

Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to Serve

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 March 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

Pastor Robb will be on vacation this week, but Pastor Tyler Yost will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets every Monday in Epworth Hall at noon (No Bible Study on March 17). Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time meets on Facebook Live and Zoom at noon every week (No Prayer group on March 19). 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.

Family Fun Day Families from across the Quad Cities are invited to gather for an afternoon of worship, games, and family fun. Family Fun Day is **today from 1:00-3:00 at Camp Milan Retreat Center**. My Anchor Holds will lead worship and leaders from many UM churches in the area will help with games, activities, and family-enhancing spiritual workshops. Parents, kids, and youth will have a great time and learn about ways they can enhance their Lenten journey together.

Open Arms for Olivia Blood Drive On Thursday, March 27 from 3-7pm in Epworth Hall. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code or contact Tracy Waytenick at tmkranchi@me.com. Use group code 4741 at registration.



Online Giving



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March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday of Lent

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. He replied, “Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did.”

Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil’s nutrients?’ The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’”

At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, “Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

Jesus said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Look, I’m throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. However, it’s necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it’s impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’”

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that. Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won’t see me until the time comes when you say, *Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord’s name.*”

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Ave Verum (*Blessed Savior*)” - W.A Mozart

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 122)** Liturgist: Sarah McCoy

One: I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘Let’s go to the Lord’s house!’ Now our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

All: Jerusalem is built like a city joined together in unity... It is the law for Israel to give thanks there because the thrones of justice are there - the thrones of the house of David.

One: Pray that Jerusalem has peace: Let those who love you have rest. Let there be peace on your walls...

All: For the sake of all families, we say, “Peace be with you, Jerusalem. For the sake of the Lord our God’s house, I will pray for your good.” Amen.

OPENING SONG: “O Church of God, United”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: God of Mercy and Righteousness, walk with us on this Lenten journey of reflection and renewal. There are times when we need the reflective peace of darkness and rest. Wrap us in your blanket of love when we need to simply lie down. But there are times when we need a light to illumine our way and the fire of the Spirit to kindle in us a passion for renewal. Be with us in the light and the darkness, and help us to know when each is needed. This Lenten season, lead us through the darkness and the light to righteousness. In your undying mercy, grant us moments of reflection and renewal. Through your grace, empower us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

<Pause for silent confession and reflection>

One: Hear the good news: God is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and ever more merciful than we can imagine.

All: We are forgiven by - and for - mercy. Glory to God. Amen

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER SONG: “Come Away From Rush and Hurry”

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

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN’S MOMENT #277 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” vs. 1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, bless the reading and hearing of this sacred text. Speak through these words and reveal to us the living Word of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (CEB)

SERMON: “Mercy for the fig tree” Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE SONG: “Winter Song”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

MERCY IN POETRY , “Excerpt about Fig Tree from The Bell Jar,” by Sylvia Plath

***OFFERING : “All Our Hope”**

(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 that God is love, and that God’s love is revealed in mercy and justice. Justice is God’s will for the world to be righteous. It demands repentance, the righting of wrongdoing, the protection of the weak, and the distribution of resources. Mercy is God’s compassion, forgiveness, and loving kindness that restores community, reconciles relationships, and returns people to wholeness. These two, mercy and justice, work together to restore Creation to shalom.

I believe in the mercy of the gardener, pleading for more time, seeking a chance to get things right, and I lament with Jesus over injustice in our world.

I believe in the mercy of Christ, who challenges small-minded notions. God’s justice, stands firm in the face of a violent empire, and invites us all into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY #95 UMH**

***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE: “All Our Hope”

**=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 3/16/2025

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:
