

Heartline

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

2021
May/June



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SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH RICHFIELD UMC

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM
<http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>

In May we have the final mini-series in our one-year worship series METHODS, "Scope & Sequence." In June we begin the first of three Summer Worship Series, "SO MANY QUESTIONS, PART 1." Please see Pages 4-5 for details for these spring and summer worship series.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP PLANS

Please note that there are 3 planned outdoor worship services. The first one will be June 13. The details are still being confirmed. The hope is we will worship outdoors in a local park. Watch for details on Sundays in announcements, in the e-newsletter, and on Facebook. See more information about these three services on page 3.

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVES THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

May 23, June 13, July 18, August 8
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

The May food drive (on the church campus) is for the West African Food Pantry of our fellow MCCI church, Brooklyn UMC. Please see page 3 for a shopping list of food staples. Then, drive-thru at the church on May 23rd to drop off your donations

NATE NOTE



Well, that was an interesting Easter.

If you tuned in to Easter worship with your church on April 4, you likely experienced intermittent pausing. For touch tone phone worshipers, it meant huge swaths of silence out of nowhere. For online worshipers, it additionally meant the image kept freezing (hopefully not on too many embarrassing facial expressions from the worship leaders), accompanied by a spinning circle indicating the stream is loading. Turns out the livestreaming service we use, YouTube, had problems for many churches that day, unfortunately, and it ended up beyond our control. My hope is you tuned in to the “Easter Redux” service that premiered that evening on YouTube and by touch tone phone. I’ve never been so simultaneously proud to turn around a same-day solution and grieved over such a gigantic challenge at the same time!

The spinning circle over the frozen worship images is often referred to in Internet slang as “the spinning circle of death” as it grinds everything to a halt. Sometimes it is a temporary setback and other times it is a harbinger of the end. For example, if you have someone in your life who plays video games, “the spinning circle of death” on the screen often means that video game system is broken beyond repair. Ironical, perhaps, we experienced “the spinning circle of death” on a day that launches us into a season all about new life and resurrection.

There are still things in this world that feel like “the spinning circle of death.” We grieve the virus of racism is still alive and well, and we’ve especially seen its brutality in our area this month. We lament food drives are necessary in the first place due to systemic poverty gripping many families. My children remind me on a regular basis - almost daily - that there still isn’t a vaccine for people their age yet and there is exclusion until it is finally developed. And many families grieving loved ones lost this year may feel like they’re spinning their wheels as funerals, memorials, and mourning have taken on new, sometimes forced, shapes in this distanced season.

“The spinning circle of death” is there, no question. And yet, thanks be to God, resurrection is here. We see it every day, even if we have to look harder some days. Where are you seeing resurrection? Where have you put your Easter butterfly? We see it daily in the life of the church. We are working on plans for periodic outdoor worship this summer and many of us will see each other for the first time in over a year. We are continuing our successful drive-thru food drives and changing lives. We acknowledge we gather on Dakota land as one of many new steps forward in racial reconciliation and repentance. We have a new church survey this spring to help your elected leaders determine our next steps forward for gathering and your voice, as always, is essential. We are seeing more and more people getting their COVID-19 vaccine, thanks be to God. My hunch is by the time we all need our next booster at the beginning of 2022 or so, the system will be much simpler and less stressful. I recommend getvaccineanswers.org if you or a loved one have questions about the vaccine.

Resurrection is here! And nothing will stop it, not even “the spinning circle of death!” Blessings to you in an Easter season that goes far beyond one hour on a Sunday!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

REGATHERING SURVEY COMING MAY 2

The Regathering Taskforce will premiere the next congregation-wide survey on May 2. Please be sure to complete it before 11:59 pm on May 11. The survey will go out to those with an email address on-file and arrangements will be made for those not online (if you don’t know if we have your email address, please pass it along immediately!). This survey will be a little longer than our most-recent surveys as it will feature three important areas of focus: when and what returning to in-person gatherings as a church looks like, how your church connects with the needs of the community, and where your church needs to focus its missional energy next. **It is critical that all members and regular worshipers make their voice heard, thank you!**

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**June 13: Graduation Sunday and
Blessing of the Bicycles**

July 18: Lake Harriet Bandshell

August 8: Blessing of the Animals

Details are still being worked out, but at the time of this writing our goal is to have outdoor worship once a month this summer. We are scheduled to lead worship at the Lake Harriet Bandshell on July 18, so mark your calendar. We know that the services will require all in attendance to wear masks, stay distanced by households, and refrain from singing or humming in accordance with the latest research we have available. We are still working on a livestreaming option to make worship as inclusive as possible, and Plan B is to record worship live and post it ASAP. Thank you, everyone for your cooperation, support, and patience. **When the call comes for unpaid servant volunteers, we will need an “all hands on deck” mindset, thank you!**

**June 13 - Graduation Sunday and
Blessing of the Bicycles**

We will honor all 2021 high school and college graduates affiliated with the church. If that's you, please reach out to Garrett Johnson, thank you! Plus, bring your bicycle and helmet (or motorcycle!) and receive a special blessing for safe journeys as we get back outdoors in the summer weather!

July 18 - Lake Harriet Bandshell - 10 am

This delightful tradition returns after a year hiatus due to pandemic. We are proud to be involved in this ecumenical cohort of churches who lead worship for the city at the bandshell all summer long!

August 8 - Blessing of the Animals

Bring your beloved pet (or a photo, if crowds and/or outdoors is too much for them) to receive a special blessing of God's love upon them! For safety and inclusivity, all pets must be well-supervised by your gathered household (i.e. dogs must be on a leash, use a pet carrier, etc.), thank you for your cooperation.

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVES THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

May 23, June 13, July 18, August 8

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

The May food drive (on the church campus) is for the West African Food Pantry of our fellow MCCI church, Brooklyn UMC. This ministry received \$1,000 of our Easter offering in April and has become a hub for our neighbors with immediate need for assistance in an area which has turned into a food desert due to recent unrest in the community. While it is open to all and stocks food for all, it specializes in foods with dietary and cultural appeal to those of West African ethnicity. **As an exercise in acting with mindful cultural competency to address our neighbors' particular needs, please donate from the following lists.**

Priority List:

Water
Baby Formula
Diapers
Feminine Hygiene Products (especially pads)
First Aid Kits
Household Cleaning Items
Healthy Shelf-Stable Food Items

West African Food Staples:

Aubergine/Eggplant	Curry
Bananas	Garlic
Bananas, green	Ginger
Barley	Green Banana
Beans	Groundnut
Cassava (Manioc/Tapioca)	Lentils
Cinnamon	Millet
Clove	Nutmeg
Coconut	Okra
Coriander/Cilantro	Onions
Cumin	

The summer Food Drives will be paired with outdoor worship services, details to follow.

CAFÉ-O-RAMA

1st Sundays immediately
following worship, online by

[Zoom](#)

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

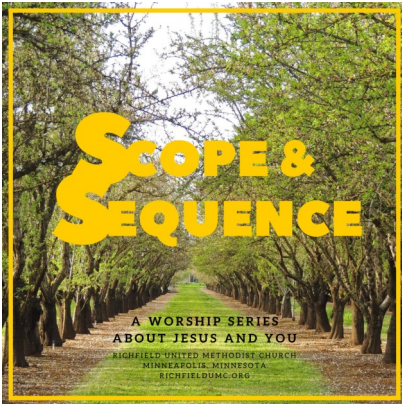
Or call in: 312.626.6799

(standard rates may apply)

Café-O-Rama begins a few minutes after worship, **now on first Sundays only.** 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! The next Café-O-Rama dates are May 2, June 6, July 4, and August 1.



SPRING AND SUMMER WORSHIP



SCOPE & SEQUENCE

April 11-May 30

METHODS: One-Year Worship Series Concludes

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.**

May 2: Jesus and Ethics
John 15:1-8

May 9: Jesus and Love
John 15:9-17

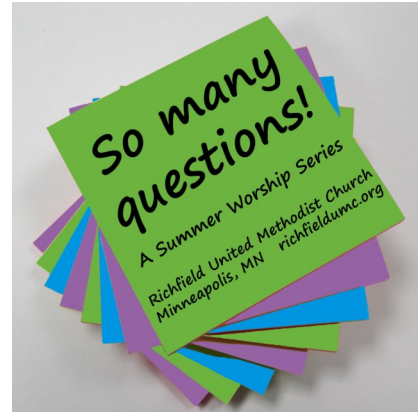
May 16: Jesus and Trust
John 17:6-10, 20-21a

May 23: Jesus and Community
Acts 2:1-21

May 30: Jesus and Voice
Psalm 29

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

- May 9: Special guest storyteller Kevin Kling
- May 16: Special Music Sunday
- May 23: Pentecost Sunday
- June 6: Change Conference
- June 13: Outdoor Worship
- July 18: Outdoor Worship at 10:00 am at Lake Harriet Bandshell
- August 8: Outdoor Worship



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #1 “SO MANY QUESTIONS, PART 1”

June 6-June 27

This spring, we called for your questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life, and wow, did you respond! We’ve taken your submitted questions and boiled them down to a handful of topics that will get a deep dive all summer long. Our first four Sundays will explore the following:

June 6: **What are the names of God?**
Mark 3:20-35

June 13: **Does God love everybody?**
Mark 4:26-34

June 20: **What does forgiveness look like?**
Mark 4:35-41

June 27: **Is there a right religion?**
Mark 5:21-43

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #3 “SO MANY QUESTIONS, PART 2”

August 8-September 5

We close out the summer by responding to a few more of your questions. If you have wondered about these topics, be sure to mark your calendar and experience worship.

Aug. 8: **Can the church be political?**
John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 15: **Why is the Bible used as a weapon?**
John 6:41-58

Aug. 22: **Does God give you more than you can handle?**
John 6:56-69

Aug. 29: **Has the pandemic changed church forever?**
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sept. 5: **How can I really believe all of this stuff?**
Mark 7:24-37

SPRING AND SUMMER WORSHIP



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #2 "SUMMER AT THE MOVIES"

July 4-August 8

This summer, we're taking the movies we show during the Summer Movie Nights to Sunday worship! Like last summer, special care is given when crafting the sermons so you do not have to watch the movie beforehand to get something out of the sermon, though it will certainly enhance your experience. Plus, this is your opportunity to invite your "movie buff" friends to worship with you and/or connect with someone in your family of another generation with a movie that's right up their alley!

All movie selections are rated PG. Viewer discretion is advised for all of the movies (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, for example, would likely be rated at least PG-13 for violence and intense scenes, if it was made today). Parents/Guardians can read **content advisories** at imdb.com. Search for the movie, then scroll to "view content

advisory," or tap/click "content advisory" in the digital edition of *The Heartline* for a direct link.

You can watch the movies at the **Outdoor Summer Movie Nights on campus** (see page 11), stream, buy, or rent a digital copy online (see all your options at justwatch.com), or buy the DVD/Blu-ray, borrow from a friend, or see if your local library has a copy to check out. Here are the movies and options for how to watch them before worship:

July 4: Pee-wee's Big Adventure - How do I grow on the journey?

Mark 6:1-13

June 30 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: HBO Max subscription

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$3.99)

[content advisory](#)

July 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark - How do I make the right choice?

Mark 6:14-29

July 7 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Paramount+ subscription

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$2.99)

[content advisory](#)

July 18: Inside Out - How do we talk about mental health?

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 14 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Disney+ subscription

Digital Rental: Amazon Prime Video (\$3.99)

[content advisory](#)

July 25: Soul - How do I live my best life?

John 6:1-21

July 21 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Disney+ subscription

Buy: Amazon Prime Video (\$19.99)

[content advisory](#)

August 1: My Girl - How do we move on?

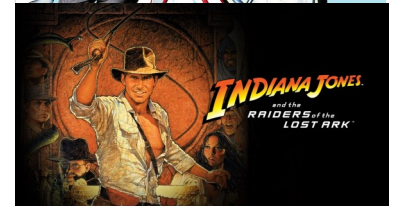
John 6:24-35

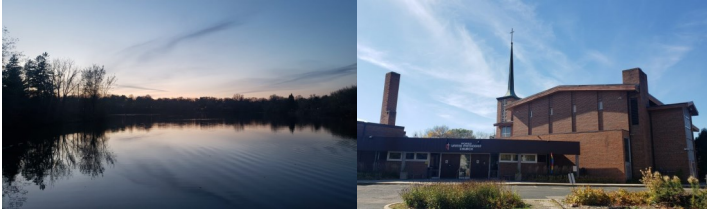
July 28 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: HBO Max subscription

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$3.99)

[content advisory](#)





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

April 18, 2021

Richfield United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota acknowledges that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota People.

These lands hold historical, spiritual, and personal significance to the Dakota People. We are grateful for Indigenous Nations and their continued stewardship of these lands and we appreciate their perseverance and strength. The Dakota People were harmed by the United States government through broken promises and unjust treaties, including the Cession 289 Treaty of 1851 which names the Wahpeton and Sisseton Bands. These atrocities effectively stole this geographical area and further harm and trauma have come through displacement, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. This church formed in 1854 as one of the first institutions established by white settlers in this geographical area and benefited directly from this harm inflicted upon the Dakota People.

In repentance, this church seeks active partnership with Native American communities and organizations in the State of Minnesota and beyond. We affirm tribal sovereignty. We reject attitudes of invisibility and erasure of Indigenous Peoples. We oppose policies and actions that threaten or demean Indigenous culture and tribal sovereignty by any means. We call upon our fellow houses of worship in the interfaith community to acknowledge the realities of the lands on which they gather and take educational and restorative justice action. With God's help, we commit to doing better.

This land acknowledgment was unanimously affirmed by the Richfield UMC Administrative Board on March 23, 2021. It was first presented as part of worship on April 18, 2021, which was Native American Ministries Sunday, one of the Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church.

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher, Pastor
Nick Dewey, Ad Board Chair

Sources: (All online sources accessed Spring Quarter, 2021)

Doty, Marjorie Bridge. *We Have This Covenant: The History of Richfield United Methodist Church*. 1979. 1-8.

Indigenous Digital Archive, The. "[IDA Treaties Explorer: Cession 289](#)."

Johnson, Frederick L. *Richfield: Minnesota's Oldest Suburb*. [Richfield Historical Society](#). 2008. 1-15.

Kappler, Charles J., ed. *Indian Affairs: Laws & Treaties*. Government Printing Office. Washington DC. 1904. [588-593](#).

Native Governance Center. "[A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment](#)."

Native Governance Center. "What is Tribal Sovereignty?" [Video](#).

[Native-Land.ca](#).

State of Minnesota Department of Health. "[American Indian Tribal Governments](#)."

US Department of Arts and Culture. "[Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgment](#)."

[TreatiesMatter.org](#). "[Relations: Dakota & Ojibwe Treaties - 1851 Dakota Land Cession Treaties](#)."

Special Thanks:

Pat Eder, [Richfield Historical Society](#)

Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, [Minnesota Council of Churches](#)

Rev. Dawn Houser, [CONAM](#) Chair

Rev. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, [Native theologian and storyteller](#)

Dixie Thompson, [Akta Lakota Museum](#), Chamberlain, SD

About Usage, Process, and Ongoing Next Steps

About Usage:

A land acknowledgment is a form of confession and one step of many in repentance by those who benefit from harm and trauma caused to Indigenous Peoples. This confession and need for repentance is in alignment with our missional values and must be owned by the church. Guests and partners of the church who are of Indigenous heritage should not be asked to recite this confession on behalf of the church. This land acknowledgment is intended for use in the following ways:

1. **Worship and Events** The statement should appear in brief frequently and in full occasionally.

a. This brief statement should be used in worship and events as frequently as possible such as part of the Welcome, Benediction, or another appropriate place: "Richfield United Methodist

Church (or 'Your church') acknowledges that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota People (or 'Indigenous Peoples')."

b. The full land acknowledgment should be used in worship on fifth Sundays, the Sunday closest to Indigenous Peoples' Day (second Monday in October), and on or around [Native American Ministries Sunday](#) (third Sunday of Easter as a Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church).

c. On April 18, 2021, the full land acknowledgment shall debut in worship accompanied by an appropriate liturgy and special offering for Native American Ministries Sunday.

2. Publication The following will appear in worship bulletins, newsletter, electronic newsletter, event programs, website, and other appropriate publications whenever possible: "Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at [richfieldumc.org/land](#)."

3. [RichfieldUMC.org/land](#) This website will feature the full land acknowledgment, sources and special thanks, this document, and resources for other houses of worship to do similar work.

4. Other Media An effort will be made to bring periodic attention to the land acknowledgment and the importance of land acknowledgment in appropriate platforms (i.e. online social media).

5. Archives History of the land and the Indigenous Peoples who are its historical stewards must be included in future "history of" heritage and archive documentation and publications.

About the Process:

On November 24, 2020, Rev. Nate Melcher proposed to the Administrative Board the church take action to research and craft a land acknowledgment honoring Indigenous Peoples as a critical first action step. Nick Dewey, Chair, moved to empower Rev. Melcher to research and craft language and usage and present it to Ad Board; Jerry Schilling, Trustees Chair, seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. On March 23, 2021, the Ad Board reviewed and discussed the presented research, land acknowledgment, and "About" document. Nick Dewey moved to approve the land acknowledgment as written; Wayne Johnson, Lay Leader, seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. It first presented as part of worship on April 18, 2021 during Native American Ministries Sunday.

About Ongoing Next Steps:

This land acknowledgment and documentation

will be reviewed regularly by Ad Board and/or designated team to ensure its language and impact remain relevant in the life of the church.

Richfield UMC must continue forward on a path of racial reconciliation and repentance. This includes both works of compassion and justice born of a faith in the loving God of all people. Moving forward begins with acknowledging harm caused, continues through openness to learning and taking meaningful action, and a commitment to do better. With God's help and working together, we will.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE AN INDIGENOUS SACRED SITES TOUR AS A CHURCH?

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9

Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs is the Director for Racial Justice with the Minnesota Council of Churches was one of our consultants for your church's new land acknowledgement. He leads Sacred Site tours of locations around what is now the Twin Cities metro that are of cultural and religious significance to Indigenous Peoples. Pandemic-era tours are in groups of 15 and are \$60 per person (scholarships available). Typically on a Saturday, they are four hours long, conducted entirely outdoors, and involve some limited walking on slightly uneven ground. If we have a group of 15 interested, we will schedule a tour with Rev. Jim Bear as a church. If we have enough for two groups, we can request an additional tour.

Please reach out to Pastor Nate via email or phone at, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612.399.6272 Church Mobile, by May 9 so we can secure a date for this summer as soon as possible, thank you.



THE CHAUVIN TRIAL VERDICT

April 23, 2021

And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!" Genesis 4:10

Dear Richfield UMC,

We lift you in prayer as we write to you this week. On May 30, 2020, we wrote to you in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. We wrote a simple truth that remains as true today: "he was a friend of Jesus, and one of our siblings in Christ." Since then, much has happened, including this week when former police officer Derek Chauvin found guilty on the counts he faced for killing George Floyd. There has been much breathing - of taking in and exhaling the Holy Spirit - in our midst accompanied by layers of tragedy and trauma. May we breathe the Spirit. **Lord, in your mercy.**

We are a church who believes in the practice of prayer. Pray for your city and nation; may we build resurrection out of trauma and tragedy. Pray for the family of George Floyd; may they feel the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray for George Floyd; may his eternal life be in the embrace of our loving God. Pray for the stalwart community advocates; may their work be unto us the call of Jesus to action. Pray for former officer Derek Chauvin; may he receive the grace of God as we all are beloved children of the Holy. Pray for the children; may the future be just. **Lord, in our mercy.**

Our clergy colleague, Rev. LaQuaan Malachi of North UMC in Minneapolis, preached on Christian action amidst racist-filled tension in [the Aug. 30, 2020 worship service](#): "Justice is God's business... It is not your job to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it... Welcome to the fight. We have been praying for your arrival." [Pastor Malachi reminds again this week](#), the fight, struggle, and work of justice is not over: "As we look ahead, it is important for all of us to be honest about the ways we participate in harm and to reduce and cease that harm going forward." We have many beloved causes as a church, friends, and the cause of antiracism and the pursuit of justice is an ongoing, life-saving, missional priority. Like the recent example of your church's new [land acknowledgment](#) which is *one step* of racial reconciliation and repentance, it is not the last. The work of building the kingdom of heaven is ongoing; it does not end with a verdict. We take time to pause and breathe in the Holy Spirit. And the work continues, as it must. **Lord, in your mercy.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel of John, the writer declares that this is not the end of the story: "There are also many other things that Jesus did; if every

one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." May feel the call from Jesus to partner again and again to write stories of justice, restoration, and resurrection. We are proud to be your clergy team and of you, Church, as we partner in pursuit of God's loving justice.

