

Name _____

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

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Ways to Serve

OUTREACH

- Donate coats, gloves, hats and boots or monetary funds to our Winter Wear Ministry. Write "Coat Drive" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope.
- 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.
- Donate snacks for kids Sunday school class (goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, pretzels, etc.)

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.



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 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 March 15, 2026

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

Kids & Youth Sunday School - 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

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.

The Chosen Lenten Study This Lent, you are invited to experience the fifth season of *The Chosen* together on **Thursday** evenings at 5:30. We will begin with dinner, watch an episode while we eat, and then have a discussion afterwards. The first four seasons are available to watch for free at <https://www.byutv.org/the-chosen> or on *The Chosen* app.

UMCOR Sunday Today is UMCOR Sunday. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. To give to UMCOR Sunday please mark your check or offering envelope with "UMCOR".

Confirmation Gathering The Confirmation class will meet at Bethel Wesley UMC in Moline today from 2-5pm. This event will include a time of fellowship, snacks, games, and time to go through "The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way." This will be a great way to learn about Wesleyan Theology and develop a sense of connection between our congregations.

Guest Wifi



Online Giving



Follow us @RITworivers



March 15, 2026 - The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Matthew 27:1-26

Early in the morning all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to have Jesus put to death. They bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that Jesus was condemned to die, he felt deep regret. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, and said, "I did wrong because I betrayed an innocent man."

But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem." Judas threw the silver pieces into the temple and left. Then he went and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, "According to the Law it's not right to put this money in the treasury. Since it was used to pay for someone's life, it's unclean." So they decided to use it to buy the potter's field where strangers could be buried. That's why that field is called "Field of Blood" to this very day. This fulfilled the words of Jeremiah the prophet: And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price for the one whose price had been set by some of the Israelites, and I gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.

Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "That's what you say." But he didn't answer when the chief priests and elders accused him.

Then Pilate said, "Don't you hear the testimony they bring against you?" But he didn't answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed.

It was customary during the festival for the governor to release to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they might choose. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. When the crowd had come together, Pilate asked them, "Whom would you like me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?" He knew that the leaders of the people had handed him over because of jealousy.

While he was serving as judge, his wife sent this message to him, "Leave that righteous man alone. I've suffered much today in a dream because of him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. The governor said, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

"Barabbas," they replied.

Pilate said, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

They all said, "Crucify him!"

But he said, "Why? What wrong has he done?"

They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was starting. So he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I'm innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It's your problem."

All the people replied, "Let his blood be on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE "Because He Lives" - arr. Fred Bock

GREETING

LENTEN REFLECTION "Truth Telling" by James Baldwin

*HYMN #301 UMH "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" vs 1, 3, 4

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from a Prayer of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, seedbed.com)

All: O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you; I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience. I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Speak to me in this moment. Breathe into me your words of life and grace.

Pause for silent confession and reflection

One: Through Christ we are restored to liberty. We are enabled to live now. We may stand before God and humanity as forgiven and freed.

All: Lord wherever this may lead us. Whatever this day may bring, your name be praised. Amen

*PASSING THE PEACE

THE DIMINISHING LIGHT

One: We begin with six lights, and as we approach the Cross, the darkness spreads. Lights have been extinguished by betrayal, agony, and denial.

All: Today the light is extinguished by shame.

One: The great tragedy of Judas is not that he betrayed Jesus, but that shame kept him from returning to the fold. He died a death of shame, but that does not have to be the end of his story.

All: Our hearts break for all lives extinguished by shame.

One: We must seek those lost sheep who feel too much shame to come back on their own. Help us to show them mercy.

All: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

PRAYER SONG #2275 FWS "Kyrie Elieson" (which means "Lord have mercy")

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

ANTHEM "My Song is Love Unknown" - arr. Carl Schalk
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: O God, your word is a lamp before my feet, and a light for my journey. As we venture into the darkness of Lent, may your light illumine our path. Amen

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 27:1-26 (Common English Bible)

SERMON "Pilate and Barabbas" - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #294 UMH "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed" vs. 1, 4, 5

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

KIDS CHOIR "Kusimama"

*OFFERTORY #163 UMH "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know" v. 1-4

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Anointed One, as we journey toward the Cross this Lenten season, we look deep into the heart of betrayal, denial, and shame. It is not an easy road, yet we trust that hope remains. Even as the darkness creeps, the light still shines, and the darkness will not overcome it. For this, we give you thanks.

These are the things we offer—a longing for renewal, an honest reflection, a restatement of our priorities, and a desire to remain steadfast.

Receive also this gift of prayers, presence, and treasure. They are our sincere and humble response to the magnificent glory that you offer to us.

In Christ's holy name, and with the sure and certain hope of Resurrection, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY #95 UMH

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "Rondeau" from Suite No. 2 - J.S. Bach

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book) FWS = Faith We Sing (black book).
Music used with permission under CCLI License:

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

March 15, 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:

*=please rise if you are able