

# January 2025

a publication of



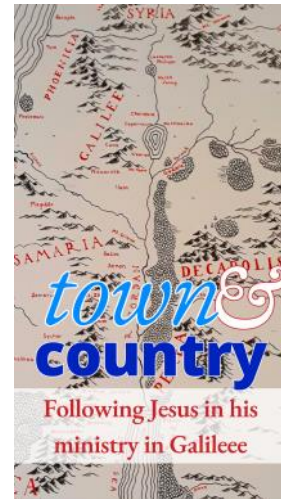
January 2025  
Vol. 33 No. 1



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY!</b> Church Office Closed	2	3	4 12 pm Meal Site
5 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> Fill the Wagon Sunday for the Little free Pantry 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:45 am One-Church Sunday School Un-Decorating the Church	6	7	8 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	9	10	11 12 pm Meal Site
<b>Pastor Robb away at a conference</b>						
12 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	13 12:00 pm Bible Study	14	15 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	16	17	18 9-11:30 am "Family and Politics" workshop at Bethel Wesley 12 pm Meal Site
19 Human Relations Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 3:00 pm MLK Service at Bethel Wesley UMC in Moline	20 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> 12:00 pm Bible Study	21 <i>February Compass Deadline</i>	22 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	23	24	25 11am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
26 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	27 10:00 am Two Rivers Readers 12:00 pm Bible Study	28	29 12:00 pm Zoom & FB Live Prayer & Devotion 6:00 pm Bell rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal	30	31	



## January sermon series: Jesus in Towns and Country

Starting January 12, there will be a new sermon series that focuses on Jesus in his Galilean ministry as told by the Gospel of Luke. This series will follow Jesus through the various towns and locations that Luke names. From the Jordan River of baptism through Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethany, Bethsaida, Nain, and Lake Gennesaret, we will see that the places that Jesus travels are important to the story. As he slowly reveals himself to be the Messiah in towns and the country throughout Galilee, we will come to a greater insight into the ministry of Jesus. This series will also give us a chance to trace the path of Martin Luther King, as we move from the King Service on Sunday, January 19 to the NAACP Community Day celebration at Grace City Church (across 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) on February 23, we will also be reminded of the towns, marches, and movements of the civil rights movement and how justice movements are alive today.

## MLK Weekend Events

### Worship celebrating the life of MLK

The QC Methodist Clergy Coalition is building a meaningful weekend experience to honor the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Churches from the surrounding area are invited to participate in the worship service on Sunday, January 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church (1201 13th St, Moline). Pastors, choirs, and worship teams from many churches will be a part of this special celebration. Rev. Dr. James Pernell will be the keynote preacher.

### "Family and Politics" workshop at Bethel Wesley January 18

On the day before the MLK Worship service, Bethel Wesley UMC will host a Braver Angels workshop from 9:00-11:30 a.m. This workshop will be facilitated by Dean Sutton. The topic is "Family and Politics: How to Talk With Loved Ones on the Other Side."

Family relationships are becoming casualties of our toxic political environment. Family members are having nasty political arguments, avoiding each other, or even cutting off lifetime relationships. If you want to preserve important family bonds while still being true to your values and political beliefs, this workshop will offer you:

- Insight into why family differences over politics are uniquely challenging.
- Recognition of common roles that family members play in political conversations (for example, the Gladiator, the Defender, and the Sniper).
- Strategies and skills for handling family political differences in a constructive way.

Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use learnings in this workshop with any loved one. You'll laugh and have some fun in this workshop—it won't be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01/01 Malakee Shy
- 01/01 Anete Umuganwa
- 01/01 Jerome Mutsinzi
- 01/01 Sterine Sikujua
- 01/01 Mwee Heh
- 01/03 Meghan Cooley
- 01/04 Angel Bizimana
- 01/06 Claudia Applegate
- 01/15 Judy Smiley
- 01/17 Elizabeth McCoy
- 01/17 Viminda Shafer
- 01/18 James Hanna
- 01/19 Amie McKinley
- 01/21 Jan McCollum
- 01/31 Rhonda McHenry

If you have a birthday in January and we've missed it, please call the church office to update our records.



## Weather Closures

In case of inclement weather,

please know that we never want anyone to travel if they are uncomfortable. If main arteries are clear, we will probably still have worship. Our parking lot often has patches of ice, even if it has been cleared, so please use caution. If it is determined that worship needs to be cancelled it will first be posted on the church Facebook page at: [facebook.com/RITwoRivers](https://www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers). Also follow the Church Closings on Channels 6 and 8, and online at <https://www.kwqc.com/weather/closings>.