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

Rev. Hope Hutchison
Dir. of Children & Family Ministries



PILGRIMAGE TO GEORGE FLOYD SQUARE

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9 via email or phone at, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612.399.6272 Church Mobile, so we can plan a date for this pilgrimage, thank you.

Pastor Nate has been one of many clergy serving as non-anxious presence and holding space in George Floyd Square at 38th Street S. and Chicago Avenue as part of the Twin Cities Interfaith Chaplaincy Movement. Recently, he was made aware people are interested in visiting yet been hesitant to go. If you would like to be part of a church group who visits George Floyd Square together this spring, please reach out to Pastor Nate by May 9. If possible, we will set up a pilgrimage to happen prior to May 25, the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death. [You can read about the city's plans for George Floyd Square online.](#) (Note: at the time of this writing, we do not have enough details about the community's status at the intersection of 63rd Ave. N. and Kathrene Boulevard where Daunte Wright was killed to plan a group pilgrimage; details to come.)

WHO IS READY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH?

Contact Pastor Nate by May 9

Have you been worshipping online and found this a spiritual home? Have you felt compelled to give to the mission of this church because it moves your heart? Have you wondered what a community virtual and in-person can look like for you? This spring, we will welcome new members to this church. The best way forward is for people who are considering membership to contact Pastor Nate soon so we can all set up a Zoom meeting together and talk about it together. Learn about membership vows, the United Methodist Church, and a podcast sermon about the role of membership in our faith journey at richfieldumc.org/membership.

Please reach out to Pastor Nate via email or phone at, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612.399.6272 Church Mobile, by May 9.

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.

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:

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.

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. If possible, use a tripod so your footage is stable.
3. Ensure you have enough light in your room so the image is bright and you don't have distracting shadows on your face.
4. 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. Give yourself at least two seconds at the beginning before you speak and two seconds after you speak to help the editing process.
7. Speak slowly and clearly so people will understand what you have to say.
8. Present a friendly yet prayerful tone.
9. Please review your video for both sound and image quality before you submit it.
10. Submit your video to Pastor Nate (nmelcher@richfieldumc.org) via email attachment, Google Drive, or Dropbox.

Youth



Garrett Johnson
Youth Leader

gjohnson@richfieldumc.org

Weekly Youth Group Changes

Starting in May, our youth group will be leaving our Zoom boxes behind and meeting in the great outdoors as we find new ways to safely meet in person. Mask wearing and being physically distant from each other will be required but at least we will get the opportunity to gather once again as a group. For the most up to date information on what we will be doing, email Garrett to get on his weekly email list.

Youth Email List

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 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.

Congratulations Seniors!!!

Congratulations to both of our seniors on graduating high school. Noelle Olson will be graduating from Richfield High School and Asher Teal will be graduating from Washburn High School. We wish you both the best of luck with wherever your future takes you!



Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES



Rev. Hope Hutchison

Dir. of Children & Family Ministries

hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Thank you all so much for helping to celebrate Easter with us this year! Through our Easter Egg Hunt, and our Easter Confetti Celebration Video, there is so much Easter joy to be had! If you have not seen the Easter Confetti Video, please go check that out on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/RichfieldUMC).

The video is called "Celebrate Easter: Confetti Style," and it can be found on our Children, Youth, and Families Playlist.

We are continuing our twice monthly Zoom Sunday School through the month of May. On May 11, we will have our regular Sunday School meeting. On May 25, we will celebrate the end of the regular program year with a fun Talent Show! The children in our community have so many fun things that they are excited to share with each other and this will be an exciting time for all!

After Memorial Day, Sunday School will shift to a monthly schedule for the summer. On the third Sunday of each month, there will be a Faith Formation activity for kids. On June 20 & August 15, there will be Zoom Sunday School. On July 18, we will have our Annual Bandshell worship with activities to celebrate the end of VBS.

