

Heartline

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

2021
January/February



Lent Devotional
Submissions Sought
Page 5

Music Ministry
Page 5

Drive-Thru Joy
February 14
Page 5

Music Ministry:
Guest Musicians in
January
Page 5

New classes
Page 6-7

Youth Ministry
Page 8

Children's Ministry
Page 9

Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
Page 11

Lunch and Learn
Page 12



Going Forward with God

2020 was a rough year in many respects, yet God was with us. And God is with us as we step boldly into 2021. And God has been with us all our days. This January, we begin a new worship series, **Origin, Ownership, & Onward**, to recognize what made us into who we are today, acknowledge we can live the life God wants for us, and move forward as beloved children of God into the future. Read more on page 3.

NATE NOTE



Allow me to be among the first to welcome you to a new year. May you feel God's blessings every day, my friends. I don't know about you, but I've already typed out "2020," then deleted "0" and replaced it with "1" several times as I create content for 2021. I don't

write a lot of checks anymore, but perhaps you feel my pain! I had to smile as I thought of entering the new year. It was not that long ago the notion of 2020 and beyond felt like the far future. And yet, here we are, a new decade dawns and we are in this together, anchored by the love of God.

The question of where we are headed next is complex and leads to more questions. It is a time of many kinds of talk in the air, from vaccinations to timelines to protocols. If my theology allowed for crystal balls, I'd take a look (assuming I can afford a good name-brand one) and see what's to come. But that's not how this really works, is it? We are continuing into 2021 on an open-ended timeline with the suspension of in-person worship and ministries on campus. Your Regathering Taskforce, empowered by the elected leaders of your Ad Board, continues to meet and survey the latest trends and news as we navigate uncharted waters. At the time of this writing, a next step includes a new churchwide survey similar to the one we conducted six months ago to help your church leadership discern next steps. When you see the survey announced, please be sure to participate, thank you.

In the meantime, this is a time to be grateful. I've always been a "silver linings" kind of person. At least, I have since I've made conscious efforts to lay cynicism aside and embrace faith in the love of Jesus. While I miss seeing friends and I miss going to the movies and I miss not worrying if Target looks too crowded for comfort, I am grateful. I have more time with my family than ever, thanks be to God. I am taking time and energy for self-care, thanks be to God. And I am enjoying getting back in the kitchen to cook, thanks be to God. What about you? Though this is hard, what have been your personal "silver linings"?

While it's hard for campus to be so closed down, I see silver linings here, too. I am grateful we have been able to continue operations for Caring for Children early learning center. As detailed in my statement dated November 13 (available at

richfieldumc.org/statements) we had to close operations for one week due to confirmed COVID-19 cases, yet staff and families persevered, thanks be to God. I am grateful paid staff are able to continue work at home whenever possible and safely do essential tasks on-campus as we keep foot traffic in the building to a minimum, thanks be to God. And I am grateful the worship team continues to do good work and be both innovative and adaptable for the duration, thanks be to God. What have been your silver linings even though campus is closed?

And I am so grateful for you. I am grateful you have taken part in recent food and health supply drives for our neighbors in need across the Twin Cities metro, thanks be to God. I am grateful you have stepped up for opportunities to serve like the drive-thru Trunk-or-Treat and Drive-Thru Joy, thanks be to God. I am grateful you have participated in opportunities to grow like the many small groups, Lunch & Learn, and speaker events we've had, thanks be to God. I am grateful you have returned a large number of Annual Giving Commitment letters, thanks be to God. I am grateful for the care and prayer you have given one another in times of celebration and times of challenge, thanks be to God. And I am grateful that you have been inviting people to worship with you and we had new people experience Christmas Eve worship as Richfield United Methodist Church, thanks be to God! What have been your silver linings about how the church is remaining the church?

In worship, we are trying out some new experimentation. We've added a third PTZ camera which we hope continues to smooth out the worship experience. Some of the people who took part in Worship Leader Boot Camp are coming on board as Liturgists in worship, too, writing "Prayers of the People" and taking on other leadership roles. If you missed the fall class, the next session is on Tuesdays in February. And we're adding more of you, so be sure to submit a video of yourself leading the Breakthrough Prayer to be presented in worship. It will be nice to have more opportunities to see and interact with one another, and Café-O-Rama continues on first and third Sundays into the foreseeable future for that post-worship coffee time. I am grateful for all of these connections, thanks be to God.

Friends, may you step into 2021 with gratitude in your hearts for all that God is and all that God is doing, even in the midst of the chaos. May we begin each day with a simple one-word

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 OPEN 2021



ORIGIN, OWNERSHIP, & ONWARD

January 3-February 14

All of us have an origin story, the context from where we came and became the people we are today. In this story is our identity - all the pieces that make up the whole of our being. Many are out of our control, some we were raised into, and others we chose. We take this mosaic of being, lifting up the blessing of intersectionality, and thank God for all the ways we are in conflux in this story together. **We look around and see how we go forward with God.**

January 3

Where We Come From & Where We Are Going
John 1:1-18

January 10

What We Receive & What We Do with It
Mark 1:4-11

January 17

What We Expect & What We Find
John 1:43-51

January 24

Who We Bring & Who We Are
Mark 1:14-20

January 31

How We Suffer & How We Heal
Mark 1:21-28

February 7

When We're Stuck & When We Go
Mark 1:29-39

February 14

Why We Live & Why We Act
Mark 9:2-9



DAY BY DAY

February 21-March 28

Every day is a chance to see Jesus more clearly, love Jesus more dearly, and follow Jesus more nearly. Lent is the season of spiritual practice that leads to the cross of Good Friday and the resurrection on Easter Sunday. We take this journey trying on new methods of living our faith out loud so that we may more closely follow our beloved, holy teacher. **We try on, guided by the Holy Spirit on the journey we take.**

February 17

Day of Piety (Ash Wednesday)
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21

Day of Choice
Mark 1:9-15

February 28

Day of Commitment
Mark 8:31-38

March 7

Day of Truth
John 2:13-22

March 14

Day of Birth
John 3:14-21

March 21

Day of Death
John 12:20-33

March 28

Holy Daylight
Mark 11:1-11

Save the date for the concluding METHODS worship series: SCOPE & SEQUENCE - April 4-May 30

NATE NOTE

➤Continued from 2

prayer, “Thanks,” and may it be the spark that keeps the Holy Spirit flame lit in us all our days. I miss you, I am grateful for you, and I am proud to be your pastor!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

CAFÉ-O-RAMA

1st and 3rd Sundays by 10:45 am

online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137,

Passcode: 5835

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

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!

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND GATHERINGS:

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

SUBMIT A VIDEO FOR WORSHIP

You are invited to send in a video of you leading the Breakthrough Prayer. We want more of you leading worship and this is your opportunity to be in a liturgist role. All worshipers are welcome, so get that smart phone ready and submit yours today. Here are the submission guidelines. The more you follow them, the better your video will be:

1. Please shoot your video in horizontal format (widescreen, left and right, like your TV) with you off-center so we can put in the words to the Breakthrough Prayer (think of how they put the square image to the right of a newscaster reading headlines).
2. Please use a tripod so your footage is stable, if possible.
3. Please have enough light in your room so the image is bright and you don’t have distracting shadows on your face.
4. Please record in a quiet, neutral space free of background noise and visual distractions.
5. Please record your video in high-resolution in the .mp4, .m4v, or .mov file format.
6. Please give yourself at least two seconds at the beginning before you speak and two seconds after you speak to help the editing process.
7. Please speak slowly and clearly so people will understand what you have to say.
8. Please present a friendly yet prayerful tone.
9. Please review your video for both sound and image quality before you submit it.
10. Please submit your video to Pastor Nate (nmelcher@richfieldumc.org) via email attachment, Google Drive, or Dropbox.

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.

SUBMIT YOUR MATERIAL FOR THE LENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Building on the success of the new Advent daily devotional, your church returns to the tradition of creating a Lent 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 all-original collection.

The Lent theme this year is **Day by Day**. We are focusing on “trying on” spiritual practices to put our faith into action. Some will fit, others won’t, and the experience as a whole will see us turn belief in Jesus into action for Jesus day by day.

You are invited to write a short reflection for your church’s Lent devotional booklet about this. Maybe you have a time you had to make a **choice** and felt God present. Or you had to make a **commitment** to your ethics. Perhaps you found **truth** in a teaching of Jesus in your own life. Or you experienced new **birth** in a spiritual practice. **Death** sometimes brings new life. And maybe you have even found a way to share your faith in broad **daylight**.

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 January 31** to nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

Print copies of the Lent devotional will be available at Drive-Thru Joy on February 14 and in our Noah’s Ark Free Little Library. Daily entries will be posted on our [Facebook page](#) every day of Lent, so be sure to “Like” the page and select “See First,” too.



DRIVE-THRU JOY

Sunday, February 14 at 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
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.

Drop-Off:

- Food and health supplies for neighbors in crisis

Pick-Up:

- The latest issue of the Upper Room devotional
- A Lent daily devotional made up of member submissions
- Other supplies for Lent

MUSIC MINISTRY

To help us celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, We are welcoming two extraordinary Twin Cities performers to our Sunday services, both of whom Victor Zupanc, our Living Waters Worship Coordinator, has worked with many times in various theaters. On January 10 we will have the honor of hearing the amazing singer Greta Oglesby sing in our Sanctuary. She will join the Living Waters band as she sings special music honoring the life of Dr. King. On January 17, MLK weekend, we are honored to welcome the incredible T Mychael Rambo who will regale us with his golden voice as we pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King. Don't miss these two very special services.

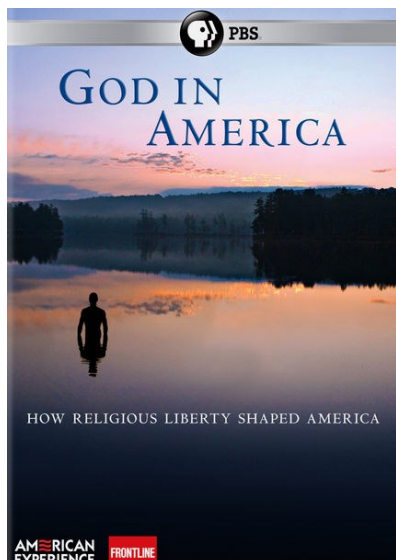
Greta Oglesby

<https://americanplayers.org/about/people/greta-oglesby>

T Mychael Rambo

<https://www.compas.org/artists/t-mychael-rambo>

CLASSES BEGINNING IN JANUARY



DOC-O-RAMA: GOD IN AMERICA

Sundays in Epiphany

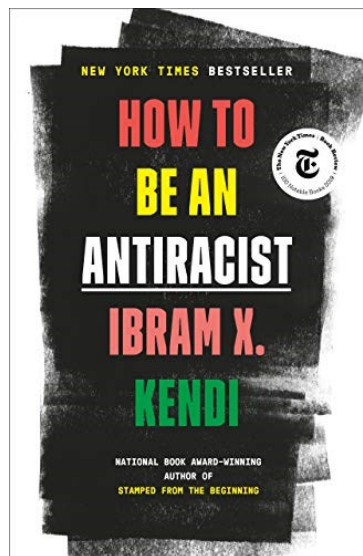
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7

7:00pm-8:30pm online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 857-7778-2442 Passcode: 5835

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

Join Pastor Nate and others to watch and discuss this 6-part documentary that dives into the origins of organized religion in North America. A co-production of American Experience and Frontline, [God in America](https://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/view) is a fascinating PBS documentary with compelling reenactments, historical footage, and candid interviews. Topics include colony days, the “Founding Fathers,” Methodist camp meetings, the Civil War, the Scopes Monkey Trial, the rise of Billy Graham and Martin Luther King, and today’s reality of multiculturalism. Watch together live via Zoom or watch on your own before the discussion: [pbs.org/godinamerica/view](https://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/view) (also available to stream free for [Amazon Prime members](https://www.amazon.com/prime))



BOOK STUDY:

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

Mondays in Epiphany

January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 8

7:00pm online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546

No Passcode needed

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

Ibram X. Kendi’s breakthrough bestseller, [How to Be an Antiracist](https://www.penguin.com/books/9780525561686), has become the unofficial “required reading” for all seeking racial reconciliation in this nation. Hailed as the “most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind,” this book has several short chapters on a variety of subjects related to racism, including how to confront one’s own racism and do better. The first meeting features a video of one of Kendi’s talks, then book discussion begins.

To RSVP, please contact Gail Johnson: gailjohnson417@gmail.com.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Members who use offering envelopes will receive them by postal mail. By mid to late December 2020, you should have received your January through March 2021 envelopes. You will receive a package of envelopes for every quarter through the end of 2021. This method will provide ease in giving to support the ministries of RUMC. If you do not receive your envelopes by early January, please contact Kathy Gertsema (kgertsema@richfieldumc.org) in the business office.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, January 31

10:45 am online by Zoom

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

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

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. All worshipers may attend and members have vote.

CLASSES BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY

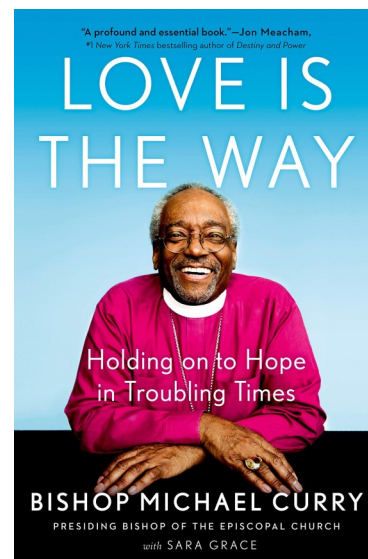


WORSHIP LEADER BOOT CAMP WORKSHOP RETURNS

Tuesdays in February
February 2, 9, 16, 23
7:00pm online by Zoom
Meeting ID: 819-9039-0338, Passcode: 5835

The first fall workshop was a big hit and we're back for a new round! Your church is seeking liturgists for worship, both live and prerecorded as people feel safe and comfortable. Relying on his experience as a preacher and college English instructor, Pastor Nate will lead you through the elements of worship, how to address the camera, shooting your own video footage, workshop writing prayers, and help write one of his upcoming sermons. All experience levels welcome.

To RSVP, please contact Rev. Nate Melcher:
nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612.399.6272.



BOOK & VIDEO STUDY: LOVE IS THE WAY

Fridays in Lent
February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2
10:00am online by Zoom
Meeting ID: 835-1679-2663 Passcode: 5835
Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

The popular book study we did in Advent is back for another round! Bishop Michael Curry's beloved new book [*Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*](#), is a memoir filled with examples of seeing the love of God even in the most dire straits. In Lent, many churches across the Minnesota Annual Conference will be doing this study, too, and the District Superintendents will have a series of fresh videos highlighting each chapter to further group discussion.

For more information, contact co-leaders Kate Currie: katecurrie2@gmail.com and Meg Spicher: mmspicher19@gmail.com

REGATHERING TASKFORCE: NEW CHURCH SURVEY

In January, the Regathering Taskforce will send a new survey to hear the voice of the people as we continue on an open-ended timeline for when your church will return to in-person worship and ministry. The taskforce will take in your thoughts as your elected leaders discern our next steps. The survey window will be announced in a January worship service and by email. Similar to the

July survey six months ago, you will be asked to take this online or be in contact with Kay Bergeland, Parish Nurse, if you are not able to take it online and need assistance. Thank you for lending your voice!



Youth

Garrett Johnson
Youth Leader

gjohnson@richfieldumc.org



Happy New Year Youth Families

2020 was a year that most of us will never forget. We had to be flexible and learn to adapt to a new way of life. I wanted to give you a big thank you for your adaptability to our youth ministry programming. Whether you have been logging into our weekly youth zoom meetings or attended our virtual mission trip, your continued support of our youth programming has been extremely appreciated. I know that none of this has been ideal but none of this would have been possible without your support, so a big thank you to all of you!

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 others 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.

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

Online Sunday School has been so much fun that we will be continuing with that this spring! There will continue to be Cafe-o-Rama at 10:45 following worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and Sunday School will be at 10:45 following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. I look forward to seeing our families at any of these online meetings to gather with age specific activities, or as a whole church body with intergenerational conversations.

We are looking for ways to include children in our worship leadership once again! We would love for children and families to submit videos for Sharing of the Peace and our Breakthrough Prayer in worship during this season. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to participate in this way!

Sunday School Dates:

- Sunday, January 10
- Sunday, January 24
- Sunday, February 14
- Sunday, February 28
- Sunday, March 14
- Sunday, March 28

Save the Date: Easter Egg Hunt March 27



With the ever-changing safety conditions surrounding the pandemic, we are not quite sure what the Easter Egg Hunt will look like this year. However, one thing we do know is that we will do something because nothing can cancel the joy of Easter. Save the date for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27. Details about the event will become available as the safety conditions become clearer.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Christmas in the world of a child is full of wonder and excitement. This year, the fun and excitement was still there for our children at CFC, but we sure did have to get a bit creative to keep everyone safe. We had a lot of fun doing our annual Christmas Pageant, we just did it in front of a camera instead of a live audience. In the time of Covid, our children have learned to be more intentional in their play and social activities and that is not easy with a child that is under five, but we did it. We got through 2020! We enter the New Year with hallways once again filled with the laughter of children with hope that 2021 will be a much better year for everyone.

-Catherine Mahler, CFC Director

Families Moving Forward

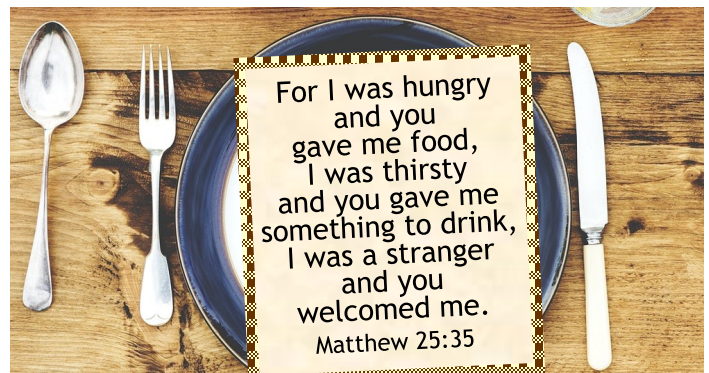


SAVE THE DATE: FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD MEAL HOSTS

April 11-17

[Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative](#) continues to house Families Moving Forward in hotels and motels and is relying on churches to provide meals on a rotating basis.

Our church is in the rotation the week of April 11-17. Stay tuned for how to be involved in this critical ministry of enacting Matthew 25 and feeding the hungry!



BECOME A “DIGITAL SUPERFAN” OF YOUR CHURCH!

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

1. 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 have grown to **334** subscribers; can you help your church reach **350** subscribers before Easter?

2. 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](https://www.facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch) 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 have grown to **489** people who like our Page. Can you help us reach **500** before Easter?



3. 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](https://www.youtube.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch) 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 have grown to **275** subscribers. Can you help your church reach **300** before Easter?

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!

TRUST GOD'S STORY Stewardship Campaign Update

Your commitment to trust God's story with and through your church makes ministry happen. It's clear you love your church and are excited to play your role to help make ministry thrive into 2021 and beyond. In 2020, 94 households



made an Annual Giving Commitment with a combined 6% increase in estimated giving over 2019. At the time of this writing, 84 households have returned an Annual Giving Estimate for 2021, thanks be to God! This includes new giving households and other households who give regularly and have decided to take the bold step of making a commitment. Our 2021 goal is 100 household commitments. You can be part of your church's goal, and thank you.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kathy Gertsema at kgertsema@richfieldumc.org or Pastor Nate Melcher at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.



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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 17 at 7:00pm

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

EPIPHANY AND LENT

The Epiphany (Manifestation) of the Lord (January 6), an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Today we celebrate the coming of the three wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child. This year Epiphany will be celebrated on Sun., Jan. 3.



The season after the Epiphany is a season of Ordinary Time. It is ordinary in that it stands between the two great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost and has no central theme.

The first Sunday, this year January 10, focuses on the Baptism of Christ. That Sunday celebrates Christ's baptism by John and reminds all Christians of our one baptism. Mark 1:4-11

The Last Sunday before Lent, this year on February 14, recalls Christ's transfiguration on the mountain with Elijah and Moses. Mark 9:2-9

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on February 17. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The use of Ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

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FROM THE PARISH NURSE

LUNCH AND LEARN ONLINE SERIES



**Talking About Death Won't Kill You:
The Conversation is More Important
Now Than Ever**

**Thursday, January 14th, from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
(via zoom or phone)**

Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835

Call-In: 312.626.6799, then enter Meeting ID and
Passcode (standard rates may apply)

In this time of medical uncertainty, what matters most to you? Have you talked to your family about what you would want if you got really sick? This is no longer an abstract question - COVID-19 makes it a real possibility for all of us. Today, the health of our whole community is threatened.

The Rev. Edward Holland, a retired hospice chaplain and marriage and family therapist, has worked for many years to encourage people to talk to their loved ones and decision-makers regularly especially as their health changes. With Ed's help, our January Zoom "Lunch and Learn" will give you an opportunity to consider some important questions: Have you completed a Health Care Directive? When was the last time you reviewed your directive? When was the last time you discussed your medical treatment preferences with your physician; your decision-makers; your loved ones? If you were to contract the coronavirus in your current health condition, would you want to be hospitalized? Would you want to be on a ventilator? These questions and more will be addressed. Join us because "it's always too soon until it's too late" to have the conversation.

The Rev. Edward Holland served as the Coordinator of Spiritual Care and Grief Support with Park Nicollet Methodist Hospice in Minneapolis, a program he helped to create in 1979. Ed is also a United Methodist minister and more recently serves as a member of MN Interfaith clergy for End of Life Options, a Compassion and Choices advocacy group.

Save the Date: Lunch and Learn Online Series

**Thursday, February 11th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (via
zoom or by phone)**

Program to be announced at a later date

COVID - 19: EMERGENCY HOME ACTION PLAN

We know what to do if we hear the piercing wail of a tornado siren. We have been encouraged to

make a fire escape plan. And during a Minnesota winter, we know how to keep safe when a blizzard howls across our city. It is now critically important to be prepared for any emergency at home involving COVID-19. Get your household ready for COVID-19 by planning and making decisions now that will protect you, your family, and those in your community.

Stay informed and in touch.

- Get up-to-date information about local COVID-19 activity from public health officials.
- Create an emergency contact list including family, friends, neighbors, carpool drivers, healthcare providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department, and other community resources.
- Have a current list of your medications and any known allergies available to share with your health care provider and family members if needed.

Prepare for possible illness.

- Consider whether those at higher risk for severe illness, particularly older adults and those of any age who have severe underlying health conditions, can stay in another house while you are sick.
- Choose a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Talk to your pharmacist and stock up on prescription and over-the-counter medications, such as fever reducers and cough suppressants. Contact your pharmacy about delivery service options.
- Have health and emergency medical supplies on hand, such as a working thermometer, hand soap, at least 60% alcohol-based sanitizer, hearing aid batteries, disposable diapers, and hygiene products.
- Stock up on household items like disinfectant cleaning supplies, single-use latex or nitrile rubber gloves, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues.
- Have a two week supply of nonperishable food at home, including fluids with electrolytes. Also consider the need for extra baby food or formula and pet food.
- Understand alternative ways to safely

get groceries if needed, such as grocery delivery services, curbside pick-up services, or make arrangements to have a safe delivery of food from people you know.

- Find someone to take care of your pets if required.

If someone in your home is sick.

- If possible, have the person who is sick use a separate bedroom and bathroom. Sleep in a different bed, where possible.
- Ask through the door, how they are doing; consider a video call if appropriate.
- If sharing a bathroom, the person who is sick should clean and then disinfect after each use. If this is not possible, wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has been in the bathroom before coming to clean and use the bathroom yourself.
- If you have to share space, make sure the room has good airflow by opening the window (if you are able and weather permitting) to increase air circulation. Wear a mask, along with the sick person, if in the same room and stay at least 6 feet away from each other.
- The person who is sick should eat in their own room, if possible. If they can get out of bed, put the food and drinks on a tray and leave outside their door and then walk away.
- Do not share any personal items such as dishes, cups/glasses, silverware, towels, bedding or electronics with the person who is sick.
- Handle any dishes, cups/glasses, or silverware used by the person who is sick with gloves. Wash them with soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Clean hands properly after taking off gloves or handling used items. Use these same precautions with laundry, and wash their clothes, towels, and bedding separately from anyone else's, using the warmest water/dry setting you can.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your unwashed hands.
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards,

tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe.

Care for children in the event of COVID-19.

- Every family should have a backup plan for childcare in the event one parent, both parents, or other caregivers become ill.
- Keep in mind that immunocompromised adults or grandparents over 60 years of age are at increased risk for severe illness, so consider other adult relatives like aunts or uncles, or close family friends as possible caregivers.
- With one sick parent in a home with another caregiver, the sick person should remain isolated in a room with a closed door and follow above suggestions.
- Understand that all household members may have been exposed and could potentially become ill later.

Quarantine.

- If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should stay at home and not go to work, school, public areas, or use public transport.
- Although many experts are recommending 14 days of self-quarantine, the decision of when to discontinue these measures should be made in consultation with your doctor and state and local health departments.
- Tell any of your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 2 days before the person has any symptoms or tests positive. By doing this, you are helping to protect everyone.

If you or someone you live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19, monitor symptoms closely. The CDC recommends seeking emergency medical care immediately with the presence of any of these emergency warning signs : Trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake, and; bluish lips or face. Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19. As this list is not a complete list of all possible symptoms, the CDC also suggests calling your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



THANK YOU FROM VEAP

Dear Richfield UMC,

This has been the most unique year I've ever experienced, both personally as well as professionally. And in that uniqueness, I have seen and experienced some amazingly positive things at VEAP-- thanks in part to all of your support.

The hard work and commitment of our partners, donors, staff and volunteers have helped us meet the significant increase in need in our neighborhoods and communities in 2020.

VEAP has provided healthy and nourishing food, as well as rental and utilities payments to more than 7,500 families in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and Minneapolis... That's more than 23,000 children, teens, adults and seniors receiving the assistance they desperately need right now. I'm happy to say we're on pace to distribute 5 million pounds of food for the year, with 50% of that being fresh produce, our biggest year yet. Remarkably, our social services team has issued \$2.5 million in rental assistance grants in response to the great need that has arisen from the pandemic.

None of this work would happen without the incredible support of our many faith communities. I cannot thank you all enough.

Joe McDonald, VEAP CEO

THANK YOU

Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, and cards. I am recovering nicely from hip surgery.

-Beverly Crandall

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, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Falk, Sharon Keen's sister-in-law, Barb Rogers, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Becca Whitaker, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Robert McCoy, Dick Novak, Linda Novak, Ruth Davis, and John Meeker.

Prayers for Comfort:

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

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- Betty Bosch and her family in the death of Betty's mother, Anna.
- Sandra Overland and loved ones as they grieve the death of Sandra's mother, Marilyn Overland. Read Marilyn's [obituary here](#). Read a letter Sandra wrote to the Star Tribune [here](#).
- The family and friends of Norma Luettinger who passed away on November 12. A private family service was held Monday, November 23. Read Norma's [obituary here](#).
- Sandy Nelson and the family and friends of Rev. Jim Nelson. Rev. Nelson passed away November 15. A memorial service will be at a later date. Read Jim's [obituary here](#).
- Jack Exline and the family and friends of Jeanne Exline who passed away November 14. A memorial will be at a later date. Please respect Jack's privacy and only contact him by email or postal mail at this time. Read Jeanne's [obituary here](#).

CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays 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

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply) Each week this winter, 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 1:30-3:00 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. The next meetings and books are:

January 4 - Sue Monk Kidd's "The Book of Longings."

February 1 - "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson. To join by Zoom, email both Fern Albertson (WFalbertson@gmail.com) and Molly Reko (mollyreko@gmail.com).

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.

HAPPY JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

January

Rexanne Warner	01
Devin Teal	03
Lynn Borgeson	04
Alex Restemayer	07
Inez Gustafson	08
Promise Williams	10
John Wittenborg	12
Terry Bumgarner	13
JoAn Hanson	14
Christie Neuger	14
Mariah Norberg	14
Gavin Locke	15
Jerry Schilling	15
Ann Johnson	16
Makenzie Lambert	16
Dorthea Doty	17
Liam Knuttila-Tanhoff	18
Olivia Knuttila-Tanhoff	18
Beverly Borneman	19
Maya Mendez-Haines	19
Nakia Neal	19
Win Neuger	19
Meg Spicher	19
Steven Gieseke	20
Laura Gilmore	23
Hope Hutchison	23
Anne Ruona	24
Renee Jackson	25
Paul Pieper	25
Molly Reko	25
Phyllis Olson	26
Lucas Bengtson	27
David Oliver	29
Jane Parry	29
Vicki Sells	29
Phyllis Killam	30
Christina Loge	30
Dorothy Holland	31

February

Ronny Doncavage	02	Peggy Hamilton	15
Daniella Callahan	03	Declan Larson	15
Devon Olson	04	Jessica Gieseke	16
Bill Johnson	06	Bea Melcher	17
Lori Claussen	07	Connie Gillespie	18
Cynthia Knutson	07	Steve Warner	19
Ron Larson	07	John Watne	20
Lois Schatschneider	07	Betty Friesen	23
Katie Labelle	09	Sandra Williams	25
Jennifer Teal	09	Dorothy DeFreese	26
Taylor Currie	10		
Sharon Gardner	13		



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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

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