

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 January 5, 2025

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.**

Undecorating the Church After worship today, 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.

Special MLK Worship Service 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).

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Assistant Greeter
01/05	Ellie McCoy	David Dehnel & Candy Canik,	
01/12		Gerald Etzel, Roger Pohlman, Kevin and Brianna Pollock	
01/19	Judy Smiley	Dick & Kala Lee, Kevin & Brianna Pollock	

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



Donation QR Code



January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
 because from you will come one who governs,
 who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Echolocation" - Shaun & Abigail Bengson

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE BEGINNING "Field Notes" Poem by Sarah Speed

*ENTRY OF THE LIGHT (see screens) "We'll Dress the House"

One: It is time to begin. The world is still weary, but we have a road laid out before us to follow.

All: The path is guided by the light of Christ, but we must acknowledge that the road isn't always straight.

One: Yes, the road has obstacles, twists, and turns. And sometimes we may lose our way, but the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ are still our guide. So we light these candles to illuminate our journey.

All: The road may not be straight, but we never have to travel it alone. Thanks be to God, Amen.

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

*CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ASSURANCE

All: God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be trod. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Renew in us our resolve to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. We know that the path of righteousness isn't straight, and often leads into the darkest valley, but with you as our guide, we will take courage.

(Pause for silent reflection and confession)

One: Dear travelers, hear and believe this good news: No matter the roads you have taken, the steps you've made, or moments you have strayed, there is nowhere you can go that is out side of God's love.

All: We are forgiven. We are loved. We have Christ as our guide. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* HYMN (see insert) "The Road Winds Ever On"

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 Matthew 2:1-12

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

REFRAIN (verse 1) "The Road Winds Ever On"

SERMON 'The Road Isn't Straight' - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HOLY COMMUNION AND LORD'S PRAYER Page 15 UMH

MUSICAL OFFERING "I Wonder as I Wander" - John Jacob Niles
Mark Swessinger, baritone

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

We believe in God-with-us. We believe in God who is beside us at the still waters and in the darkest valleys. We believe in God who is journeying with us through every bump and turn, and in the chaos of our journey, when it looks like all routes are closed, we know that God sees what we cannot see: a road home by another way. Therefore, we trust in the ever-present, guiding God. We trust that there is a road we may not even see yet. It is a road of extravagant generosity and radical hospitality. It is a road that liberates and uplifts. It is Christ's Way, and we embrace the journey, to the glory of God, Amen.

* DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "We Three Kings"

* You are invited to stand as you are able.
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PRAYERS FOR 1/05/2025
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:

