

Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Ways to Serve

OUTREACH

- ☐ Donate monetary funds to our Hygiene Bag ministry. Write “Hygiene” on the memo line of your check or on your envelope.
- ☐ Donate food and/or funds to Two Rivers Meal Site, Operation Safety Net and Little Free Pantry ministries.
- ☐ Volunteer on Saturdays at Meal Site, set up, serving, cleanup, or all of the above.

WORSHIP

- ☐ **Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- ☐ **Video** - Work the camera in balcony to improve YouTube video
- ☐ **4th Sunday Ushers** —Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository.

GPS Survey

- ☐ Bible in a Year
- ☐ Sunday to Sunday



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 history of 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 4, 2026

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

Advent Multi-generational Sunday School - 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in Asbury Parlor

Discipleship Schedule

Monday Bible Study meets at noon in Epworth Hall. 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.

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.

Special MLK Worship Service The Quad Cities Methodist Coalition is hosting a special worship service to honor the ministry and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This second annual service will be held at Trinity UMC in Milan on Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m. Clergy and youth from many of the area United Methodist Churches will participate in this service. It promises to be a powerful afternoon of worship and building a more powerful United Methodist connection.

2025 Giving Statements Giving statements for 2025 are now available. You may pick up your statement from the table located in the back of the sanctuary. Any statements not picked up by January 25 will be mailed.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving Follow us @RITworivers



Matthew 3:13-17, 4:12-17

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?”

Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.”

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him.”

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,

alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,

the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light,

and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourself to him, that you may belong to God. Christ has many services to be done.

All: Some are easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests. Others are contrary to both.

One: In some ways we may please ourselves and others.

All: But sometimes we cannot please Christ without upsetting others. There are times when the only way to serve Christ is to deny our pleasure.

One: It is necessary, therefore, that we consider carefully our covenant with God and prayerfully discern what it means to be a servant of Christ.

All: Therefore, let us pray, worship, and sing as we consider this covenant.

*HYMN #217 “Away in a Manger”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COVENANT

All: O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart. I here from the bottom of my heart renounce all idols, and pause to reflect on what it means to be in covenant with you.

Pause for silent confession and reflection

One: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again.

All: I here accept Christ as the living Way. I join myself with Jesus. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER SONG #211 UMH “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1

PASTORAL PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING "The Gift of Love" - arr. Hal Hopson
sung by Jon Hansen & Lucas Rettig

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3:13-17, 4:12-17 (CEB)

SERMON

BAPTISM Theodore Maxwell Griffith

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

HOLY COMMUNION AND LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*OFFERTORY #204 UMH “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” x2
All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front as we sing

*WESLEY’S PRAYER OF COVENANT RENEWAL

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands; Put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty; Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, you have now become my covenant friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

**=please rise if you are able*
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book) FWS = Faith We Sing (black book).
Music used with permission under CCLI License:

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK
January 4, 2026

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:
