Compass

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Ministers
All of us

Newsletter deadline

The deadline for items for the **December** issue of the *Compass* is **Tuesday, November 17, 2026.** Please have information or articles in by this deadline date. Thank you.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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.

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

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Connect Online: **www.tworiversumc.org** **www.facebook.com/RITwoRivers**
Worship Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 am **Saturday Community Meal Every Week @ 12:00 pm**

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

During worship on Sunday, November 1, we will pause to remember those who have passed away during the past year. The names of the people who have passed away will be read, a candle lit and a bell will toll in memory of each one. Members of the congregation will also have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one during this time. Among those that will be remembered are:

Lee Farrar	*12/02/1934 - 12/26/2025*
Pauline Durham	*11/10/1929—01/11/2026*
Janice Peterson	*07/29/1940—05/08/2026*
Willene Sowell	*01/22/1950—05/10/2026*
Josephine Rusage	*01/01/1961—09/12/2026*

Hanging of the Greens Soup Pot-Luck

On Sunday, November 22, we will gather after worship for our annual Hanging of the Greens. This is a joyful chance for our whole church family to work side-by-side as we transform the sanctuary for the Advent season. Whether you've helped decorate for years or this will be your first time, your hands and presence will make the day special.

While the adults are decorating, the kids will have Sunday school and begin preparing for their Christmas program. The kids will present a combined choir and puppet program on December 20 in worship, and they'll start getting ready while we decorate.

Once the decorating is complete, everyone is invited downstairs to Epworth Hall for a pot-luck soup lunch. Bring a favorite soup to share if you're able, and enjoy warm food and good company as we begin this season of hope together.

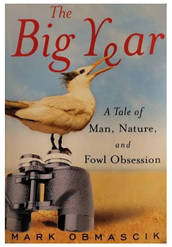
10/05 Barb Crede
We wish her a belated Birthday!
11/01 David Dehnel
11/01 Cassidy Tolson
11/07 Pam Lossing
11/07 Anne-Belle Munezero
11/11 Payton Glass
11/12 Julita Wilondja
11/12 Rebecca Tessen
11/14 Yvette Ahishakiye
11/17 Taddy Kalas
11/17 Korry Tessen
11/18 Jude Muir
11/18 Tim Muir
11/18 Ellen Pohlman
11/24 Kalie Tessen
11/26 Heather Muir

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

Chaddock Santa Express

Chaddock's Santa Express will be rolling into town the first week of December and Two Rivers Church is once again a drop off site for gifts for Chaddock's children. Included in this issue of the Compass is a list of needed items as well as gift items for the children in Chaddock Foster Care. If you wish to give any of these gifts, please bring them (unwrapped) to the church office by Wednesday, December 2. If you wish, wrapping paper, bows, etc. are also accepted to help wrap the gifts for the children. Thank you for making Christmas brighter this year for the children of Chaddock.

Two Rivers Readers



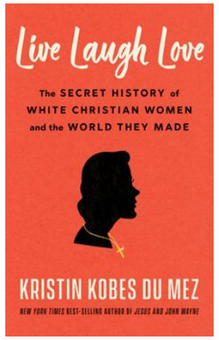
The Two Rivers Readers will gather on Monday, **November 30 at 10 am** to discuss the book, *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik.

'The Big Year' is Mark's account of what was to become the greatest birding year of all time (freak weather conditions ensured all previous records were broken), as experienced by three of the biggest, most obsessive hitters in the birding world.

The readers will not be meeting in December but will be discussing the novel, *The Overstory* by Richard Powers on January 25.

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!

Next Examen Book Club



Our next Examen Book Club gathering meets on Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. at The Atlas Collective in downtown Moline. This month we're reading *Live, Laugh, Love* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez, the historian best known for her bestselling cultural critique Jesus and John Wayne.

In her newest book, Du Mez explores how a simple slogan became a defining expression of American consumer spirituality — and what it reveals about identity, longing, and the search for meaning.

Because The Atlas Collective is normally closed at this hour, please register in advance so they know to stay open for our group. There is no donation required, but a donation option at registration will raise money that will be donated to the Two Rivers Community Meal.

At least one copy of the book is available to borrow in the back of the sanctuary. The book is also 10% off at Atlas Collective. All are welcome — whether you're a longtime Du Mez reader or simply curious about how faith and culture shape one another. Come join us for thoughtful conversation, reflection, and community as we close out another year of Examen together.

Becoming: Bring Your Commitments November 22

By now you should have received this year's stewardship mailer in an envelope marked Becoming.

Inside you'll find a letter about where God is leading Two Rivers in the year ahead. You'll also find a narrative budget that shows what your giving makes possible, from the Saturday community meal to welcoming our immigrant neighbors to all the ministries that make Two Rivers home. Along with these come a pledge card for your financial commitment for 2027 and a time and talent card where you can share the gifts and energy you're ready to offer.

Take some time with it. Read the letter, look through the budget, and pray about what you're becoming as a disciple and what we're becoming together as a church. Then bring both cards to worship on Sunday, November 22, when we'll offer our commitments together.

If you didn't receive a mailer, let the church office know and we'll get you a copy.