Upcoming Dates:

- May 9: Sunday School
- May 23: Talent Show & Spring Sunday School Party
- June 20: Summer Sunday School
- July 12-16: Vacation Bible School
- July 18: Bandshell Worship & Summer Sunday School
- August 15: Summer Sunday School
- August 21: Community Carnival & School Supply Drive

ONLINE VBS!

This year, we are excited to offer the second edition of Illustrated Ministry's Compassion Camp Curriculum: Changing the World Through Lovingkindness! We will be using this resource for our online VBS the week of July 12-16!



Every morning that week, there will be a mix of pre-recorded video sessions, virtual hangouts, and fun at-home activities in which children and families are welcome to participate. Throughout the week, there will also be opportunities for children to come to campus for some outdoor, socially distanced activities!

July 12: All Around Me (Exodus 2:1-10)
July 13: For Myself (1 Kings 19:4-8)
July 14: To the Neighbor (Luke 10:25-37)
July 15: With the World (Acts 1:1-13, 42-47)
July 16: Along the Way (Romans 16:1-16)

Optional On-Campus Events:

Sunday, July 11, 11am-12pm: Come pick up VBS supplies and play some games outside
Wednesday, July 14, 6pm: Outdoor Movie Night. The movie for the week (Inside Out) will start at 8pm, but there will be time for kids to play games starting at 6pm
Sunday, July 18, 10:00 am: Bandshell Worship with VBS Celebration

A more detailed schedule of the week will be sent to those who register.

There are several registration options.

- If you would like all digital resources, registration is free! All resources will be sent out by email during the week of camp.
- If you would like pre-printed resources, registration is \$10 per family.
- If you cannot attend live the week of July 12-16, there is an asynchronous registration option.

To find out more about registration, contact Rev. Hope Hutchison at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

COMMUNITY CARNIVAL & SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

While we are still unsure whether an in-person carnival will be safe, there will be a Community Carnival this year! If it is determined to be safe, there will be a small, outdoor carnival. If in-person is not safe, we will have a Drive Thru Carnival! Either way, there will be a giveaway, carnival games, and some small snacks on Saturday, August 21, 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Last year, while we were unable to have a Carnival, we did have a successful School Supply Drive for VEAP. While VEAP has not yet released their details for their 2021 School Supply Drive, we will be collecting supplies for them again. Let's spread some joy and love throughout our neighborhood!

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

This summer, there will be outdoor movie nights at Richfield UMC on Wednesdays in July! Start times are tentatively scheduled for 8:00 pm each Wednesday, but they are subject to change as sunset and weather conditions change throughout the month! If it looks like rain, watch the church's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch>, for updates.

Here's a schedule of what we will be watching this summer:

June 30: Pee-Wee's Big Adventure
July 7: Raiders of the Lost Ark
July 14: Inside Out
July 21: Soul
July 28: My Girl

Enjoy these PG rated movies outdoors on the church campus. More content and advisory information about each film can be found at IMDB.com. All viewings will have strict social distancing, and some safe, pre-packaged snacks!

And every Sunday in July, the worship and sermon will be themed around the movie. See page 5 for more information about the worship series.



THE KILLING OF DAUNTE WRIGHT

April 16, 2021

Dear Richfield UMC,

We pray this letter finds you safe and secure in this emotional week for our area and beyond. The Derek Chauvin trial continues to reopen fresh wounds. Daunte Wright was killed during a police interaction in nearby Brooklyn Center. We are once again confronted by the trauma of Black men and police having deadly interactions in our area. The many layers of trauma and hard questions in this stretched-out period grow thicker and weightier. Beloved children of God, every day we bring our whole selves before the one who loves us with our thoughts, feelings, questions, and actions. We are beloved of a God who listens to us all and is with us all our days. **Lord, in your mercy.**

The sin of racism that contributes to unnecessary deaths and community divides is a virus; it must be eradicated. The struggle between a need for public safety and a need for public safety reform is palpable; it must be addressed. God calls us to action; it must be now. The Constitution of the United Methodist Church as outlined in the UM Book of Discipline challenges us all to “confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.” (UM Book of Discipline, ¶ 5, Article V. Racial Justice) May we live into our membership vows, may we live into the General Rules of the United Methodist Church to do no harm, to do good, and to grow in love with God, and may God show us the way. **Lord, in your mercy.**

