

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 December 28, 2025

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.

Youth Retreat A junior high and high school retreat at Camp Milan will be held from Monday, December 29 at 12:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28. The retreat is only for Two Rivers Youth and friends.

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).
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PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK
December 28, 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:

