

2026 MARCH

a publication of



March 2026
Vol. 34 No.3

Compass

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2nd Sunday of Lent Fill the Pantry Sunday 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:45 am Sunday School	2 12:00 pm Bible Study	3	4 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30 pm Lent with <i>The Chosen</i>	6	7 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
8 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School <i>Daylight Saving Time</i>	9 12:00 pm Bible Study	10	11 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 <i>Easter Lily orders due</i> 5:30 pm Lent with <i>The Chosen</i>	13	14 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
15 4th Sunday of Lent UMCOR SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 2:00-5:00 Youth gathering at Bethel Wesley UMC.	16 12:00 pm Bible Study	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 6am-7pm Polling Location	18 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 5:30 pm Lent with <i>The Chosen</i>	20	21 11 am Young Lions Roar 12 pm Meal Site
22 5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	23 12:00 pm Bible Study	24 <i>April Compass Deadline</i>	25 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 5:30 pm Lent with <i>The Chosen</i>	27	28 11 am Young Lions Roar 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am "The Upper Room," movie	30 12:00 pm Bible Study	31				

HOLY WEEK

At Two Rivers



PALM SUNDAY

Movie at Two Rivers Church 11:00 a.m.

After worship on **March 29**, we will gather together to watch "The Upper Room," a movie that is a part of the television series "The Chosen." This will be a one-room-Sunday school event. People of all ages are invited to come to gather in the Sanctuary for a showing of "The Chosen: The Upper Room," a two-part episode depicting the events of the last supper.

This TV series is an extremely well-done and thoughtful interpretation of the life of Jesus. After the movie, Pastor Robb will lead a discussion about the ways the film reflects the Bible story, and also ways that it might have taken creative license. Any time there is a media depiction of Biblical stories, interpretive choices are made and artistic stories are created. For the most part, Pastor Robb strongly endorses The Chosen for these choices, but it will surely lead to an interesting discussion as well.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

at Church of Peace 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday is a deeply meaningful event in the Church calendar. Being a part of the dinner and service this year will add much to your Easter experience. On **April 2**, all are invited to the Church of Peace UCC (1114 12th St. Rock Island) for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The events of the evening will be designed to reflect the events of that night in Jerusalem with Jesus and his friends.

At the Passover meal, Jesus instituted our ritual of Communion, breaking bread and sharing the cup of forgiveness. Then he and the disciples (without Judas) went to Gethsemane to pray. We will mirror this with a pot-luck dinner in the fellowship hall. Then we will share communion after the meal together before everyone is ushered upstairs for the worship service. Pastor Robb will be the preacher at the service and a Two Rivers/Church of Peace combined choir will sing.



GOOD FRIDAY

at Christ UMC (East Moline) at 12:00 p.m.

Bishop David A. Bard will be our preacher for a Good Friday service at Christ United Methodist Church in East Moline. This service is the second annual Good Friday service created by the Quad City United Methodist Coalition. Clergy from many UMC congregations in the area are a part of the planning and leadership of this event. Methodists from all over the area are encouraged to attend.

Bishop Bard is the episcopal leader for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the Michigan Conference. The last parish he served was in Duluth, Minnesota, but he has been a Bishop since 2016. His Midwestern sensibilities, subtle sense of humor, and deep theological insight is evident in his preaching. He will be a perfect preacher for a spiritually meaningful Good Friday service.

In addition to Bishop Bard, there is intention to have a multi-church choir. Everyone is invited to be a part of the rehearsal process for the Quad Cities Methodist Coalition Choir.





- 03/08 Jen Kean
- 03/09 Sebastian Durbin
- 03/10 Ed Payton
- 03/12 Peggy Hallas
- 03/14 Jan Morrison
- 03/19 Josefina Mejia
- 03/22 Kathleen Hanna
- 03/24 Ellen Baldrige
- 03/25 Shari Cole
- 03/25 John Crede
- 03/28 Brianna Pollock
- 03/28 Harold Truitt
- 03/29 Jeanna Ndayislimiye

If you have a birthday in March and we've missed it, please call the church office to update our records.



UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 15th

UMCOR Sunday giving allows the United Methodist Committee on Relief to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. For more information on the work that UMCOR does you can visit their website at www.umcmmission.org. A special offering envelope will be including in the bulletins on **March 15** for those wishing to give to this important mission. You may also mail your special offering for UMCOR Sunday to the church office at 1820 5th Ave, Rock Island IL 61201. Make sure to mark your offering "UMCOR Sunday".

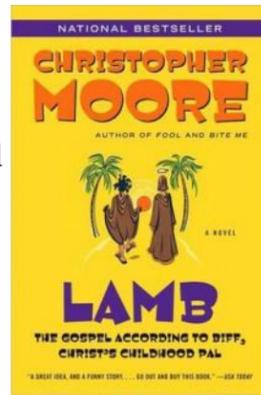
Two Rivers Readers

The Two Rivers Readers will not meet in March but will gather on Monday, **April 6 at 10am** to discuss the book *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal* by Christopher Moore.

This is a subversive and hilarious novel that imagines the greatest story never told: the early years of Jesus's life, as seen through the eyes of his best boyhood friend, Biff.

The group meets in the back of the sanctuary with snacks provided. Their discussions are always insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun. They'd love to have you join them!

Questions? Please contact the church office.



QC Coalition Youth News

The youth of the QC Methodist Coalition are hoping to travel together for the Bishop's Rally on March 21 in Rochester, Illinois. The Bishop's Rally will be an exciting afternoon of worship, witness, fellowship, and testimony. There will be prizes and giveaways as well as many opportunities to learn about discipleship and spiritual growth. The event is from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at Rochester United Methodist Church. It is about a 3 hour drive from the Quad Cities, and the churches of the QC Coalition are trying to work out a ride system (it was determined that a charter bus is impossible without an individual making a \$2995 donation).

The QC Coalition youth will also gather on March 15 from 2:00-5:00 at Bethel Wesley UMC. This will be one of our regular gatherings with games, food, worship, and learning about our United Methodist roots and faith.



ChangeMakers Team

Rev. Eric Swanson led a three hour Changemakers Team event to get us started on casting a new mission and vision statement for Two Rivers Church. Twenty guests were involved. The group included youth, parents, older adults, council leaders, immigrants, an interpreter, long-time members, and newer folks. The meeting was also visited by a homeless man who received a warm welcome, food, gloves, coffee, and participated for a short time.

The bulk of the meeting was built around finding our core values. Through small-group discussion, sharing, and refinement, there were 5 core values identified. Eric suggests that the continued work of the group will boil these 5 down to 3. The five core values identified on the 22nd were: CONNECTION, JUSTICE, EMPATHY, SERVICE, and DISCIPLESHIP. Each of these had further definitions that had some overlapping meaning.

Justice, service, and empathy, for instance, have a lot of overlap. For example: Empathy, and the ability to see and feel the suffering of others lead to a sense of injustice in the world. A desire for all people to live in justice is often fueled by empathy. The way to remedy that is often through service. This is not an exact science, and this is why more meetings will be held.

As we refine these core values, we will also work toward a mission statement, a vision statement, identifiable ministry areas, ministry teams, and SMART goals for each ministry team. In the meantime, members of the ChangeMakers Team are encouraged to think about these statements, and how the core values can be further distilled. We hope to have at least three more one-hour meetings in March, with dates and times to be determined.



Two Rivers

Prayers Presence Gifts Service

Remember in Prayer-

Please be in prayer for all those in need of healing and strength, as well as their caregivers.

Our presence—

February 1	= 73
February 8	= 76
February 15	= 78
February 22	= 87

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

February 1	\$3,567.46
February 8	\$4,022.46
February 15	\$2,876.03
February 22	\$2,986.03

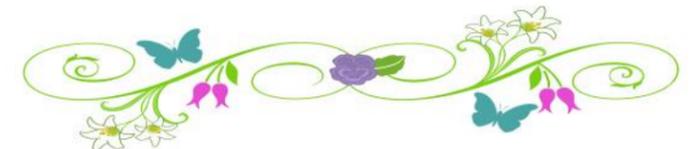
Our Service -

Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

January 31	— 81 Meal Site, 56 OSN
February 7	— 65 Meal Site
February 14	— 72 Meal Site
February 21	— 52 Meal Site

Our Thanks—

Thank you to all those who participated in our ChangeMakers Retreat in February. Thank you to all who have donated food and funds to our outreach ministries. We thank the Doris and Victor Day Foundation for awarding a \$500 Grant to our Saturday Meal Site Ministry and to Ellen Martin for the work she did in applying for the grant.



Don't forget to
change your clocks
March 8th





If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily to be displayed during worship on Easter Sunday, April 5, please complete the form below and place it in the offering tray on Sunday morning or mail it to the church office, 1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. ALL EASTER LILIES MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE. The cost is \$14.00 each. Please make checks payable to "Two Rivers Church" and mark it "Easter Lily." You may pick up your plant after worship on Easter Sunday. **The deadline for ordering is Thursday, March 12. No Late Orders Will Be Accepted.**

Easter Lily Order Form

I would like to order _____ Easter Lily(s) @ \$14.00 each.
Enclosed is my cash/check in the amount of _____

My Easter Lily should be designated as follows:
In memory of _____
In honor of _____
Given by _____
Phone Number _____

_____ **I will pick up my Lily(s) from the church after Easter.**
 _____ **Please deliver my Lily(s) to my home address.**
 _____ **Please deliver my Lily(s) to a shut-in.**



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Prayer Chain

If you want the prayer chain to pray for your concern or you wish to be part of this prayer ministry, please call one of the persons listed below. They will alert the remaining chain members.



Charlotte Peterson 793-7783
 Nancy Schwegler 781-6609

Pastor Rev. Robb McCoy mccoy@tworiversumc.org	Volunteer Financial Secretary Charlotte Peterson char1728@aol.com
Church Office Manager Brianna Pollock office@tworiversumc.org	Church Custodian Brianna Pollock
Director of Music Jonathan Hansen jon55hansen19@gmail.com	Camp Milan Caretaker Kent Hessman
Accompanist Russell Rursch	Ministers All of us

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **April** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**. Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

Welcome Statement



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 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.

1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
 Office Phone: **(309) 788-9384** email: **office@tworiversumc.org**
 Office Hours: **Monday -Thursday 8 am— 2 pm**

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