

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 deliver Holiday Homebound baskets
- Greeter on Blue Christmas
- Greeter 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 8, 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.

**Christmas Open House** This afternoon the McCoy family will host an open house at the parsonage from 1:00-3:00. There will be a hot chocolate bar, light snacks, and Christmas records spinning. All are welcome to drop in any time between 1:00 and 3:00. There should be time to enjoy the One-Church Sunday school, get some lunch, then come to have a sweet treat with the McCoy family at 3912 25th Ave Ct., Rock Island.

**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

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
12/08	Donna Burroughs	Roger Pohlman, Jerry Etzel, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
12/15	The Muir Family	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	
12/22	The Cooley Family	Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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



Donation QR Code



December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

## Ruth 1:6-18

[Naomi’s husband and two sons all died while she was living in foreign land. She was left only with her two daughters-in-law]. Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the LORD had paid attention to his people by providing food for them. <sup>7</sup> She left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah.

<sup>8</sup> Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, “Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the LORD deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD provide for you so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

<sup>10</sup> But they replied to her, “No, instead we will return with you, to your people.”

<sup>11</sup> Naomi replied, “Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons— <sup>13</sup> would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the LORD’s will has come out against me.”

<sup>14</sup> Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. <sup>15</sup> Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law.”

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. <sup>17</sup> Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you.” <sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.



**PRAYERS FOR 12/8/2024**

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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

PRELUDE "Echolocation" - Shaun & Abigail Bengson

**INTRODUCTION**

FOR THE BEGINNING "When Will You Be Back" 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 begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.

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

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

One: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

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

**\*CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE**

One: I don't know about you, but I have believed a lie and forgotten a truth.

All: We thought we could do it on our own. We have tried to lace our own shoes, build our own house, and kindle our own faith. We have thought that independence is strength and asking for help is weakness. We've said a thousand times, "turn back, I can go alone."

One: God has helped me remember. I need you.

All: And we need you. We need a dance partner, someone to throw the ball back, someone by our side. Oh God, help us to remember that vulnerability is strength. Community is worth working for.

One: I remember. I believe. Wherever you go, God goes. Trust in this good news. Holy Spirit, breathe into us your truth:

All: Wherever we go, God goes with us. God holds us together in grace.

**\* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

\* HYMN (see insert) "To Be Known"

**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**

Ruth 1:6-18

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON**

REFRAIN (verse one) "To Be Known"

SERMON We Can't Go Alone - Rev. Robb McCoy

**RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS**

HYMN #203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

ANTHEM "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" - Thomerson  
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 God-with-us God, a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night, and rejoices in the morning. We believe that this with-us God created us for relationship. Like our God who is God-in-community, we were created to be in community. We commit to learning each other's names, eating each other's food, holding each other's babies. We choose to journey together, like Ruth and Naomi. We remember that wherever we go, we go with the God who is with us. Amen.

\* DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

**\* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\* You are invited to stand as you are able.  
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