

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)
- 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 23, 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.

**NAACP Community Day** The Annual NAACP Religious Affairs Community Day worship will be at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon 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.

**Two Rivers Readers** will meet tomorrow, Monday, February 24 at 10 am in the back of the sanctuary to discuss the book, “The Nickel Boys” by Colson Whitehead. All are invited to join the discussion.

**Pizza Orders** Today is the last day to order Pizzas from our youth. Pick up day is Saturday, March 1 from 3:30-5pm If you would like to assist in making the pizzas please contact Pastor Robb or Larry Dalton.

#### Online Giving



Follow us at @RITwoRivers



February 23, 2025 – Seventh Sunday of Epiphany  
Luke 9:10-17

Jesus called the Twelve together and he gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal sicknesses. He sent them out to proclaim God’s kingdom and to heal the sick. He told them, “Take nothing for the journey—no walking stick, no bag, no bread, no money, not even an extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. Wherever they don’t welcome you, as you leave that city, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.” They departed and went through the villages proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Herod the ruler heard about everything that was happening. He was confused because some people were saying that John had been raised from the dead, others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. Herod said, “I beheaded John, so now who am I hearing about?” Herod wanted to see him.

When the apostles returned, they described for Jesus what they had done. Taking them with him, Jesus withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. When the crowds figured it out, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about God’s kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

When the day was almost over, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so that they can go to the nearby villages and countryside and find lodging and food, because we are in a deserted place.”

He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said, “We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people.” (They said this because about five thousand men were present.)

Jesus said to his disciples, “Seat them in groups of about fifty.” They did so, and everyone was seated. He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, and broke them and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. Everyone ate until they were full, and the disciples filled twelve baskets with the leftovers.

## GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Air” for “Orpheus” -arr. Homer Whitford

### GREETING

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 95:1-5) Liturgist: Sarah McCoy**

One: Come, let’s sing out loud to the Lord!

**All: Let’s raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!**

One: Let’s come before God with thanks! Let’s shout songs of joy to God!

**All: The LORD is a great God, the great king over all other gods.**

One: The earth’s depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him;

**All: The sea is God’s, along with the dry ground, which was formed by God’s hands.**

**\*HYMN #152 UMH “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”**

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Gracious God, We come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging that we often fail to trust in your provision. We live in the mindset of scarcity, and doubt that you can meet our needs. Forgive us for relying on our own strength and understanding instead of surrendering to your abundant grace. We confess that we have overlooked the gifts You give, doubting their power to bring about change and hope. Teach us to trust your abundance. Help us share what we have, knowing that in your hands, it can be multiplied for the good of many.**

*<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 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” - Carter**

## 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 9:1-17 (CEB)**

**SERMON “Jesus in Bethsaida” - Rev. Robb McCoy**

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

**RESPONSE HYMN #629 “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” vs. 1,2,4,5**

### 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 “Trumpet Volante” - Handel/arr. Rick Parks**

*\*=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

**2/23/2025**

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 publish this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

---

---

---

Prayers for myself:

---

---

---