

Heartline

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

2021
March/April



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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.

Blessings to you on your Lenten journey.

Opportunities in Lent

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am at <http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>
or by phone. Please see page 11 for details.

A daily devotional is available to you with contributions written by members and friends of Richfield UMC. An electronic copy is available at richfieldumc.org/devo or follow RUMC on Facebook to enjoy the daily posts there, facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch.

“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”
Video discussion
Mondays in Lent at 7:00 pm online by Zoom
See page 6 for more information.

Book & Video Study: Love Is the Way
Fridays in Lent at 10:00am online by Zoom
See page 6 for more information.

Continuing open Groups include Men’s and women’s Bible Studies book groups, and choir. See page 15 for more information about these groups.

NATE NOTE



If we're going to keep Daylight Savings Time, perhaps it should stop happening as Saturday becomes Sunday in the wee hours. I mean, when we "spring forward" as we will before worship on March 14, as a pastor I could really use that

hour and I'm not sure I ever get it back, even as we "fall back" months later. I propose if we keep DST, we move it to Fridays at 4:00 pm. Wrap up that end of the day and get to the weekend a little quicker instead of shorten it. This year, DST falls smackdab in the middle of Lent, one of the seasons of the church. Spring will be just around the corner, as will Easter, and we will be hungry for more daylight by then as we approach the day of the empty tomb.

I used to think Lent was for other people. Then I discovered it's a gift for me, as well. There appeared to be many people in my life trying on new practices in the six weeks leading into Easter, and even more who would give up a practice. I've known people who pick up a daily scripture reading habit, or set down a daily soda pop habit. Others who try new workouts, or others who set aside extra sweets (a good combination!). I've even known someone who said every day in Lent they're going to breathe. Well, obviously they always breathe, but now they were going to do what they could to notice it and be grateful for it. Whether trying on something new or letting something go, in either case part of the thrill was to see if they could stick with it, and part of the thrill was to see if they can continue beyond Lent. It's fun to root people on in their own pursuit of self-improvement through their faith. And I will be rooting you on this Lent, friends.

While it's good to root on someone else, it's even better to root for yourself. Aside from Jesus, you should be your own biggest fan, yes? Though we often get in our own way, if we're not careful. We fill up our calendars for everyone else, put off our own development, or even worse, figure "This is fine." The concept of being a lifelong learner continues to grow in popularity and my hope is you use your season of Lent to exercise this holy healthy habit. Try on a spiritual practice, see how it

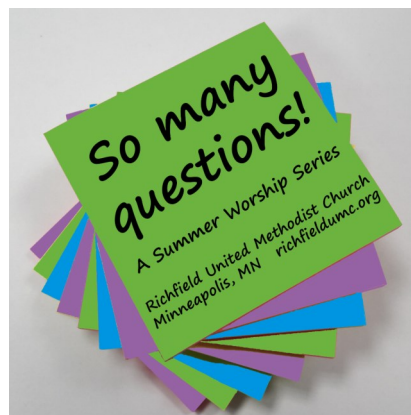
fits. Who knows? You may look quite good in it! And make no mistake, sharing with people can be good if it's to grant you better accountability (leave the "show off" motivations at the door). After all, people want to see you succeed, to be in your corner. Remember how good it is to root for people?

In this month's issue of the *Heartline* newsletter, you will find a series of items and events that are for you. There are worship series, small group studies, devotionals, service and volunteer opportunities, special events, even a chance to send in a video or a question or bring a little food to share. Your church is not just sitting around in this time, we are active in God's Holy Spirit! I hope you find something here in this list isn't just for other people. That something - perhaps more than one thing - is for you, too. Everyone in this church wants you to succeed, to root you on. Come and see. Come and share. Come and be with Jesus and your friends, new and old. Blessings to you.

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR THE "SO MANY QUESTIONS!" SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

The popular summer worship series returns! We have **so many questions** about God, the Bible, faith, church, and life. Richfield UMC is a safe place to wonder together! This spring, please submit your questions about the above topics and your preaching team will do their best to offer a response to as many as possible this summer. **Please email your question(s) to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org by Easter Sunday, April 4, and thanks!**



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.



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

April 1: Holy Dusk (Maundy Thursday)

John 13:1-18, 31b-35

April 2: Holy Twilight (Good Friday)

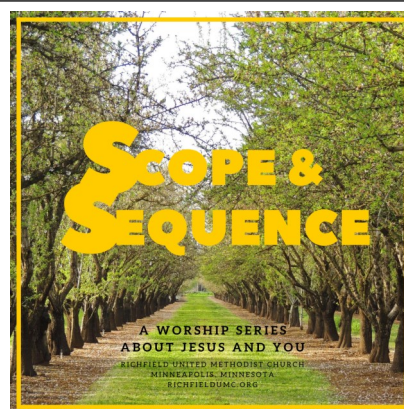
John 18:1-19:42

April 3: Holy Midnight (Easter Vigil)

Matthew 27:57-66

April 4: Holy Dawn (Easter Sunday)

Mark 16:1-8



SCOPE & SEQUENCE

April 11-May 30

The final mini-series in our one-year worship series **METHODS**, “Scope & Sequence” takes its title from the academic world. The “scope” is the areas of development students work on in their curriculum and the “sequence” is the plan by which that development rolls out. When our curriculum is the life and teachings of Jesus, we see the broad scope of his teachings to put into our lives and we build them one upon another in sequence. In this series, we experience Jesus by word and deed empowering us to develop faith lived out loud. **We go forth, and Jesus leads the way.**

April 11: Jesus and Peace

John 20:19-31

April 18: Jesus and Presence

Luke 24: 36b-48

April 25: Jesus and Care

John 10:11-18

May 2: Jesus and Ethics

John 15:1-8

May 9: Jesus and Love

John 15:19-27

May 16: Jesus and Trust

John 17:6-19

May 23: Jesus and Community

Acts 2:1-21

May 30: Jesus and Voice

Psalms 29

MUSIC MINISTRY—VIRTUAL CHOIRS!

Have you ever wondered how virtual choir performances are made? Some think it is simply a recording of people singing online, but it is actually a highly technical, intensive, and involved process! Since there is no technology that can allow singers to sing together simultaneously from different locations, choirs everywhere have turned to the "virtual choir" to sing "together" and to share their music with others.

It is a multi-step process that utilizes technology in each step! First, the director transforms the music into a digital format in which the singers can see a video of the director conducting while the background music is playing, a singer singing their part, and the music is scrolling across the screen. The singers use this video to learn their parts (often, on their own!) in preparation for participating in the virtual choir. Next, the singers each use these videos and their own recording/video technology to make individual recordings of their part. Then, the director spends time layering each individual video into special software and lines up every video and audio file with the accompaniment. From start to end, each video takes anywhere from 20 - 50 hours to create!

In the end, you have a beautiful video of faces and voices combined together in song! So next time you get to see the Chancel Choir in virtual performance, know that the choir members learned many new skills and took the time to make the beautiful music to share with you!

Wishing you all safety and health!
-Paige Armstrong, Chancel Choir Director



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.

FOOD DRIVE AND PALM PICK-UP

Sunday, March 21 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Worshippers and members can drive by campus after worship to drop off food and health supply donations for our long-standing mission partner, VEAP Food Pantry, and pick-up a live palm branch that you can wave at home for Palm Sunday the next week! VEAP will take any quality non-perishable food items, and they have some high-need items:

VEAP High-Need Items

- Laundry detergent and dish soap
- Cereal
- Cake mix, frosting, and candles for the return of the children's birthday program

Pick-Up:

- Live palm branches (treat as a cut flower, place in water until Palm Sunday)
- An Upper Room, Lent daily devotional, and/or Holy Week materials we still have remaining after the Drive-Thru Joy event in February.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021

RICHFIELDUMC.ORG



Palm Sunday | March 28, Online Worship at 9:30 am

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem for Passover. We join the ancient crowd who shouted with joy born of hope. Begin the Holy Week journey into Easter in this special worship service. Pick up your live palm at the church building on Sunday, March 21, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, and keep it fresh in water and be ready to wave it on Palm Sunday!

