

Heartline

Keeping in touch with the heart of the Richfield United Methodist Church faith community.

2020

November/December



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TRUST GOD'S STORY Annual Stewardship Campaign

You are invited to be part of the story God is telling with and through your church.

We will share stories of where this church has been and where we're heading next with God. The stewardship campaign for the 2021 operating fund begins on Sunday, November 1 with an invitation to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the mission and ministry of your church.

Watch for materials to arrive in the mail.

Commitment Sunday will be on November 22.
Please see page 5 for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 pm - Family Worship
Thursday, December 24 at 9:00 pm - Traditional Worship
Online at youtube.com/richfieldumc and by touch tone
phone: 1.888.650.5835.

Please see page 7 for more information.

NATE NOTE



Christmas is almost here and wow, that didn't take long at all! I was so excited to hear from many of you about how we're going about Christmas Eve worship this year - two prerecorded services premiering on YouTube - and to

plan ahead with you. There are so many things that are unpredictable, these days. It's good to know we can rely on you and that we can rely on each other. Advent is a special time in the life of the church and I look forward to spending it with you as we spend some time with the hopeful prophet messages of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) to close out the year.

This month we will pass an unbelievable milestone. I have been your new pastor since Sunday, June 30, 2019. We were together "in person" from July through mid-March. Now, we'll have been together "apart" from mid-March to November. By my count, that's around nine months for each. Never in my wildest dreams did you or I think this is the world we would live in, and there are days we may be tempted to wonder aloud if it will ever get back to the way it was.

It's milestones like this that make me grateful for the times we were able to connect together in person and find joy in the precious moments I see some of you in person at Drive-Thru Joy or during a Zoom gathering online. I'm also grateful for the ways we've adapted and innovated in these times. When it comes to connecting with each other and serving God we aren't going to sit on our hands, friends, even if we can now sit in our pajamas as we worship. (Although if you wear your pajamas when we return to in-person worship, hey, "Come as you are!") We are the church, and we are with God, and God has and will get us through this together. Of that, I am assured.

Your Regathering Taskforce is reconvening this quarter to pursue next steps. We are looking at what we've learned this fall, examining the data and information that's out there, and

looking to what is next for our church. We anticipate continuing our suspension of in-person worship and gatherings in 2021 in our open-ended timeline. We also hope to reach out to you again in the first quarter of the year to see where we're at as a church with next steps. Your feedback has been critical in these times and this taskforce is listening.

In the meantime, we enter our annual Stewardship season to prepare for a new year of ministry and I want to thank you in advance for your commitment. The outpouring of financial blessings you have shown this year is breathtaking - you love your church! You want your church to not just survive but thrive! We are apart from our building, true, and we are putting our building to good use with livestreaming worship, essential office tasks, and CFC regaining its enrollment numbers, including for families with essential workers. Your church staff and the elected leaders of your Finance Team are hard at work crafting a budget for a year unlike any other. It won't be easy trying to anticipate exactly what 2021 will look like, but we are doing smart planning and strive to do well by your generous giving. Please remember that the budget process always goes smoother when you turn in your estimate of giving Commitment early, and I thank you for playing your role in the process. I have been so impressed with the generosity of this church. You are a blessing to one another!

I have a hunch that as we close out 2020, we are going to be in a tender place. The election, the pandemic, the calls for racial justice and reform, the distancing, the unknown. It's been a long year and we still have a couple months to go. I request three things of you as your pastor in these times, friends:

1. **Keep the faith.** When mystery would dare to set you adrift, remember you have a tether that keeps you grounded. Try on spiritual practices, be intentional with your growth, and stay true to who you are. *Remember this and breathe deep.*
2. **Know that you are not alone.** God's steadfast love has shown countless people



METHODS: A One-Year Worship Series September 13, 2020 - May 30, 2021

In 2020-2021, Richfield United Methodist Church embarks on an all-new one-year worship series: **METHODS**. The 7 miniseries of **METHODS** is your year-long guidepost to dig deep into who you are capable to be as a beloved child of God. Come and be part of **METHODS** and experience the expansive love of God this year as a part of the inclusive community of Richfield United Methodist Church. All are welcome, and all means all.

METHODS CONTINUES WITH TWO WORSHIP SERIES TO CLOSE 2020



TRUST GOD'S STORY November 1-22

The finale of the Sermon on the Mount sees Jesus call people to not just hear his words but put them into action. Faith without commitment is empty, and faith without practice is hollow. As we learn to trust the passion inside of us can partner with God to do amazing things, we rededicate ourselves to the story God is telling through the life of the church. **We share stories, feeling the Holy Spirit in the space between us.**

November 1: Trust God's Story in Our Passion
Matthew 7:1-11 (All Saints Day)

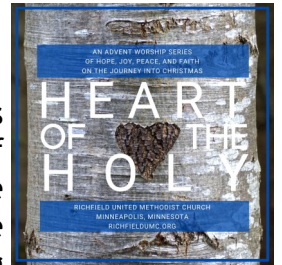
November 8: Trust God's Story in Our Service
Matthew 7:12-14 (New Member Sunday)

November 15: Trust God's Story in Our Gifts
Matthew 7:15-23

November 22: Trust God's Story in Our Foundation
Matthew 7:24-29 (Commitment Sunday)

HEART OF THE HOLY November 29 - December 27

The church calendar begins with Advent, the season of preparation as we await the coming of baby Jesus into the world. It is a time of longing and strain, of coping and stress. Though the days have grown short and the air has grown cold, the Spirit burns bright. Let us open our hearts to the holy, to the one who cares for us with tenderness in our season of anticipation. **We love out, giving and receiving tender care to one another.** This Advent, we look to the care and wisdom of the prophets of the Hebrew Bible as we move into the Lectionary (Year B), a cycle of Bible study that takes us through key stories throughout the year.



November 29: The Heart of Hope
Isaiah 64:1-9

December 6: The Heart of Peace
Isaiah 40:1-11 (Communion Sunday)

December 13: The Heart of Joy
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Children's Pageant)

December 20: The Heart of Faith
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (Lessons & Carols)

December 27: The Heart of Prophecy
Isaiah 61:10-62:3

NATE NOTE

➤Continued from 2

through the most tender of times and it can be the same for you. The holy surrounds you, holds you in its heart. *Remember this and give thanks.*

3. **Help others know they are not alone.** God is calling you to reach out, urging you to be a generous friend to those who find love a stranger. This is no time to be alone. *Remember this and make a difference.*

Finally, allow me to be a broken record on one critical issue: **invitation.** We need you to grow your church. There has never been an easier time to invite someone to worship or an event or other way of being the church. Friends: *they don't even have to leave their home!* We cannot rely on curious souls bumping into our website on the Internet, it doesn't work that way. We need to rely on you as the driving force for encouraging people to be part of what we're doing. Thank you for doing your part.

I am proud to be your pastor! May God bless you all!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

CAFÉ-O-RAMA

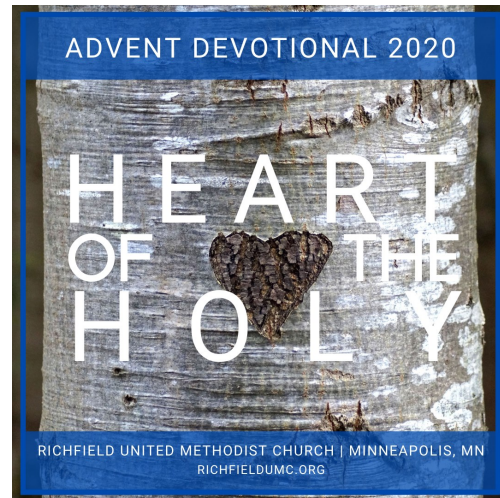
1st and 3rd Sundays

10:45 am online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137,

Passcode: 5835

Café-O-Rama begins a few minutes after worship twice a month. After worship, hop on the video call for a relaxed, inviting opportunity to spend time with new and old friends. It's like coffee in The Commons... except you bring your own coffee!



WE ARE DESIGNING A NEW ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET WRITTEN BY YOU!

This Advent, your church is making an all-new Advent daily devotional written by you and your fellow church members and worshipers. You are encouraged to put your gifts of imagination and creativity to good use to write a submission for this new tradition.

The Advent theme this year is **Heart of the Holy.** We are exploring all the ways in which we experience the heart of God in our own hearts and throughout our lives using the classic Advent framing of hope, peace, joy, and love. You are invited to write a short reflection for your church's Advent devotional booklet about any of these ways of experiencing the Heart of God. You may reflect on where you find **hope** in God's heart beating in this world or where God's heart brings **peace** to you. Or describe the **joy** you feel in God's heart for celebrations in life. Or perhaps share a personal experience that led you to feel the **love** of God's heart.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Your reflection, poem, or prayer should be 250 words or less.
2. It must be your own original writing. Sorry, we cannot publish your favorite poem by another writer, no matter how wonderful it is!
3. Submit your writing by November 8 to nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

Print copies of the Advent devotional will be available at Drive-Thru Joy on November 22 and in our Noah's Ark Free Little Library. Daily entries will be posted on our [Facebook page](#) every day of Advent, so be sure to "Like" the page and select "See First," too.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Victor, Paige and I send greetings to you for the months of November and December. We miss you at church and have great music planned for livestreamed services for you.

- On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1, there will be a virtual choir anthem, Paige will sing "Pie Jesu" from John Rutter's *Requiem*, and Bill Johnson will toll the bell as the names of RUMC saints from this past year are read.
- There will be a short online service on Election Night, Nov. 3, at 8:00 pm to give us hope for the future.
- The acclaimed Greta Oglesby will sing on Sunday, Nov 8th. Greta has made a big splash in the theater community where she has had lead roles at the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Penumbra Theatre, and many others. Her husband, Rev. Dennis Oglesby, is a pastor at First Wesley Academy and previously served at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, as well as, Hennepin Avenue UMC.
- On Nov. 15th, Pat Norton will play cello for the service. Also, Brad Gardner and Pat will sing a duet, and Paige will sing a solo.
- November 22 is Commitment Sunday with a blended service of music. Nancy Dierauer will play "Now Thank We All Our God" by J.S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox for the offertory. Victor will sing an original song of his titled, *I Sing To Speak*, that was commissioned by The Giving Voice Chorus, a choir consisting of people living with Alzheimer's.
- Nov. 29 is the first Sunday of Advent. This is the season where we prepare once again to celebrate the coming of Christ. Rev. Ruth Phelps will preach on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. On Dec. 9th there will be a service of Hope and Healing. A virtual Children's Pageant will be presented on Dec. 13. Lessons and Carols will be on Dec. 20 that will include a virtual choir anthem and a string quartet. The first service on Christmas Eve will be presented with musicians, Joe Cruz and Jennifer Grimm. The second Christmas Eve service music will include a string quartet. Dec. 27 will be a blended worship service including Brad Gardner.

We look forward to connecting with you online for services,

-Nancy Dierauer, Organist/Music Director



TRUST GOD'S STORY

Annual Stewardship Campaign

This November, you are invited to be part of the story God is telling with and through your church. Through worship, daily prayer, and talking with your loved ones, we will share stories of where this church has been and where we're heading next with God. We'll celebrate new people joining the mission of the church. And we'll rejoice in how we put all good gifts to use in unpredictable times. We will trust God's story.

The stewardship campaign for the 2021 operating fund begins on Sunday, November 1 with an invitation to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the mission and ministry of your church. Watch for materials to arrive in the mail. You will be able to send in your commitment or deliver it in person at Drive-Thru Joy on November 22.

As 2020 transitions into 2021, we know the miracle of God's unfolding spirit is inviting us to something new. Your financial gifts and personal commitment make the ministry, outreach, and operations of Richfield United Methodist Church happen.



ELECTION DAY COMMUNION

**Premieres Tuesday, November 3
8:00 pm**

youtube.com/richfieldumc

When the polls close, you're invited to gather with the Body of Christ to celebrate Holy Communion together. Gather your elements with care and delight and on this Election Day may we remember we are not called to pledge allegiance to particular politicians or party platforms. We are called to love Jesus and commit ourselves to his teachings on how we shall love God, love neighbor, and love ourselves. Let us set aside what divides us and celebrate what unites us - Jesus!

ALL SAINTS DAY

**Sunday, November 1
9:30 am in Worship**

In the life of the Church, All Saints Day is a day we remember all the members of our congregation who have died this past year. Along with other Christian churches, our service of worship will remember the communion of saints who have been the foundation of the church in the past. Please plan to virtually attend the 9:30 am worship service. This service is livestreamed on our YouTube channel, youtube.com/richfieldumc.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 am

Don't forget to "fall back" before going to bed on Halloween night and gain an extra hour of sleep before worship on Sunday!



DRIVE-THRU JOY

**Sunday, November 22
10:45 am - 2:00 pm (extended hours)**

Worshippers and members can drive by campus after worship to drop off or pick up a variety of items to enhance your connection with your church. We want as many people as possible to come for this growing opportunity, and we will have extended hours.

Drop-Off:

- Food and health supplies for neighbors in crisis
- Your 2021 Estimate of Giving Commitment

Pick-Up:

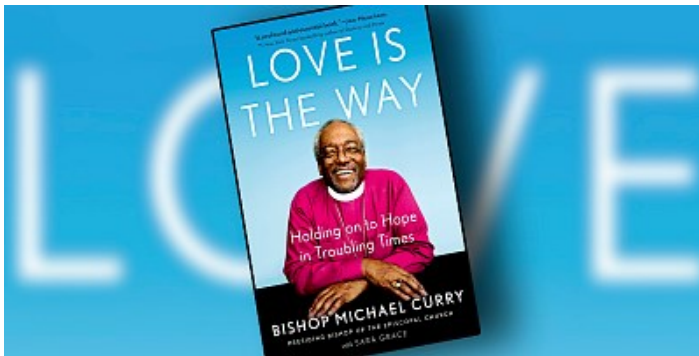
- Candles to light for "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve
- A Christmas tree ornament from the Holy Land for your home
- An outreach opportunity to help a family in need
- The latest issue of the Upper Room devotional
- An Advent devotional made up of member submissions

CHARGE CONFERENCE

**Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 pm
online by Zoom**

Meeting ID: 886-0975-2661, Passcode: 5835

There will be a charge conference at the beginning of the Ad Board meeting for the purpose of setting 2021 clergy compensation packages. All members are welcome to attend and vote, thank you.



NEED A DOSE OF HOPE DURING ADVENT?

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY
LOVE IS THE WAY
Mondays at 7:00 pm
November 9 - December 14
online by Zoom**

Meeting ID: 6122501736
No password required
By Phone: Dial 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 612 250 1736

This November and in Advent, we will read "Love is The Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times" by Bishop Michael Curry. Each week, we will discuss 12 questions (chapters) Bishop Curry has been asked repeatedly throughout his ministry. Here's an excerpt from the introduction:

"The purpose of this book is to explain what the way of love looks like, even as we walk it in a world that feels at times closer to a nightmare than to the dream. The way of love is how we stay decent during indecent times. It's for all of us who are sitting, looking around at the world, at our leaders, saying, 'Something has gone very wrong.' It's for those who are fighting hard for a better world, and feeling very, very tired."

Bishop Curry made headlines with his sermon about the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands his message of living the way of love. You are welcome to come as you can. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Johnson (gailjohnson417@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 pm

Outdoors in the Church Parking Lot

All are invited to come and join a circle of church family to sing our favorite Christmas carols together around a bonfire. Please practice physical distancing and bring a mask. We'll sing, have a light refreshment, and conclude with "Silent Night." For more information, please contact Paige Armstrong or Rev. Nate Melcher.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

Family Worship

Thursday, December 24 at 9:00 pm

Traditional Worship

Online at youtube.com/richfieldumc and by touch tone phone: 1.888.650.5835.

Christmas Eve worship services are prerecorded and will premiere live on the church's YouTube channel and by touch tone phone. You can join the premiere in progress and any time and after the premiere the service is available in the worship archives to experience when it's convenient for you. While we are physically apart, it has also never been easier to invite someone to Christmas Eve worship. **Please invite a friend to worship with you this year.**

Both services are intended for all ages and feature the same sermon and end with singing "Silent Night." They each have a different atmosphere and musicians, and the Family Worship has elements specifically designed for young children to experience the Nativity story at their level. You're welcome to experience both services.

You're encouraged to come to Drive-Thru Joy on November 22 or Christmas Caroling on December 20 to pick up a special candle to safely light as you sing "Silent Night" in your home for this memorable Christmas Eve experience.

Youth

Garrett Johnson
Youth Leader

gjohnson@richfieldumc.org



Youth Email List

As we continue to stay safe at home and not meet in person, it has never been more important to be in good communication with each other. The best way to keep up to date with all the youth happenings is to get on Garrett's email list. Please take the time with your family and make sure that everyone who needs to be getting the emails has been. If you or any one in your family needs to be added to Garrett's list, email him directly at gjohnson@richfieldumc.org.

Adult Volunteers Needed

We are looking for adults who are willing to join us for our weekly Zoom calls and/or in person meetings. If you are willing to be that person please let Garrett know via email so that he can get you more information. Even if you can only commit to one or two Sundays a month we'd still love to have you join us and to help serve our youth ministry.

Youth Group Time

Each Sunday evening the group will continue to meet online via Zoom. This is a chance for our youth and their friends to come and hang out digitally as we play games and have conversations with each other. The primary goal of this time is to feel relaxed and to enjoy each other's company and fellowship together. To get the zoom login information each week, please contact Garrett via email to be added to the weekly distribution list.

Confirmation

We will be kicking off our next season of Confirmation starting in January 2021. This is an awesome opportunity for youth who are 6th grade and older who are looking at becoming a full member of the Richfield UMC community. Please keep an eye out for future updates.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT RICHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Chester E. and Marion D. Groth Scholarship

Scholarships will be awarded for tuition for the 2021-2022 school year. Previous recipients are eligible to reapply for the scholarship for up to three additional years or until a Bachelor's Degree is earned, whichever occurs first.

The purpose of this Fund is to award annual post-secondary scholarships for qualified students desiring to matriculate and pursue careers in music education, performance, or music therapy.

These scholarships are made possible by the generous gift of Marion Groth on behalf of her husband, Chester. To be eligible to receive this scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior from a Minnesota high school;
- Be entering college as a freshman;

Applications must be received in the church office no later than noon, Friday, February 26, 2021. Applicants will be notified if invited to a finalist audition on March 20, 2021.

For more information and an application form, please contact the church office. (612)861-6086 or check the church website, www.richfieldumc.org [click scholarships to print off information and forms]. If you know of anyone that might be interested in this scholarship, please encourage them to apply.



Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES



Rev. Hope Hutchison
Dir. of Children & Family
Ministries

hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Sunday School and Fall Calendar

Online Sunday School has started, and it has been a joy to see and interact with our children in this setting! We will continue to offer this opportunity at 10:45 following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, giving children and their families the opportunity to learn about God in a setting that has been designed with them in mind. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, we will continue to be offering Cafe -o-Rama, where families can join our larger church family in online fellowship.

We are also looking forward to the Advent season! On November 22, at our next Drive Thru Joy event, in addition to our regular offerings, we will have some special Advent items for our children available to pick up. If you cannot come pick these up, please email Rev. Hope, and she will mail them to you! We will also be presenting a virtual Christmas Pageant during worship on December 13, followed by our Sunday School Christmas Party at 10:45 am. Finally, our family oriented Christmas Eve worship will premiere online at 4pm, and will be available to watch anytime after that. I hope that each of these opportunities provides an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ in a new way this year!

Sunday, November 1

Café-O-Rama at 10:45 following worship

Sunday, November 8

Sunday School at 10:45 following worship

Sunday, November 15

Café-O-Rama at 10:45 following worship

Sunday, November 22

Sunday School at 10:45 following worship

Drive-Thru Joy from 10:45 am-noon (see p. 5)

Sunday, December 6

Café-O-Rama at 10:45 following worship

Sunday, December 13

Virtual Christmas Pageant during worship

Sunday School Party at 10:45 following worship

Sunday, December 20

Café-O-Rama at 10:45 following worship

Christmas Carol Bonfire at 4 pm in the parking lot

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Online worship at 4 pm & 9 pm



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & CHILDREN FIRST WORSHIP

Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am

Children First worship is coming back! We will be shifting to a quarterly Children First worship service for the duration of online only worship. During this time of online only worship, the best method for our kids to help lead worship is to pre-record their videos and have us use them during our livestreamed worship service. Moving to a quarterly schedule allows for more time to record and edit these videos.

The next Children First Worship service will be our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13. We will have a variety of roles for children of all ages, and we are looking forward to this creative worship experience that allows our children to lead us in remembering the story of Jesus' birth, and in celebrating the Advent season.

If you have any questions, or would be interested in helping with this, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

BECOME A “DIGITAL SUPERFAN” OF YOUR CHURCH!

Here are crucial ways to stay informed, be involved, and get invitational digitally:

SIGN UP FOR - OR RESUBSCRIBE TO - THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST.

Each week, you'll get the latest news and events in the *eHeartline* announcements and *Worship Launchpad* with a bulletin link and worship preview. You'll also get the most real-time updates on pandemic-related announcements, funerals and memorials, and other crucial information. You can send the emails to a friend, too, if there's something you think they would really like. If you're ready to subscribe (and remember, if you've ever unsubscribed, only **you** can resubscribe yourself!), it takes just seconds. Go to richfieldumc.org/email and fill out the subscription form. We currently have **332** subscribers; can you help your church reach **350** subscribers before Christmas Eve?

ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

The more you interact with your church's content, the more Facebook wants to put our content in front of new people, so let's take advantage of their business model! “Like,” comment, and share your church's content. It's never been so simple to market your church! “Like” Richfield United Methodist Church and “See First” in your News Feed so you'll never miss a post, and “Turn On” Notifications so you'll know when there's fresh content. And *please* interact with your church's posts! We currently have **479** people who like our Page and engagement has increased over 50% this fall; can you help us reach **500** before Christmas Eve?

ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

Like Facebook, YouTube makes its money by putting ads near high-engagement content. Engage with your church's videos so YouTube wants to put our worship services in front of new people who aren't part of our church yet. “Subscribe” to Richfield United Methodist Church on YouTube, “Ring the Bell” icon to receive Notifications when new videos come up or we go live for worship. “Like” and “Share” the videos with friends. We currently have **265** subscribers, having grown by 30 since the last *Heartline* and passing our goal of 250. Can you help your church reach **300** before Christmas Eve?

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM TROUBLESHOOTING

We're all still getting used to new technology for worship and online gatherings. Let's continue to show each other mutual patience and grace moving forward. Here are ideas on what you can do on your end for the best worship livestreaming experience possible:

- Out of Sync Sound/Picture: try refreshing the page, restarting your device, or restart the YouTube app. Try a different web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.), or clear your browser cache. Try lowering resolution settings from 1080p HD to 720p HD. Check your internet connection signal strength; be sure you're physically close enough to your router to receive a quality signal.
- Volume Too Low: try turning up the volume on your device (there is a maximum output on our end before it distorts for everyone; we are unable to “turn it up” for you). Try headphones or connecting external speakers to your device.
- If you've tried these solutions and still need help, please contact the Tech Crew at worshiptech@richfieldumc.org and we will try to help thank you!

WORSHIP IS ONLINE

Worship with your church online at 9:30 am on Sundays.



Worship on our YouTube channel, <http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>. This is where we broadcast worship online live and post other videos.

WORSHIP BY TOUCHTONE PHONE!

We want *everyone* to be able to experience worship, even in these times when we cannot gather in-person. If you don't use the internet and are not "online," now you can worship by touchtone phone - no computer or "smart phone" needed! Here's how it works:

1. Call our new toll-free Worship Hotline:
2. 1-888-650-5835.
3. Listen to a recording of Pastor Nate inviting you to "Press 1" to receive an automated phone call when worship begins on Sunday morning. You can also wait on the line to hear the most recent worship service, or you can call when worship begins.
4. On Sunday morning, when the tech crew sends worship to the internet, you will receive an automated call. A recording of Pastor Nate will invite you to wait on the line while you are connected to worship. Enjoy worship! When it's over, the call will automatically hang up.

HAPPY NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November Birthdays

John Sells	02
Todd Doncavage	03
Marj Wittenborg	05
Marybeth Stull	06
Mitch Wilson	06
Michael Haines	06
Buerkley Owens	06
Kim Knuttila	07
Susan Stenseth	14
Grover Dodds	15
Julie Mellum	17
Kate Koskey	17
Bonnie Stemme	18
Paula Wendt	21
Rachel Whitaker	21
Norma Luettinger	22
Peyton Owens	28
Sandra Overland	29
Muza Habeck	30

*Rejoice in the
Lord Always.
Philippians 4:4*

December Birthdays

Lauren Gunderson	01
Connie Wester	03
Sally Knutson	03
Knox Gaertner	04
Caroline Riley	06
Suzann Tarvin	08
Noah Dewey	10
Ruth Davis	11
John Meeker	11
Jerad Morey	11
Andi Olson	12
Curt Stull	18
Brantley Gaertner	19
Merry Rendahl	24
Rhonda Olson	24
Nick Dewey	25
Brennan Currie	26
Mary Kay Petersen	27
Steve Klosinski	28
Orlean Kovach	29
Marilyn Dodge	30
David Haines	30
Charlotte Weibel	30
Marissa Moore	31
Ryder Whitaker	31

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Fall is a busy time at CFC and Winter is equally busy. We have been coming up with creative ways to maintain safety during the pandemic while also offering as much normalcy for our young learners as possible.

We have been giving Zoom tours for interested families and have again come close to a full center without having anyone besides RUMC Staff and students in the actual center.

We look forward to figuring out how to do a Christmas Pageant Recording while also practicing social distancing, but it will be fun!

After months of lower attendance due to Covid-19, it is a wonderful to once again have the sounds of children in the halls and rooms of CFC.

-Catherine Mahler, CFC Director

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

LUNCH AND LEARN ONLINE SERIES

***My Life in Music* with Victor Zupanc**

**Thursday, November 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
(via zoom or phone)**

Join us for another wonderful Online Lunch and Learn event when we welcome our very own Living Waters Band Leader, the gifted Victor Zupanc, who will entertain us with his program, *My Life in Music*. Victor's presentation will cover his start in music as a child and will continue throughout his

career; how his musical career began, how it developed, and how he became a professional composer and conductor working around the world. Victor will also talk about his compositional process when he is creating a score for a new play or film.

Victor has worked on over 300 plays at some of the most prestigious theaters in America including The La Jolla Playhouse, The Guthrie, Playwrights Horizon, SITI Company, The Acting Company, New Victory Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Missouri Rep, San Diego Rep, and The Berkeley Rep. He has received numerous awards and honors, among others, a 2016 Ivey Award. In addition to his theater work, Victor has composed many pieces for orchestras and choirs around the country. His music has been heard in China, Japan, Europe, South America, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. He has scored several films and documentaries including the acclaimed film *The Operator* as well as theme music for NPR. Since 1989, Victor has been the resident Music Director/Composer at the Tony Award winning Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis. To learn more about Victor and his work, please visit his website at www.victorzupanc.com.

The Lunch and Learn Online events will use Zoom, an online platform for people to connect by video and/or audio and be together. If you have never used Zoom before or want to get better at it,



please watch this video first to learn how to use it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQOE>.

To participate online, go to <http://zoom.us> and tap "Join a Meeting." Next enter the Meeting ID: 834 1070 8483, and then, enter the passcode: 5835. Please keep the Meeting ID and passcode secure, thank you. To participate by phone only, call 1-312-626-6799.

Enjoy a late lunch with your church friends in the comfort of your own home and join us for this delightful time together!

Save the Date

Lunch and Learn Online Series

Special Holiday Program

Thursday, December 10th

from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (via zoom or phone)

LIVING IN HOPE

Take a moment to think back on a time when you were blessed to be underneath the stars on a clear lovely evening . . . on those most sacred of nights, you know the truth that the darker the sky, the brighter the stars. Known as the "Prince of Preachers" to many, C.H. Spurgeon had this to say about hope, "Hope itself is like a star - not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity."

The beauty of a star is best captured in the dark. The beauty of hope is best revealed in the midst of suffering. And so as we find ourselves living in a time of heartache, we need to also find a way to live in hope.

What exactly is hope? Episcopal priest, Cynthia Bourgeault, makes a powerful distinction between what she calls ordinary hope, which is "tied to outcome . . . an optimistic feeling . . . because we sense that things will get better in the future" and

mystical hope, in which "you will know . . . your absolute belonging and place in the heart of God, and that you are a part of this heart forever and cannot possibly fall out of it, no matter what may happen." Mystical hope is not tied to the future, but rather found in the present moment of knowing you are being held in holy communion.

How then do we live in hope . . . this kind of mystical hope? I invite us to find moments to center ourselves in prayer and call upon God who dwells deep within us all. To welcome the gift of silence. To be still and bask in the warmth of God's love. In these mysterious and miraculous moments, hope is realized and will bear the fruit of "an unbearable lightness of being", believes Bourgeault. Doesn't that sound good? Christmas is a season of tremendous hope. In the dark of night, the baby Jesus was born to Mary and born into each of our hearts, to show us the way to light and love. Our hearts are indeed connected to God's heart, and the heart of all creation. It is my prayer that this Christmas, a time when we hold both light and darkness in our hearts, we will join Bourgeault on the "journey to the wellsprings of hope . . . a journey toward the innermost ground of our being where we meet and are met by God."



CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ZOOM!

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

9:30-11:00 am online by Zoom

You are invited to come on board by calling Molly Reko, 612-270-4700, our Zoom coordinator, or Ruth Phelps, 952-929-1595, leader. There is plenty of food for thought in scripture, for as old as the scriptures are, they are alive with truth for these days. Try something new-this is a group of Women who will welcome you!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 9:00 am online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 954-3527-6775, Passcode: 5835

Each week this fall, the Men's Bible Study will read the sermon scripture passage together and discuss it for its context then and its relevance now. This growing group continues to welcome new men to the table for a time to study the Bible and offer one another support.

WOMEN WHO READ (WWR)

1st Mondays of the Month at 1:30 pm, online by Zoom

If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read. Email both Fern Albertson (WFalbertson@gmail.com) and Molly Reko (mollyreko@gmail.com). Our November book will be Simon the Fiddler by Paulette Jiles and our December book will be The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. All women are welcome.

BRENÉ BROWN BOOK GROUP

Saturdays at 10:30 am, online by Zoom

"Dare To Lead" This is an OPEN group.

Meeting ID: 612 250 1736 , No Passcode needed

We are more serious about checking in with each other than cruising through the book at a certain speed.

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller Brené Brown has taught us what it means to dare greatly, rise strong, and brave the wilderness. Now, she's showing us how to put those ideas into practice so we can step up and lead. Contact Gail Johnson at gailjohnson417@gmail.com or 612-250-1736.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Weekly gatherings for the Chancel Choir and all who wish to join! If you are new to choir contact Paige at parmstrong@richfieldumc.org.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OTHER UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES:

ORIGIN, OWNERSHIP, & ONWARD

January 3-February 14

DAY BY DAY

February 21-April 4

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

April 11-May 30

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

November 1

All Saints Day and
Daylight Saving Time Ends (“Fall Back”)

December 24

Christmas Eve
(Thursday this year)

January 31

Church Conference after worship

February 17

Ash Wednesday

March 14

Daylight Saving Time Begins
 (“Spring Forward”)

April 1

Maundy Thursday

April 2

Good Friday

April 3

Holy Saturday

April 4

Easter Sunday

May 23

Pentecost Sunday

June 6

Charge Conference

AN EVERYDAY PRAYER LIFE IS FOR EVERYONE

You are invited to devote time and energy to God and neighbor every day to pray for:

- Open minds and hearts for “conflux moments.” May all experience God in their lives.
- People in need of a loving church home. May they be embraced as beloved children of God.
- Our fellow MCCI churches. May the Spirit break through.
- Children near and far, all beloved of God. May all be shown safety, stability, and care.
- People facing the brokenness of inequities, poverty, loneliness, racism, toxic politics, complex family systems, and other pressing challenges amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. May all who do justice and love mercy rise up as active, partnered signs of God’s healing love.
- Our church’s people, elected leaders, paid staff, and partners. May the Spirit break through.
- Ourselves in this moment here and now. May we feel God’s creativity, Jesus’s hope, and the Holy Spirit’s call in our struggles, our celebrations, and our whole lives.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marybeth Stull, James Wegscheid, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Bev Crandall, Maxene Schwanke, Liam B., neighbor of Michele Wegscheid, John Darling, Phyllis Killam, Jan Falk, Sharon Keen’s sister-in-law, Barb Rogers, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, and Don Morrow.

Prayers for Comfort:

Hans Olson, father of Dale Olson, and all those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- The family and friends of Margaret Kersteter as they grieve her death. A service was held on Sunday, October 11 and is available to view at youtube.com/richfieldumc.
- CFC staff Kathy Colberg, her father, Jim, and her siblings on the passing of her mother, Genese Colberg.
- Laurel Lien and her family in the passing of her nephew, David.

WHAT DO THE CANDLES IN OUR ADVENT WREATH MEAN?

From umc.org (Ask the UMC FAQ)

The Advent wreath was originally a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Although many symbols have been attributed to it since that time, it was originally intended as a way to mark the Advent season and the weeks until Christmas.

Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.



As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, adaptations were needed for the larger worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more specialized than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other decor in the sanctuary. Purple (and more recently blue) has become the basic color of the candles to coordinate with color of the paraments used during this season.

As Advent wreaths changed from practical private use to the more symbolic context of public worship, it became important for the candles to have meaning rather than simply mark time and add light. Ceremonies were developed around the lighting of the candles each week.

In time there was an effort, largely spurred by church supply houses that sold the special candles and wreaths, to provide a particular meaning to each candle. The themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace became popular, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. However, the historic theme of Advent is more broad and deep than any one-word theme can capture.

So what are we to say, then, about the meaning of the Advent wreath today? We can still draw meaning from its original home use: to mark time while increasing light. Advent, the first season of the Christian year, is all about time. We await the day described in Revelation 21:23 when, "The city doesn't need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." At Christmas we celebrate that in Christ, "The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world" (John 1:9).

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, January 31 at 10:45 am
online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 875-9045-5078, Passcode: 5835

There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and vote on the 2021 budget as presented by the elected leaders of your Finance Team and affirmed by the elected leaders of your Ad Board.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP POSTPONED TO 2021

The clergy of our ecumenical cohort of churches have decided to postpone this wonderful tradition for 2020. We hope to return next year, thank you for understanding.



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Heartline

Keeping in touch with the heart of the
Richfield United Methodist Church faith community.

**Worship online,
Sundays at 9:30 am**
[http://youtube.com/
richfieldumc.](http://youtube.com/richfieldumc)

*Please join your church in
praying the Breakthrough
Prayer daily at 8:35.*

OUR BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving God of all,
renew our hearts and minds.

Reveal your wildest dreams,
breakthrough to each of us.

Unite us in your vision,
equip us for your work.

Transform us by your song,
create our harmony.

May we embrace your future
and be your loving church.

Amen.

Richfield United Methodist Church

Website: richfieldumc.org **Phone:** (612) 861-6086

Facebook: facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch **Twitter:** twitter.com/RichfieldUMC