

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### New Contact Information

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Opportunities to Serve

I would be interested in a weeknight Lenten study that featured dinner, a documentary, and discussion. I could:

- Attend on Tuesday nights (6:00-8:30)
- Attend on Thursday nights (6:00-8:30)
- Attend on Sunday nights (5:00-7:30)
- Help with at least one dinner

#### Volunteer opportunities:

- Help serve at Saturday meal site.
- Be a part of a team that will adopt a family from World Relief.

#### Worship volunteers:

- 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.
- Counters** - Monday mornings, help take account of Sunday offering (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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 February 16, 2025

**Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom**

**Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor**

**Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am in Fellowship 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.

**Parent Meeting Today** This will be a chances to gather as parents of Two Rivers Youth to talk about plans for the summer. We will meet at 10:45 a.m.in Fellowship Hall today to discuss the pizza fundraiser and some of the upcoming events and possibilities for the youth.

**NAACP Community Day** The Annual NAACP Religious Affairs Community Day worship will be at 3:00 p.m. on February 23 at Grace City Church in Rock Island. This is the tall-steepled church across the street from Two Rivers at 1925 5th Avenue. The keynote speaker will be Ciera Bates-Chamberlain. She is a dynamic speaker and will bring an inspiring and motivating message. In addition to Rev. Bates-Chamberlain, there will be music from Voices of Quad Cities Choir and other ensembles.

#### Online Giving



#### Follow us at @RITwoRivers



February 16, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him. They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you." So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

## GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Beautiful Savior” -arr. Bill Ingram

### GREETING

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 103:20-22) Liturgist: Donna Burroughs**

One: You divine messengers, bless the Lord!

**All: You who are mighty in power and keep his word, who obey everything he says, bless him!**

One: All you heavenly forces, bless the LORD! All you who serve him and do his will, bless him!

**All: All God’s creatures, bless the LORD!**

One: Everywhere, throughout his kingdom, let my whole being bless the LORD!

**All: Bless the LORD, the King of Heaven. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #66 UMH “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven”**

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Gracious God, we come to you seeking refuge from the many things that torment our inner and outer lives. Our inner life is tormented by anxiety, self-doubt, bitterness, and physical ailments. Our outer life is full of natural disasters, climate damage, political disagreement, war, systemic poverty, and troubled relationships. Truly, God, our tormentors are Legion. Forgive us for both our inaction and for the ways we contribute to these problems. Deliver us from the Legion of tormentors that trouble our mind and spirit. Empower us to resist the spiritual forces of evil and instead love each other as Christ loves us.**

*<Pause for silent confession and reflection>*

One: Hear the good news: Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and forgives us so that we join him on this mission.

**All: We are forgiven by - and for - compassion and love. Glory to God. Amen**

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

**PRAYER HYMN #393 UMH “Spirit of the Living God”**

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

**CHOIR ANTHEM “Kyrie” - Leavitt**

## PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All: Holy Spirit, as we open up the Scriptures and read this Gospel story, help us to not only hear the good news, but to believe in the good news. Help us to not only believe in the good news, but to live out the good news. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Luke 8:26-39 (CEB)

SERMON “Jesus in Gerasenes” - Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #367 “He Touched Me”

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

**\*HYMN #399 UMH “Take My Life, and Let It Be”**

*(All are invited to lace your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering container atp the front of the sanctuary as we sing)*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God who is creating, active in the formation of lives and the healing of the world. God created humanity in God’s image, and yearns for us to join in the process to restore Creation to Shalom.

I believe in Christ who is redeeming, who proclaims the Good News and shows us the Way to heal ourselves, each other, and the world. Christ helps us imagine the possibility of the Kingdom of God, and beckons us to follow in his footsteps.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is sustaining us on the journey and empowering us to achieve what would be impossible to do alone.

As the Church, we share in this mission. We have the ability to proclaim the Good News, to heal and serve, to call and lead, to preach and teach, to restore community, to feed the multitudes, and to transform the world. We do this by the power of love and the grace of God. Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

**\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE “Fugue in F major” - J.S. Bach

*\*=please rise if you are able*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal. You can use the red books in front of you. Music used with permission under CCLI License:*

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF 2/16/2025

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers for our Church and its ministry:

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Prayers for people I know:

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I have permission to publish this prayer.

I do not have permission to publish this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

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Prayers for myself:

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