

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## New Contact Information

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



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.

## 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

Guest Wifi



Online Giving Follow us @RITworivers



December 28, 2025

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,

Because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

### PRELUDE

### GREETING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 63:7-9)

One: I will recount the LORD'S faithful acts; I will sing the LORD'S praises,

because of all the LORD did for us,

All: We have gained God's great favor. God has treated us compassionately and with deep affection.

One: God said, "Truly, you are my people, children who won't do what is wrong." God became our savior.

All: During our distress, God was also distressed, so a messenger who served him saved us.

One: In love and mercy God redeemed us,

All: Lifting and carrying us throughout earlier times.

#### \*HYMN #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Christmas, we confess to you that the joy and excitement of Christmas is already fading. Your birth was not a moment, it was a movement. Christmas is an on-going presence and a lifetime process. Forgive us for wanting to fall back into patterns of selfishness and apathy. Keep us mindful of the Star of Christmas. Make your light be our focus and our guide, even when we get distracted or want to stray. Keep us focused on your love and grace.

*Pause for silent confession and reflection*

One: Hear the good news: the magi were guided by God's light, and so are we. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We will keep following the light of Christ. Amen.

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

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

#### 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

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, just as the wise ones followed a star to Christ, may the Scripture be a guiding presence in our lives. Amen

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

SERMON Following the star – Rev. Robb McCoy

### RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

#### RESPONSE HYMN #219 UMH "What Child is This"

#### 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*

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Christmas joy and generosity, we give you thanks. Inspired by the magi who brought gifts to the newborn king, we offer this gift to you now.

As we remember the courage of the magi to resist the power-hungry and paranoid King, we are reminded that ordinary acts of courage can still save lives. Just as their gift may have provided the needed resources to save the Holy Family, allow these gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

Bless these gifts and promises of time, prayers, and treasure so that more may know the joy of your presence.

In the name of Jesus, Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace we pray. 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

December 28, 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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