2026 3rd Quarter Financial State of the Church

General Church Fund
Income total through Q3 2026 =$220,674.14
(General Fund Offering =$150,591.76)
(Other General Fund Income = $70,082.38)
Expense total through Q3 2026 =$200,687.63
Surplus (Deficit) = $19,986.51

Bank Balances on September 30, 2026
General =$37,854.10
Dedicated =$127,735.82
Retreat Center =$2,428.02
Undesignated Gifts = $7,209.14

If you have any questions regarding the financial state of the church please feel free to contact the church treasurer, Brianna Pollock.

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—
October 4 = 54
October 11 = 83
October 18 = 74
October 25 = 92

Our gifts—
General Fund Offerings
October 4 $5,210
October 11 $4,081
October 18 $3,106

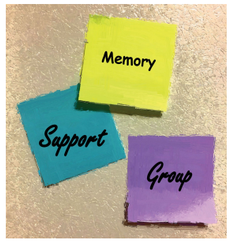
Our Service -
Members of the community served at Two Rivers Saturday Meal Site & Operation Safety Net (OSN):

October 3 — 82 Meal Site
October 10 — 82 Meal Site
October 17 — 72 Meal Site
October 24 — 106 Meal Site

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



We Care: A New Memory Care Ministry Gathers November 17

The QC United Methodist Connection is launching a new memory care ministry, the We Care Support Group, under the leadership of Rev. Cindy Jones (retired). If you or someone you love is living with memory loss, this ministry is here so you don't have to walk that road alone.

The group's next gathering is Tuesday, November 17, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the parlor of Riverside Church.

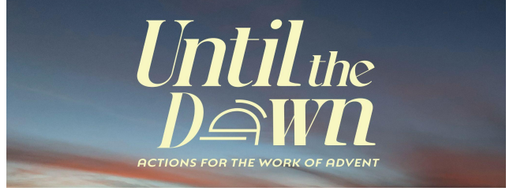
Amy Phillips of the Western Area Agency on Aging will share an overview of memory care resources for families in our area, including the new Memory Café. She'll give updates on the latest support options and answer your questions.

Too often, families wait to seek help until they're forced into difficult decisions. This gathering is a chance to get ahead of those moments. You can learn what's available, connect with others on the same journey, and both receive and offer support.

The afternoon will include refreshments, Amy's presentation, and time to visit. Those who wish may stay for a brief worship service with Holy Communion at the end.

All are welcome. An elevator is available at the entrance off the parking lot.

For more information or questions, contact Rev. Cindy Jones at 239-771-3027 or revcjoyjones@gmail.com.



Advent Series: Until the Dawn

This Advent, Two Rivers is journeying through Until the Dawn, a beautiful and imaginative series created by Sanctified Art. As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch long, this theme invites us to pay attention to the quiet hours before sunrise—the places where hope flickers, faith deepens, and God's light begins to break in.

Sanctified Art has crafted a rich collection of resources to help us experience Advent together. You'll find a full Advent devotional with weekly reflections and practices, a family-friendly Advent calendar offering simple daily prompts, and stunning original artwork that will shape our worship visuals throughout the season. These materials are designed to help us slow down, breathe, and notice the sacred in our everyday lives.

Whether you engage through the devotional, follow the calendar at home, or simply soak in the art each Sunday, Until the Dawn offers a shared spiritual rhythm for our whole congregation. As we wait for Christ's coming, we'll listen for the whispers of hope rising in the dark and look toward the dawn that promises new life.

Join us as we enter this season with wonder, intention, and the joy of doing Advent together.

YouTube Watch Full Services or Just the Sermon on YouTube

Full Sunday worship services are being posted on YouTube again. Whether you're home sick, traveling, caring for someone, or just want to experience a service again, you can join in from anywhere.

Just want the sermon? We've also set up playlists with only the sermons, so you can listen on a lunch break or during a drive, or share a message with a friend who might find it meaningful.

We're redesigning the Online Worship and Sermon pages on our website. For now, you can find both on the Two Rivers YouTube channel: youtube.com/@RITwoRivers. Our goal is to post the service on Sunday afternoons. You can still watch the service live on Facebook. The broadcast usually starts at about 9:25 a.m. at facebook.com/RITwoRivers.

Subscribe to the channel so new services show up for you each week, and if a sermon speaks to you, pass it along.

Two Rivers Church Honored by Community Organization

Two Rivers UMC received the Rev. Ken Kuenning Supporting Church Award at the Community Caring Conference's annual Heroes Awards Banquet in October.

For 50 years, the Community Caring Conference (CCC) has brought people together for social justice and community organizing in the Quad Cities. It was started in 1976 by Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island, then led by Rev. Ken Kuenning, the pastor whose name this award carries. It is an honor to be recognized in his name by an organization with such deep roots in faithful action.

Two Rivers was honored for 23 years of our community meal, which serves 80 people every week and has served over 80,000 over the years. We were also recognized for our welcoming ministry to immigrants and our radical inclusion through translation services and efforts to be truly multicultural, for our advocacy for LGBTQ inclusion, and for our leadership in the Rally for Peace last February.