Maundy Thursday | April 1, Online Worship at 7:00 pm

We remember the special night when Jesus demonstrated a servant heart by washing his disciples' feet and sharing in the Last Supper as he gave them - and us - a "new commandment. You are invited to gather the elements for Holy Communion with care and delight.

Good Friday | April 2, Online Worship at 7:00 pm

A day draped in shadow, we acknowledge the pain and loss in our lives. This Tenebrae worship service of fading light touches upon the seven final words of Jesus in scripture and music as we behold all that is before us at the foot of the cross.

Holy Saturday | April 3, Online Worship at 7:00 pm / All Day

Unique times call for unique opportunities. There will be a time of prayerful worship together in the evening. At this time, preparation is underway for an extended online presentation throughout the day for prayer and contemplation.

Easter Day

Sunday, April 4, 9:30 am

Celebrate the risen Christ - the hope of the world! - with worship filled with brass, organ, scripture, confetti, and song!

OPPORTINITIES IN LENT

UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH A BLACK MAN



UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH A BLACK MAN

Mondays in Lent

February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7:00 - 8:15 pm online by Zoom

Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546

No password needed

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91073668546>

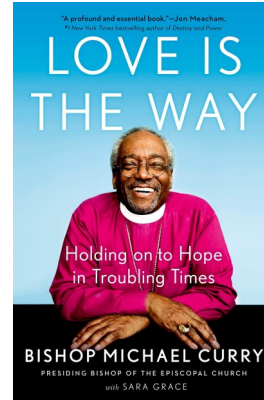
or by phone: call: 312 626 6799 (standard rates may apply)

This Social Justice Study Group will watch and discuss episodes from "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man."

In Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man, Emmanuel Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever. Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and “reverse racism.” In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both.

Emmanuel Acho is a Fox Sports Analyst. After earning his undergraduate degree in sports management in 2012, he was drafted into the NFL, spending off seasons at the University of Texas to earn his master’s degree in Sports Psychology. In 2016, Emmanuel left the football field and picked up the microphone to begin his broadcast career. In 2017, he and his family’s non-profit organization, Living Hope Christian Ministries, raised enough funds to build a hospital in rural Nigeria.

Each week the conversation will be unique making this an ideal drop in group. Come when you can. Contact Gail Johnson for more information. (gailjohnson417@gmail.com or 612-250-1736)



BOOK & VIDEO STUDY: LOVE IS THE WAY

Fridays in Lent

Feb. 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.

FOOD DRIVE (AND PALM PICK-UP)

As part of the Drive-thru Joy on March 21, see page 4, you can make a difference to our neighbors in need.

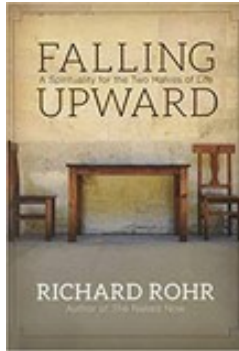
Sunday, March 21 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Worshippers and members can drive by campus after worship to drop off food and health supply donations for our long-standing mission partner, VEAP Food Pantry. VEAP will take any quality non-perishable food items, and they have some high-need items:

VEAP High-Need Items

- Laundry detergent and dish soap
- Cereal
- Cake mix, frosting, and candles for the return of the children’s birthday program

OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL



SATURDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP

New name—New Book—This is a great time to join the group.

**Saturdays, 10:30-11:45 am, online by Zoom
Beginning April 10**

Meeting ID: 910-7366-8546, no password needed
Join us at: <https://zoom.us/j/91073668546> (no password needed). Contact Gail Johnson, 612-250-1736 or gailjohnson417@gmail.com for more information.

We will read “Falling Upward” by Richard Rohr beginning April 10. We tackle chapters for as long as it takes to get as much as we can from them. Not everyone is there every time, but we try to be consistent.

Falling Upward by Richard Rohr

In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or “gone down” are the only ones who understand “up.” Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as “falling upward.” In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness.

- Explains why the second half of life can and should be full of spiritual richness
- Offers a new view of how spiritual growth happens? loss is gain
- Richard. Rohr is a regular contributing writer for Sojourners and Tikkun magazines

This important book explores the counterintuitive message that we grow spiritually much more by doing wrong than by doing right--a fresh way of thinking about spirituality that grows throughout life.

Read an invitation from the author. Go to goodreads.com/book/show/9963483-falling-upward, then click on the box labeled, “Open Preview” located under the cover photo.

Families Moving Forward

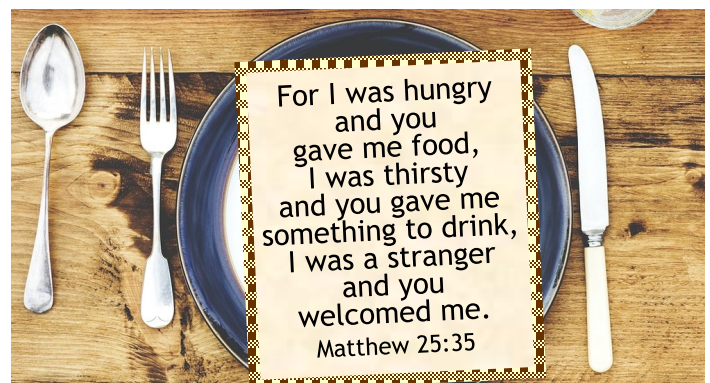


FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD MEAL HOSTS

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!



SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

July 18 - Lake Harriet Bandshell worship

CAFÉ-O-RAMA

1st and 3rd Sundays at 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!

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.

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES

Rev. Hope Hutchison
Dir. of Children & Family
Ministries
hhutchison@richfieldumc.org



We are so excited to have children in leadership roles in worship once again! If you have not already, please record a short video of your family Sharing the Peace for us to use in worship. We are also looking for more people to record themselves saying the Breakthrough Prayer for us to use in worship. Please let me know if you are interested in either of those, but need help!

We are also continuing our online Zoom Sunday school throughout this spring on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10:45 am. Summer Sunday school will also happen in some capacity, but the exact details will depend on safety, and our potential outdoor worship schedule. It has been a joy to continue to connect with our children as we all navigate this pandemic in different ways, and I look forward to continuing this throughout this season!

Looking forward to our annual events this spring and summer, we will still have our Easter Egg Hunt on March 27, but it will be a Drive Thru event. We are also planning for our summer movie nights, VBS and Community Carnival. These will all happen in some capacity this summer, but adaptations will have to be made depending on the current pandemic situation.

Future Sunday School Dates:

- Sunday, March 14
- Sunday, March 28
- Sunday, April 11
- Sunday, April 25
- Sunday, May 9
- Sunday, May 23

DRIVE THRU EASTER EGG HUNT!



Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We are unable to offer our traditional indoor hunt due to pandemic restrictions, however, we would love to invite you to our fun Drive Thru event! We will have Easter Egg Hunt Take Home Kits for every child, as well as a photo booth, and a fun no-contact carnival game to play with prizes! The event will be held in our parking lot on Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm

We will also need help from volunteers:

- Directing traffic, and handing out masks
- Collecting donations to VEAP
- Handing out prizes

If you are able to help bring some Easter joy to our neighborhood, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org with questions, or to volunteer go to <https://tinyurl.com/y52nxwrb>.

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

Vacation Bible School

July 12-16 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm

There is still so much we don't know about this summer, and how safe anything might be. With all of that in mind, we are tentatively planning for another all virtual VBS this summer. There will be options to join live sessions, or to watch the videos at a later time!

Summer Movie Nights

Wednesdays in July (July 7, 14, 21, 28) at dusk

We are hoping to have some outdoor movie nights this summer, so save the dates! All viewings will have strict social distancing, and some safe, pre-packaged snacks! We hope to see you there!

Community Carnival

August 21 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm

We hope that by this time, we will be able to have a safe, fun carnival outdoors!

WINTER FUN AT CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC) Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

We just finished the first two months of 2021. The teachers have done a great job planning and implementing their curriculum.

Our Pre-K kiddos had a blast, having their first sledding party. Our preschoolers have enjoyed finding nature items in the courtyard to bring back to class and paint. The toddlers and "twosies" were busy making valentines for their parents, and our infants spent time making art (with their feet) as they celebrated black history.

All the classrooms are looking forward to fun activities and crafts around St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

The teaching staff and I feel very thankful. As you know, we have been working in the church building to care for the children throughout the pandemic. Some of our parents work in essential fields such as nursing and law enforcement. We, as an early education-childcare center, were randomly chosen by the Minnesota Department of Health to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in January and February. What a blessing!

We (at CFC) wish you all well,
Kathy Newbauer, CFC Director





IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP!

The Minnesota Annual Conference has a ton of that traditional camp fun planned all while following the latest coronavirus safety standards from the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health. Camp may look a little different in 2021, but it's going to be a great summer!

Visit campminnesota.org to search for camps and get registered.

Register for camp at Koronis, Northern Pines or Kowakan on or before April 30th, and receive the Early Bird \$25 camp store credit that can be used for snacks at the canteen or items from the store during your time at camp.

Current COVID-19 safety guidelines include reductions to overall group size and camp capacity, so there will be less space in the summer camping events. ***If an event is full, you will be placed on a waitlist.*** But don't give up! As COVID-19 conditions change capacities will be adjusted upward and those on the waitlists will be registered for their chosen event. See all the details at campminnesota.org.

The Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church believes that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds. They have scholarship funds available to campers who need them most. Check their website for more information on financial assistance and to apply for a campership at mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/CampershipApplicationForm.

BE 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.



Get weekly news updates in the *eHeartline* announcements, a bulletin link and worship preview with *Worship Launchpad*, and updates on pandemic-related announcements, funerals and memorials. Send the emails to a friend, if something in it would interest them. Subscribe resubscribe in seconds at richfieldumc.org/email. We have grown to 334 subscribers; can you help your church reach 350 subscribers before Easter?

2. Engage Your Church On Our Facebook Page.

Interacting with your church's Facebook content at facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch puts it in front of new people. "Like," comment, and share your church's content. "See First" in your News Feed and "Turn On" Notifications so you'll see fresh content. We have grown to 494 people who like our Page. Can you help us reach 500 before Easter?



3. Engage Your Church On Our Youtube Channel.

Engage with your church's YouTube Channel, youtube.com/richfieldumc, to put our content in front of new people. "Subscribe" and "Ring the Bell" icon to receive Notifications when new videos come up or we go live. "Like" and "Share" the videos with friends. We have grown to 287 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!



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.

RICHFIELD UMC COVID RESPONSE

February 1, 2021

Dear Richfield UMC,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, the one who loves you now and forever! New hope dawns this winter. Multiple vaccines are becoming available, we are learning more about the coronavirus, and we each continue to do our part. God is in charge!

As I announced in worship on Sunday, we are continuing our suspension of in-person worship and gatherings in the church building in 2021 on an open-ended timeline, with a hope for the fall season. This decision was recommended by your Regathering Taskforce, approved by the elected leaders of your Ad Board, affirmed by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Johnson, and informed by your collective response to the regathering survey last month. Your safety is our most important concern and this decision is in alignment with our missional values as a church.

75 survey responses were collected, and we think more people are represented in total if we factor in children, couples who took the survey together, etc. This is a representative survey, thank you for your participation! Here are some key data points:

- 64% of you are ages 65+ and 68% of you consider yourself or someone in your home to be in a "high-risk" category for COVID-19. 99% of you have strictly or mostly complied with "stay at home" orders, wearing a facemask, maintaining physical distance, etc.
- A combined 96% of you responded it is "important" or "very important/essential" that indicators such as "stay at home" type orders are lifted, a vaccine/treatment for COVID-19 is widely available, and other public gatherings resuming in similar venues (concerts, theaters, sports events, etc.) are necessary to return to in-person worship.
- 73% of you responded those indicators are necessary while also affirming you hope to return to worshipping in-person as often as possible once it is an option again.
- 95% of you are staying connected in the life of your church through worship, pastoral care ministry, small groups, studies, and teams, special events, and service projects.
- 56% of you invited or intend to invite someone to experience an aspect of the life of your church in the last 6 months and in the months to come.

I am grateful we are essentially of one mind as a church on our approach to pandemic concerns. May we enter 2021 continuing to answer the call to stay safe, stay strong, and stay servants of Jesus. On behalf of your elected leaders, thank you for your trust and your teamwork, my friends. **Thank you, Richfield UMC, and God bless you.**

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor | nmelcher@richfieldumc.org
612.861.6086 Office | 612.399.6272 Mobile

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

LUNCH AND LEARN ONLINE SERIES

**Kitchen Tips to Make
Your Everyday Meals Shine**
Thursday, March 11,
from 1:00 to 2:00 pm
(online by 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)

Join us for this delightful program aimed to help the home cook expand upon the basics and the simple touches that give home cooking that restaurant snap. We will talk about the importance of ingredients and creating that balance between what we want to eat and what we should be eating. It will be a free flowing conversation with ample time for questions throughout the hour as well!

Our speaker will be chef and cooking instructor, Terry John Zila. Terry has been experimenting in the kitchen most of his life. Twenty years in the restaurant industry has exposed him to a wide variety of cooking styles. In his private dining catering business and in-home cooking classes, Terry uses that culinary knowledge to create unique events. Whatever cuisine you might have in mind, be it Asian, European, or American, he can creatively bring right to you the exact culinary experience you are looking for. Terry operates John Jean Juan, a wedding cake and special occasion dessert business, and Sel et Terry, his monthly pop-up restaurant. He also appears regularly as a Food and Entertaining Contributor for KSTP's Twin Cities Live, the WCCO Morning News, KARE 11 News, and the Matt McNeil Show on AM 950 KTNF Radio.



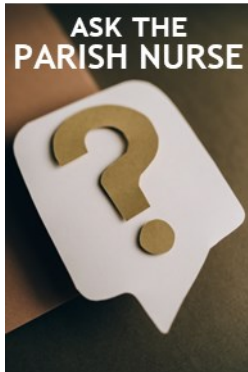
LUNCH AND LEARN ONLINE SERIES

The Biology of Resurrection
Thursday, April 8, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm
(online by 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)

Let's continue the Resurrection celebration! Our April Lunch and Learn program titled, "The Biology of Resurrection", falls in the midst of Eastertide . . . the season of the church year when we continue to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. What perfect timing as we have the opportunity this month during Lunch and Learn to gain a whole new perspective on resurrection . . . that from the eyes of a biologist! Consider a package of dry yeast sitting on a shelf in your refrigerator. The yeast cells are waiting patiently in an inactive, non-living state. Once you add a little warm water and sugar they will spring back to life. In other words, they have been resurrected. This ability to revive from a dry, inactive state is called anhydrobiosis and is unusual among organisms. In addition to yeast, this phenomenon occurs in some mushrooms, rotifers, nematodes, and ferns. This presentation will provide a discussion about the fascinating ability of organisms to revive after drying and what it means about the nature of life.



Our speaker is Stephen G. Saupe, PhD, a Professor in the joint biology department of the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University where he teaches introductory biology and an assortment of botany courses. His research focuses on the physiology of maple sap and maple syrup production, and why deciduous tree leaves turn color in the autumn. In his spare time, Steve is Clerk of Avon Township and tends to a small hobby farm. He also judges the MN State Fair maple syrup competition.



ASK THE PARISH NURSE

Most of you have heard of the "Ann Landers" column that appeared in newspapers throughout North America for decades. Perhaps some of you had written to "Ann" looking for advice in the areas of love, relationships, parenting, etiquette, and yes, we could go on and on. Here is an interesting piece of trivia: did you know that the original Ann Landers was a nurse?! Perhaps not a parish nurse, but she was indeed a nurse. So leaning generously into that fun fact, I am excited to announce a new section in the Heatline titled: Ask the Parish Nurse. Now, this section will not carry with it the "spicy advice" (appropriate word choice, see question below) with which Ann often responded, but rather provide accurate information to your questions in the areas of health and wellness. Chances are if you have a certain question, others have asked themselves the same question as well. Let's give this a go . . . I was recently asked this question:

How can I tell if my spices are still good?

Let's be honest, when is the last time we have really looked at the herbs and spices in our cabinets? The chaotic nature that often befalls this cabinet itself might steer us away. Despite our attempts to find some kind of order that actually makes sense (alphabetical order, type of use, or choice of cuisine/category?), those little containers usually end up in disarray, and it can take a few frustrating minutes to find that exact spice we need for a favorite recipe. But how to best organize spices is another question for another time. Spices are important. They

enhance the flavor of food, and did you know that they actually provide health benefits on their own? Again, another question for another time. It should first be noted that generally speaking, expired spices cannot make us ill, but they will lose their flavor and potency over time. And if our spices are not fresh, our food will not be as tasty either. Remember: freshness equals flavor. If stored properly (away from air, light, heat, and moisture), dried herbs and spices have relatively long shelf lives that range from 1 to 4 years. But that estimated shelf life means little when we are not able to find an expiration date on the container and have to resort to racking our brains to recall purchasing that spice on one of our countless trips to the grocery store. No hope there! **So we need to use our senses to see if our spices are past their prime and should be tossed: we are looking for the spice that has a rich color, strong smell, and robust taste to keep its place in our cabinets.** Many of us have found ourselves with a little extra time in these days of the pandemic. I invite you to make a date with your spice cabinet, and if in doubt to throw spices out, try this "look and sniff and taste" test first. Trust me . . . you will reap the benefits of even more scrumptious food! True confession . . . I made such a date, and I found that my cinnamon sticks were from 2006 . . . hot apple cider, anyone?

Please email your questions to me at kbergeland@richfieldumc.org; your names will be kept confidential.

Sources: McCormick and Healthline



SAVE THE DATE: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 6 at 10:30 am online by

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 843-4704-2137, Passcode: 5835

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates may apply)

At the beginning of Café-O-Rama this day, there will be a brief charge conference for the purpose of voting on new elected leaders. Please use the same login link and information as you would for any Café-O-Rama. Are you familiar with Café-O-Rama? If not, please see page 7 for more information.

WOMEN'S TRIP TO THE BWCA

August 23-29, 2021

Sign up and Hold these dates if interested

RUMC Women's Trip this coming summer will be a little different this year. We are planning to stay at KoWaKan, a UMC Camp which is outside of Ely, near the BWCA entrance to Lake One, and do day trips into the BWCA. By going the end of August, it will be after the camp season, so we will have the camp to ourselves sans staff and have full use of the camp and staff area. Being at KoWaKan gives greater individual flexibility as to arrival and departure dates, so some folks could come for just a long weekend.

At KoWaKan we have access to electricity, a refrigerator, a fully equipped picnic shelter with stocked bear proof cupboards, picnic tables etc. New this year will be a yurt available for daytime use when weather is inclement or perhaps when the bugs get bad in the evening. We can use the platform tents that have bunk cots and/or pitch our own. In the staff area, one has access to your car. One also has direct access to Section 12 Lake for launching canoes or swimming.

At this point plans are tentative, with many details yet to be sorted including COVID-19 restrictions/protocol that would need to be followed. If you are at all interested, save the dates, and please notify Fern Albertson at 612-214-4527, wfalbertson@gmail.com or Molly Reko at mollyreko@comcast.net, 612-270-4700. There will be space for up to 12, with a waiting list. Our experience has been that often peoples' plans/circumstances this far out can change and so creating a greater chance for those on a waiting list to get to go.

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, our church's people, elected leaders, paid staff, and partners. May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2021.
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2021.
- 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.
- 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, Marylee Fithian, Bonnie Freese, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Agnes Danzl, Jack Exline, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Rexi Warner's friend, Heidi, Dave Couillard, Dawn, Aliyah, and Alice, family members of Sherree Stratton, Lynne Alexander, and Laurel Lien.

Prayers for Comfort:

All those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- Dale Olson and family in the death of Dale's father, Hans Olson.
- Dan Bur and family in the death of Dan's father, Don Bur.
- Curt Stull and family in the death of Marybeth who died January 4. Read [Marybeth's obituary](#) found on the gillbrothers.com website.
- The family and friends of Ruth Davis who died January 5. Read [Ruth's obituary](#) found on the morrisonilsen.com website.
- The family and friends of Susan (Woodward) Stenseth who died on January 20. Read [Susan's obituary](#) found on the gillbrothers.com website.
- The family and friends of, Ed Bubb, who died January 7.

CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

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:

March 1 - "Less" by Andrew Sean Greer

April 5 - "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion

May 3 - "A Discovery of Witches" by Deborah Harkness

To join by Zoom, email both

Fern Albertson (WFalbertson@gmail.com) and

Molly Reko (mollyreko@gmail.com).

Saturday Morning Book Group

Saturdays at 10:30 am, online by Zoom

During Lent this group will be meeting and discussing various podcasts and articles. This is an OPEN group.

Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546 , No Passcode needed

Beginning April 10, the group will begin a new book. The book is "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr. See page 7 for details.

For more information, please contact Gail Johnson, 612-250-1736 or gailjohnson417@gmail.com.

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, online by Zoom

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

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.

HAPPY MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

March

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Sarah Callahan | 05 |
| Gero Fuhrmann | 06 |
| Jean Urista | 10 |
| Mackean Haines | 11 |
| Mary Jane Regan | 11 |
| TY Moore | 12 |
| Scott Clarke | 13 |
| Betty Bosch | 14 |
| Lynne Alexander | 15 |
| Amy Burmeister | 16 |
| Ryan Whitaker | 16 |
| Marlys Hudson | 17 |
| Beverly Crandall | 18 |
| Ryan Olson | 18 |
| Ja'Quelice Dabney | 19 |
| Sheryl Gunderson | 19 |
| Mary Pavia | 20 |
| Betty Klint | 21 |
| Lynnae Haines | 22 |
| David Berner | 23 |
| Lois Etkin | 26 |
| Cooper Loge | 26 |
| Victoria Rebeck | 26 |
| Joanne Green | 28 |
| McKenzie Gaertner | 29 |
| Sarah Musgrave | 30 |
| Sonja Jackson | 31 |

April

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Marylee Fithian | 01 |
| Nicholas Olson | 02 |
| James Young | 03 |
| Jerry Burmeister | 04 |
| Laurel Lien | 04 |
| Wayne Johnson | 05 |
| Roger Boyce | 06 |
| Joann Schuldt | 06 |
| Alex Currie | 10 |
| Patrick Eder | 12 |
| Blake Rogers | 14 |
| Katri Reko | 15 |
| Gail Johnson | 17 |
| Michael Niesen | 18 |
| Steven Kirchner | 19 |
| Jacquelyn Doncavage | 20 |
| Daniel Koskey | 20 |
| Steve Restemayer | 21 |
| Sue Restemayer | 22 |
| Wayne Albertson | 23 |
| Mary Martha Butler | 27 |
| Daniel Bur | 28 |
| Asher Teal | 29 |



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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