

Compass

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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



Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **November** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, October 20, 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**

Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org** — **www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers** —
twitter.com/RITwoRivers

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Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org**
Worship Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 am

www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers
Saturday Community Meal Every Week @ 12:00 pm

VISION

Our vision is to be the Church planted by the ever-flowing streams of God's Justice and Compassion.

MISSION

We are a people called to do what the Lord requires: serve others through mercy, advocacy, and community care; connect with one another in loving-kindness, empathy, and inclusive belonging; and walk together in Christian discipleship as we grow in faith.

We serve with justice, we connect with loving-kindness, and we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ChangeMakers Update

The ChangeMakers Team is in the process of creating Strategic Goals for Two Rivers Church that reflect our vision of being the church planted at the confluence of Justice and Compassion.

The priorities, themes, and goals that are emerging include: 1. More vital multicultural and intergenerational connections, 2. Increased communication and regularity in events and groups, 3. More collaboration for worship, pastoral care, and service, 4. Long-term planning for facilities, stewardship, and resource allocation, 5. Develop more leaders through mentorship, training, and personal 'asks.'

The next step is to take these strategic goals and apply them across our five ministry areas. Your help and input is needed to help form these goals. As we get to each ministry team: Administration, Worship, Connection, Service, and Discipleship, we encourage you to be a part of these discussions. Look for ChangeMakers meeting times to set SMART goals for each ministry area which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.



Kids Choir and Sunday School



Sunday school for kids and youth is meeting on the “third floor” hallway classrooms. These are accessible from the stairway that leads to the sanctuary balcony. These are the four classrooms that include the Youth Room, the Puppet Room, and two classrooms. One room has been converted to be the starting point for Kids Choir. One of our youth, Oliver Cooley, is leading the kids choir. Each Sunday we will start with the kids choir with a goal of sharing a song once a month in worship.

After choir, a group of teachers will lead the kids through “rotation” style teaching. The Sunday school weeks have been divided into three four-week units from now until Christmas. Unit One will focus on “Compassion” and the kids will learn about the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people with a few loaves of bread and fish. Unit Two will focus on “Justice” and the focus story will be Jesus entering Jerusalem and clearing the Temple.

Unit Three will be Advent - and the kids will work on putting together a Christmas program. Mark your calendars for December 20 for that special day of worship.

Sunday school will include games, crafts, story telling, skit making, and other fun activities to help engage kids in learning. They will be divided into appropriate age groups when needed.



- 10/01 Laurie Glass
- 10/02 Zoey Shafer
- 10/03 Ruth Hill
- 10/03 Dave Martin
- 10/04 Nancy Cornish
- 10/05 Stacy Smith
- 10/07 Tim Hanna
- 10/14 Mark Swessinger
- 10/15 Lorey Hillyer
- 10/16 Autumn Hines
- 10/17 Mike Andrews
- 10/19 Gerald Etzel
- 10/19 Kylee Littlejohn
- 10/21 Beline Shukuru
- 10/21 Olinda Gunther
- 10/23 Stacie Dean
- 10/25 Esther Shy
- 10/28 Gabriel Nightingale
- 10/29 Reva Beswick

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



World Communion Sunday is October 4. Special offerings

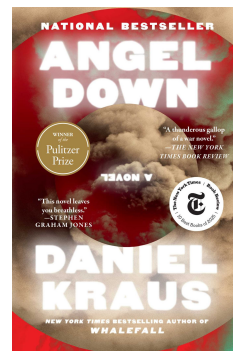
on this day support students of color in pursuing education and transforming communities. Half of the funds provide World Communion scholarships for students in the U.S. and around the world, while the rest supports leadership development that fosters global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Please look for the special offering envelope in your worship bulletin. Thank you in advance for your gifts to this special offering. Please look for the special offering envelope in your October 4 worship bulletin or you may mail your gift to the church office at 1820 5th Ave, Rock Island, IL. Thank you in advance for your gifts to this special offering.

Two Rivers Readers

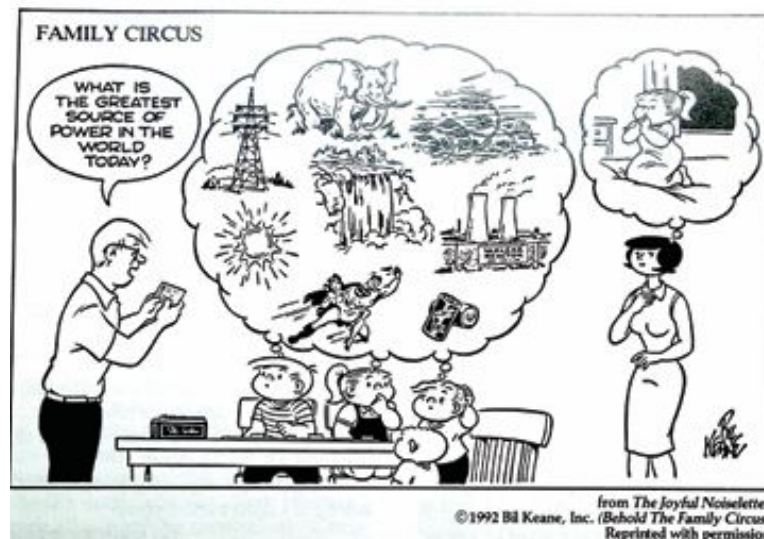
The Two Rivers Readers will gather on Monday, **October 26 at 10 am** to discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Angel Down* by Daniel Kraus.

Angel Down is a World War I novel, written as a single unbroken sentence. The protagonist is a draft dodger and then an army private who encounters an angel on the battlefield.

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!



The next Youth Connect gathering will be at Riverside UMC on October 18 from 3:30-5:30. The gathering will focus on putting together Student Kits for the Midwest Distribution Center. This mission-oriented gathering will include youth from many churches in the Quad Cities. Our first Youth Connect at Camp Milan had about 25 people from seven different churches in attendance. There was a lot of feedback gathered from the youth about what they want to do at upcoming Youth Connect events. The third Sunday of the month will continue to be the Youth Connect Sunday (usually the time will be 2:00-4:00, but that did not work for October).



Pastor Appreciation Month



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a specific time created to highlight the Church's ministers and give thanks for their work. Remember, however, that those who enter ministry have accepted a role that is not a 9 to 5 job, but one

that is held 365 days a year. We should at all times, but especially this Pastor Appreciation Month, tell Pastor Robb and his family how much they mean to us individually and as members of the Two Rivers' family. Please take a moment to recognize Robb and his family's ministry - tell them how they have positively impacted your life; send a personal note or greeting card; ask how you may help with his ministry (volunteer to be on a Church Committee, help with Sunday School, or be a Liturgist); or otherwise express your thanks for Pastor Robb's work.



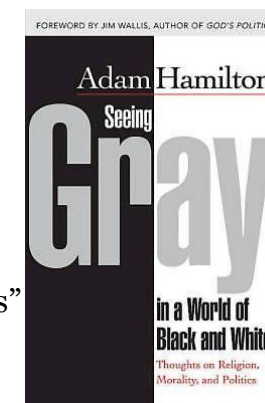
Scam Alert

Pastor Robb will never ask anyone for money, gift cards, or anything of the sort through text or email.

We have again heard from people who get messages that appear to be from him. If you think the request might be real, check with Brianna in the church office, or call him directly. Also be vigilant about email return addresses. The scam emails often look like they are coming from him, but are from dubious actual email addresses. The last one we heard of ended with minister.com - Pastor Robb has no email address like this.

Adult Sunday School Fall Study

“Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics” by Adam Hamilton



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 Sympathies to -

The family and friends of Josephine Rusage who passed away on September 5.

Our presence—

August 30	= 56
September 6	= 72
September 13	= 55
September 20	= 68
September 27	= 82

Our gifts—

General Fund Offerings

August 30	\$3,980
September 6	\$4,775
September 13	\$13,376
September 20	\$2,843
September 27	\$3,273

Our Service -

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

August 29	— 102 Meal Site, 90 OSN
September 5	— 72 Meal Site
September 12	— 80 Meal Site
September 19	— 78 Meal Site
September 26	— 132 Meal Site, 96 OSN



2026 Annual Charge Conference November 1 at 1:30 p.m.

This year’s Two Rivers UMC Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 1 at 1:30pm. Aledo United Methodist Church (301 N College Ave, Aledo, IL) will be the host church for our area this year. Everyone is invited to attend.



It is with great joy that Maddie Baez was introduced to the congregation in worship on September 27 and was installed as our new Music Director. She began to work with the bell and sanctuary choir on September 23 in rehearsals. Maddie is an energetic force of positive energy and immediately made the choir feel welcome, at ease, and excited to sing during her initial rehearsals. She lives in Rock Island and works full time at Augustana College as the Physics Lab Coordinator, and has extensive musical training and performance experience.

She graduated from Wartburg University with degrees in Mathematics and Engineering Science. After working for a few years as an engineer and doing various performances in the Quad Cities area, she felt the call to return to formal music education. In 2025 she graduated from North Park University with a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance.

Patrons of the Quad Cities Music Guild might remember her from recent productions of *Cinderella* (2022) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2023). She was also in *La Boheme* with Opera Quad Cities. She has been a part of various choirs and ensembles at Wartburg, North Park, and churches. In 2026 she was awarded the prestigious Eileen Deneen Award from The American Opera Society of Chicago.

While she has spent a lot of time in Lutheran institutions of higher education, she is excited about returning to her Methodist roots. She is especially excited to learn about Two Rivers' unique position of a church that is inclusive of LGBTQ people as well as enlivened by racial and ethnic diversity. She is excited about reaching out to the African Nationals part of our church in hopes of bringing us together through the wonder and joy of music.

New Translation Devices Working

Small listening devices that translate everything said in worship into Swahili in real time are now available. These little gray devices are in the back of the sanctuary. They must be turned to channel 5 for Swahili and work best if worn over both ears. The actual headphones are provided - but any wired headphone can plug into the gray device. There is a dedicated computer doing the translating in the balcony that is hooked up directly to our soundboard. Early feedback from the devices have been very positive. There are ten set up each Sunday, we have enough to grow. We have the capacity to also translate into French, and that will be coming soon.

1. The provided headphones are cleaned every week. If you want to use your own, you can. It is a standard headphone jack.
2. Make sure power is on. (Button A) It should be on when you get it. If you remember to turn it off at the end, that would be helpful.
3. Make sure it says "CH 5." Adjust with button set B.
4. Adjust volume with button set C



As of now, only Swahili is available. French is coming soon.

Collection for Midwest Distribution Center

The churches of the Quad Cities United Methodist Connection are teaming up to create Student Kits for the Midwest Distribution Center. Material for the kits are being collected at each individual church and then will be assembled by the Youth Connect gathering at Riverside UMC on October 18. The deadline to get the items to Two Rivers is Wednesday, October 7.

Student Kits are used by the Midwest Distribution Center in two primary ways: 1. Disaster relief replacements. One of the most important things for kids to be able to do after a disaster in their area strikes, is returning to school. These Student Kits make it possible for kids to return to normalcy quicker in the midst of turmoil. 2. Impoverished community empowerment. They are sent locally and globally (to places like Haiti) to provide children who lack financial resources or access to retail goods with the tangible tools they need to comfortably attend and stay in school.

One student kits includes 1 handmade, one-handled bag (there is a pattern available if you are able to make these bags), 3 notebooks (1 subject spiral), 1 ruler (12 in./30 cm.), 6 pencils (unsharpened), 1 pencil eraser, 1 box of 12 colored pencils, 1 box of 24 crayons, 1 pair of student scissors. To help, you can either buy supplies for a certain number of kits, or simply buy in bulk one particular item. Bring items to Two Rivers Church by October 7.



STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ **3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"**
- ☐ **1 Ruler - 12" long with metric**
- ☐ **6 Pencils - unsharpened**
- ☐ **1 Pencil Sharpener**
- ☐ **1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger**
- ☐ **1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils**
- ☐ **1 Box of 24 Crayons**
- ☐ **1 Pair of Student Scissors**
- ☐ **1 Handmade One-Handled Bag**



(pattern at midwestmission.org/patterns)



ONE-HANDLED CLOTH BAG INSTRUCTIONS

Finished Size: 14" Wide x 14.5" Tall

Please use **new** denim, corduroy, sailcloth, med-heavy drapery,
or light upholstery fabric. **Do not** use double-knit fabric.
Please **do not** use fabric with camouflage.



Step 1: Cut the fabric

Use one piece of fabric 20" wide by 32" long and cut a 5" strip off of the long side for the handle (strap).

OR

Cut a piece 15" wide by 32" long for the bag, then cut a coordinating piece 5" wide and 32" long for the handle (strap).

Step 2: Make the handle (strap)

Press under 1/2" on each long side of the narrow 5" piece.

Fold in half lengthwise with the right side out. Press.
Sew along the long open edge of the handle.

Step 3: Make the body of the bag

Fold the large piece in half with the wrong side out making a 15" x 16" bag. Stitch up the side seams with a 1/2" seam then stitch again for strength. If the fabric ravels, please zig-zag or serge the edge of the seam. Fold down the top of the bag 1/4" toward the wrong side of the fabric. Press in place.

Fold it down another 1" and press. Stitch near the edge as shown. Turn the bag right side out and press.

Step 4: Attach the handle (strap)

Center the ends of the strap over the side seams on the inside of the bag. Pin in place. Stitch a box around the edges of the strap. Sew an X to the corners of the box as shown.



OCTOBER

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:30 am Josephine Rusage funeral 12 pm Meal Site
4 World Communion Sunday 9:30 am Worship/Communion 10:30 am Kids Choir 10:45 am Adult Sunday School 11 am Kids & Youth Sunday School	5 12 pm Bible Study 2:00 pm Pulpit Fiction Live <i>Church office Closed</i>	6	7 Midwest Mission Student kit supplies due 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 5:30 pm College Group at Village Inn 6:30 pm Handbells 7:15 pm Choir	8	9 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	10 12 pm Meal Site 5:00 pm Wedding
11 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Kids Choir 10:45 am Adult Sunday School 11 am Kids & Youth Sunday School	12 12 pm Bible Study 2:00 pm Pulpit Fiction Live 	13 6:00 pm Leadership Meeting	14 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 5:30 pm College Group at Village Inn 6:30 pm Handbells 7:15 pm Choir	15 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	16	17 12 pm Meal Site
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Kids Choir 10:45 am Adult Sunday School 11 am Kids & Youth Sunday School 3:30 - 5:30 Youth Gathering @ Riverside UMC	19 12 pm Bible Study 2:00 pm Pulpit Fiction Live	20 <i>November Compass Deadline</i>	21 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 5:30 pm College Group at Village Inn 6:30 pm Handbells 7:15 pm Choir	22 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	23	24 12 pm Meal Site
25 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Kids Choir 10:45 am Adult Sunday School 11 am Kids & Youth Sunday School	26 10:00pm Two Rivers Readers 12 pm Bible Study 2:00 pm Pulpit Fiction Live	27	28 12:00 pm Prayer Group via FB & Zoom 5:30 pm College Group at Village Inn 6:30 pm Handbells 7:15 pm Choir	29 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 11 am Operation Safety Net 12 pm Meal Site