A. L. Page

Olinda Gunther, mezzo soprano; Tamara Baugh, soprano & Tyler Whitten, flute

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

CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE

One: Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must be like children.

All: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

One: In a world as broken as ours, we admit,

All: This often seems easier said than done.

One: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

All: Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

One: We know that even now you are sowing delight into our lives.

All: Open our hearts like we opened our presents. With gratitude and expectation we pray, amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we celebrate your birth and seek your presence in the Scriptures. Open our ears to hear what you are saying. Open our hearts to the joy you are offering. With hearts of gratitude and expectation, we pray. Amen.

LESSON ONE **Luke 2:10 and Isaiah 9:2-3**

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice.

SING WITH JOY #246 UMH vs. 1,2,4 **"Joy to the World"**

PRACTICE JOY **Balloon Drop**

LESSON TWO **Matthew 2:10 and Psalm 148:1-2, 14a**

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord from heaven. Praise God on the heights! Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all you who comprise his heavenly forces!

God raised the strength of God's people, the praise of all his faithful ones!

SING WITH JOY #234 UMH vs. 1,3,6 **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

PRACTICE JOY **Extended Passing of the Peace**

LESSON THREE **Psalm 126:1-4 and Isaiah 55:12-13**

When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better it was like we had been dreaming

Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter our tongues were filled with joyful shouts

It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them!"

Yes, the LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.

Yes, you will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace. Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

In place of the thorn the cypress will grow; in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.

This will attest to the LORD's stature, an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

SING WITH JOY #240 UMH **"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"**

PRACTICE JOY **Prayer Loom**

INVITATION TO JOYFUL GIVING

*** DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

*** AFFIRMATION OF JOY**

We believe in Christmas. We believe in the joy of the incarnation. We believe in the indwelling of the Spirit and in the Body of Christ. We believe in playing with balloons, sharing the peace of Christ, and praying for one another. We believe that words of encouragement matter. We believe that 'You are a blessing.' We know that 'we can't go alone.' We understand the call to 'Do the good that is yours to do.' We believe that 'hopes worth the risk.' And we celebrate the truth that 'love knows your name.' We won't forget to laugh, O God, because there is so much joy in our world to celebrate. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #246 UMH vs. 1 **"Joy to the World"**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE **"Go, Tell it On The Mountain"**



PRAYERS FOR 12/29/2024

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:

