

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.
- 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 April 6, 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.

**3D Nights April 8** we will gather on Tuesday at 6:00 for dinner, then begin a documentary to watch together, with discussion afterwards. This week's film will be *Welcome to Refugeestan*, a documentary that is an essential exploration of both the refugee experience and the failures of a system that can keep people trapped and stateless for decades.

**Maundy Thursday** Join us for a special Potluck Service on **April 17 at 5:30pm** in Two Rivers' Epworth Hall. . If you can, bring a dish to share for a wonderful dinner. Then after dinner we will remember Jesus' last supper, denial, betrayal, anguish, and arrest. The entire service will take place in Epworth Hall. This interactive service will combine elements of reading, music, and Communion.

Online Giving



Follow us at @RITwoRivers



April 6, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Luke 18:31-19:10

Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, “Look, we’re going up to Jerusalem, and everything written about the Human One by the prophets will be accomplished. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit on. After torturing him, they will kill him. On the third day, he will rise up.” But the Twelve understood none of these words. The meaning of this message was hidden from them and they didn’t grasp what he was saying.

As Jesus came to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging. When the man heard the crowd passing by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is passing by.”

The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy.” Those leading the procession scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy.”

Jesus stopped and called for the man to be brought to him. When he was present Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, I want to see.”

Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they praised God too.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn’t because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much.”

Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost.”

## GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Here I Am, Lord" - Carter

### GREETING

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12) Liturgist: Ellie McCoy**

One: Better is a single day in your courtyards, O LORD, than a thousand days anywhere else.

**All: I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked.**

One: The Lord is a sun and shield; God is favor and glory.

**All: The Lord gives - and does not withhold - good things to those who walk with integrity.**

One: Lord of heavenly forces, those who trust you are truly happy.

**All: Amen.**

**\*HYMN #352 UMH "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord"**

### \*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 #256 "We Would See Jesus" vs. 4

### PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM "In Remembrance of Me" - Althouse

*\*=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:*

## PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

### 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 18:31-19:10 (CEB)

SERMON: "Mercy for Zacchaeus" - Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

### HOLY COMMUNION 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

MERCY IN POETRY "Hey Neighbor" by Marcel Lebrun

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

**\*HYMN #121 UMH "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

*(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 faith of the blind beggar and Zacchaeus. While others were quick to silence and judgment, these two understood that the Son of David was there for the lost.

I believe in the mercy of Christ, who challenges small-minded notions of politics and community, who gives us this life to learn how to show mercy and walk humbly, and invites us all into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY #95 UMH**

### \*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "Echo Fanfare" - L. Smith

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/6/2025

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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