The evening had a special Two Rivers connection. Aubrey Barnes was named Youth Advocate of the Year for his work with Young Lions Roar, and Aubrey presented our church's award to Pastor Robb. Young Lions Roar got an important boost from Two Rivers and still hosts gatherings here.

A full table of Two Rivers folks was there to celebrate. During his short acceptance speech, Pastor Robb asked them to stand, and the room gave them a round of applause. That applause belongs to everyone who has cooked a meal, welcomed a neighbor, shown up at a rally, or prayed for this work over the years.

Thank you, Two Rivers. This award is yours.

Sunday School Explores Justice

Our children's Sunday school is in Unit II: Justice. The unit's story is Matthew 21:8-17, where Jesus rides into Jerusalem as crowds wave palm branches, then goes into the Temple and turns over the tables of the money changers. Neither moment was quiet. Jesus was making a public demonstration, showing everyone in a way they couldn't ignore that something was wrong and needed to change.

The kids have been acting out the story themselves, shouting "Hosanna!" and waving palm branches, then watching Jesus disrupt business as usual in the Temple. Later in the unit, we'll connect Jesus' actions to other moments when people disrupted things for the sake of justice: the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, the lunch counter sit-ins, and the Stonewall uprising, which grew into the Pride parades we know today. We'll keep it simple and age-appropriate. The seed we want to plant is that sometimes loving people means standing up, speaking out, and making some noise when things aren't fair.

Watch for the kids choir to sing "This Little Light of Mine" in worship on November 1. The rest of the month includes a craft on November 1, a game on November 8, and a mission day on November 15, when we're planning for the kids to make Thanksgiving cards for our homebound members and college students. On November 22, while the adults hang the greens, the kids will start preparing for the Christmas program.

Sunday School Needs

The kids Sunday school is thriving and those kids are full of energy. Part way through the hour, they are hungry! Donations for Sunday school snacks would be greatly appreciated. Some of the favorites include: Goldfish crackers, animal crackers, fruit snacks, cookies, cheese sticks, granola bars, and juice boxes. Also helpful to distribute the snacks are dixie cups and small plates.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints' Sunday** **9:30 am** Worship/Communion **10:45 am** Kids Choir & Sunday School **10:45 am** Adult Sunday School **1:30pm** Charge Conference @ Aledo UMC	2 **12 pm** Bible Study **2:00 pm** Pulpit Fiction Live	3	4 **12:00 pm** Prayer Group via FB & Zoom **5:30 pm** College Group at Village Inn **6:00 pm** Handbells **7:00 pm** Choir	5 *Church Office Closed*	6	7 **12 pm** Meal Site
8 **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Kids Choir & Sunday School **10:45 am** Adult Sunday School	9 **12 pm** Bible Study **2:00 pm** Pulpit Fiction Live	10	11 **12:00 pm** Prayer Group via FB & Zoom **5:30 pm** College Group at Village Inn **6:00 pm** Handbells **7:00 pm** Choir	12 *Church Office Closed*	13	14 **12 pm** Meal Site
15 **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Kids Choir & Sunday School **10:45 am** Adult Sunday School **2 - 4pm** Youth Gathering	16 **12 pm** Bible Study **2:00 pm** Pulpit Fiction Live	17 **1:00 p.m**. We Care Support Group @ Riverside UMC	18 **12:00 pm** Prayer Group via FB & Zoom **5:30 pm** College Group at Village Inn **6:00 pm** Handbells **7:00 pm** Choir	19 *Church Office Closed*	20	21 **12 pm** Meal Site
22 Hanging of the Greens **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Kids Choir & Sunday School **10:45 am** Hanging of the Greens and Soup Lunch	23 **12 pm** Bible Study **2:00 pm** Pulpit Fiction Live	24	**25** **12:00 pm** Prayer Group via FB & Zoom	26 **Happy Thanksgiving** *Church Office Closed*	27	28 **11 am** Operation Safety Net **12 pm** Meal Site
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** Fill the Wagon Sunday (Little free pantry) **9:30 am** Worship **10:45 am** Kids Choir & Sunday School **10:45 am** Adult Sunday School	30 **10:00pm** Two Rivers Readers **12 pm** Bible Study **2:00 pm** Pulpit Fiction Live					

It's time to order poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary on December 20th and Christmas Eve, December 24. Please fill out the form below and place it along with your payment in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You may also mail the order form and payment to the church office—1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. The cost is $12.00 per poinsettia. Please make checks payable to Two Rivers UMC and mark "Poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check. Also, please indicate if your poinsettia is to be delivered to a shut-in, to your home address or if you will pick it up after the Christmas Eve worship service.

Order deadline is November 22
No Late Orders Will be accepted

———————————————————————

I would like to order a poinsettia(s) at $12.00 each. Enclosed is my check/cash in the amount of $_____ Please designate the poinsettia as follows:

In Memory of _____
_____

In Honor of_____
_____

Given by_____
_____

Phone Number_____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the Christmas Eve worship service.
_____ Please deliver my poinsettia to my home address.
_____ Please deliver my poinsettia to a shut-in.