## Prayer Chain

- Charlotte Peterson 793-7783
- Nancy Schwegler 781-5334

If you want the prayer chain to pray for your concern or you wish to be part of this prayer ministry, please call one of the persons listed above. They will alert the remaining chain members.



## A Beautiful Advent and Christmas Season at Two Rivers

The special Two Rivers visual beauty during Advent and Christmas was mostly the product of willing workers who decorated the sanctuary on

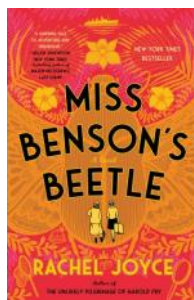
Saturday, November 23. Thank you, everyone!

We are also grateful for those that assisted in our special Hanging of the Greens Worship service: Charlotte Peterson, Donna and Danny Burroughs, Meghan, Charles and Oliver Cooley, Judy Smiley, David Nduwikunda, Jacques Barutwanayo, Dick Lee, Brianna and AJ Pollock, Nick Cary, Taddy Kalas, Harold Truitt, Lucy, Ellie, and Sarah McCoy

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.

## Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will meet on January 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary to discuss our next book, *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce.



This instant New York Times bestseller is an unforgettable, funny and charming story of a marvelous adventure and unexpected female friendship.

As always, our group is safe and nonjudgmental, and our discussions are insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun.

We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Please contact the church Office.



## The Project of the QC Library Project

The Project of the Quad Cities has recently added Pastor Robb McCoy to their Board of Directors. In honor of this, he is asking for a special offering to buy books for their lending library. Books will be marked inside their cover with "Donated by Two Rivers United Methodist Church." There will also be a sign in the library naming the Two Rivers UMC shelf of books.

The Project is an organization that provides mental and physical health services for the LGBTQ community. This includes counseling, group counseling, medical treatment, STD and HIV testing, HIV prevention, a pharmacy, and outreach and prevention programs. Within the incredible facility is a lending library that includes books by authors and subjects of interest to the LGBTQ community.

The offering will go toward a collection of books that feature LGBTQ-affirming theology. This new section of their library will include books like *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin; and *Fierce Love*, by Jacqui Lewis. If you make a special offering, mark it "Project Library."



2024 Contribution statements will be mailed out the week of January 5th. If you have any questions regarding your 2024 contributions, please contact Charlotte Peterson at [char1728@aol.com](mailto:char1728@aol.com) or through the church office at 309-788-9384.



Sunday, January 19 is Human Relations Sunday. Your gifts to the Human Relations Day offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Look for the special offering envelope in the January 19 worship bulletin.

## Two Rivers

*Prayers Presence Gifts Service*

### Remember in Prayer-

All those in need of prayers for healing and strength.

### Our presence—

December 1	= 81
December 8	= 70
December 15	= 51
December 22	= 72
December 24	= 78

### Our gifts—

#### General Fund Offerings

November 24	\$3,946.94
December 1	\$6,419.09
December 8	\$4,282.94
December 15	\$1,342.94
December 22	\$4,545.94

### Our Service -

#### Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

November 30	— 82 Meal Site, 72 OSN
December 7	— 79 Meal Site
December 14	— 33 Meal Site
December 21	— 53 Meal Site

### Our Thanks—

Friends at Two Rivers— Thank you so much for the "goodie" bag you gave Gary. It actually had many of his favorites in it. We miss you all. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Paula J.

To all at Two Rivers Church, Thank you so much for thinking of me with a beautiful Christmas gift bag. It was wonderful to be remembered not only with this gift but also for the many cards, calls, and prayers I have received. All are much appreciated. I am truly blessed. Thank you, Rita Anderson

Thank you to all who donated to Kala Lee's Hygiene Ministry project. She was able to raise enough fund to fill 50 bags and purses with many much needed hygiene products to give away to those in need in our community.



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**Online Giving at Tworiversumc.org**

**1. Website Giving:**

Go to [www.tworiversumc.org](http://www.tworiversumc.org) to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to give any time.



*Two Rivers  
Donate QR Code*

**OR**

**2. Tithe.ly Giving App:**

Download the Tithe.ly App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select your church and follow the instructions given.

**Newsletter deadline**

The deadline for items for the **February** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**. Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

**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.

<b><u>Pastor</u></b> Rev. Robb McCoy <a href="mailto:mccoy@tworiversumc.org">mccoy@tworiversumc.org</a>	<b><u>Church Custodian</u></b> Brianna Pollock
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	<b><u>Ministers</u></b> All of us

**1820 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201**

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