

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.



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 18, 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.

**Human Relations Sunday** Today is Human Relations Sunday. Your gifts to the Human Relations Day offering strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. To give to Human Relations Sunday please mark your check or offering envelope with "Human Relations".

**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 this afternoon 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



**January 18, 2026 - The second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Matthew 6:17-48 (abridged)**

Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don't commit murder*, and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment.

"You have heard that it was said, *Don't commit adultery*. But I say to you that every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart.

"It was said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a divorce certificate.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don't make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord.*" But I say to you that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it's God's throne.

"You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*. But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well.

"You have heard that it was said, *You must love your neighbor* and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.

## GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "The Lord's My Shepherd" - arr. Cindy Berry

### GREETING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 19:7-10

One: The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving my soul

All: The decrees of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

One: The commands of the LORD are clear, enlightening the eyes.

All: Reverence of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

One: The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

All: More desired than gold. Sweeter than honey. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

#### \*HYMN #560 UMH "Help Us Accept Each Other" vs. 1, 3, 4

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy God, You call us to a way of life that is honest, humble, and rooted in love, yet we confess how often we fall short. You bless the poor in spirit and meek, but we cling to self-reliance and control. You call us to a higher standard, but we settle for the path of least resistance. You tell us not to worry, yet we let anxiety shape our days more than trust in you. You command us to love our enemies, but we struggle to love even our neighbors. You invite us to build our lives on the firm foundation of your words, yet we build on the sinking sand of self-gratification. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts. Teach us again the way of Christ, that we may live with integrity, compassion, and joy in your kingdom.

*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 #394 UMH "Something Beautiful"

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

### PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

CHORAL OFFERING "Be Thou My Vision," Arr. Wayne Fritchie

### 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 6:17-48 (abridged) (CEB)

SERMON The Law, Rev. Robb McCoy

### RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

#### RESPONSE HYMN #2223 FWS "They'll Know We Are Christians" vs. 1, 2, 4

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

#### \*OFFERTORY #559 UMH "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" vs. 1, 2, 4

*All are invited to place your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering basin at the front as we sing*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the ancient tradition of wrestling with the Law of God, that wisdom is extracted when we grapple with tough questions, observations, and inspiration found in the Instructions of God.

I believe that violence is not the way of Christ, that dehumanization is the first step toward violence.

I believe that faithfulness in relationships is vitally important, and that lying, abuse, exploitation, and manipulation destroy sacred bonds.

I believe that promises should be kept, not out of fear of divine retribution, but because honesty is a good unto itself.

I believe retaliation leaves everyone injured, and that cycles of violence can be ended by rising above.

I believe love cannot be reserved to a few with whom we share kinship. Love is grounding of our existence and the essence of God. All humans who are created in God's image deserve to be loved.

I believe these ideals are worth pursuing, that, by the grace of God and power of the Holy Spirit, being made complete in love is possible. Amen.

### DOXOLOGY #94 UMH

### \*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "Immortal, Invisible" - Gerald Peterson

*\*=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 18, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_