As your clergy team, we continue our commitment to partnering with you, the ministers of the church. We commit to listening to seek understanding, asking honest questions, building meaningful relationships, offering tremendous grace, and supporting our collective and individual faith-filled journeys. We rededicate our commitment to this and we ask you to please rededicate your commitment to the same, thank you. **Lord, in your mercy.**

As a church, we are responding to immediate needs of the community through compassion

ministries in four key ways: presence, prayer, financial generosity, and food sharing:

Ministry of Presence: Pastor Nate is active as a non-anxious presence holding space at George Floyd Square (GFS) and other areas of the metro with Twin Cities Interfaith Movement Chaplains (TCIMC). Many church members have not yet been to GFS for a variety of reasons and there will be an organized pilgrimage for anyone who wants to meet there as a church. Please reach out to Pastor Nate by May 9. In the meantime, if you feel safe of body, mind, and spirit to be present at GFS, at 63rd Ave. N. and Kathrene Blvd. where Daunte Wright was killed, or other areas where the community is gathering publicly in grief, please be situationally aware and mindful of your surroundings. You can reach out to Pastor Nate for tips from his TCIMC training on entering these spaces well.

Showing up happens in many ways. Parents/Guardians, consider the book [*Something Happened in Our Town*](#) to process recent events with your children. If you're online, follow [TCIMC](#) and the [Minnesota Annual Conference Rapid Response](#) group.

Ministry of Prayer: All Christian action starts with prayer. We pray to a resurrected Jesus who is ready to partner with us for compassion and justice so God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Pray for Daunte Wright, his family, and the Black community in trauma and grief. Pray for Officer Potter and her family. Pray for neighbors with neighborhoods turned upside-down. Pray for public servants, officials, and elected leaders responsible for (re)building justice-laden systems. Pray for your own holistic health as you wade through your own trauma in these events. May prayer bring you the Holy Spirit - first for comfort in assurance and then strength for action.

Rev. Seth Martin of The Brook Community Church, a clergyperson who Pastor Nate met at George Floyd Square last summer, made this powerful statement about prayer this week: “Some people don't know what to do. Some people feel like there's nothing they can do. Some people wonder are they doing enough. Some people feel like there's nothing to do. Prayer is something you can do. Prayer is not nothing. It's often in prayer where God assures us that we've done enough or leads us to new ways to be effective. It's in prayer where God convicts us and shakes us out of apathy to do

something. So, I offer the same encouragement someone gave me this week. Go pray. Prayers may not be the only thing but it is something. Believers should know prayer is powerful."

Ministry of Financial Generosity: In addition to ministries such as technology improvements, the 2021 Easter offering is designated to the West African Food Pantry ministry of Brooklyn UMC, a food pantry open to all specializing in foods with dietary and cultural appeal to those of West African ethnicity. The Brooklyn Center area is fast becoming a food desert due to recent unrest. **In response to the immediate needs of the community, we have disbursed \$1,000 of the Easter offering to the West African Food Pantry.** Likewise, we gave \$1,000 of the 2020 Christmas Eve offering to the [Just Love](#) fund of the Minnesota Annual Conference and this week \$5,000 of that fund was disbursed to the Brooklyn UMC food pantry and community needs fund. **Friends, it is a conflux moment that your Ad Board selected these critical ministries for special offerings and you have responded with extravagant generosity.**

Ministry of Food Sharing: We raised over \$1,500 and 3,500+ lbs. of food to fight hunger in the last six months and we're not stopping now. **Our next food drive is Sunday, May 23 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm on campus for the West African Food Pantry.** Please see page 3 for a shopping list of food staples. As an act of cultural competency and growing in love of God and neighbor you are asked to please donate items relevant to the community, thank you. Many area churches are holding food drives this week. Our "phase one" is our Easter offering and our food drive will be a "phase two" to help a neighborhood that will need long-term sustainable response.

We are proud to be your clergy team and be in ministry with you. Lord, in your mercy.

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor
nmelcher@richfieldumc.org
612.399.6272 Church Mobile

Rev. Hope Hutchison
Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
hhutchison@richfieldumc.org
612.568.6774 Church Mobile

MONDAY BOOK GROUP

"I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist."

Mondays through May 17

from 7:00 to 8:15 pm

Meeting ID: 910 7366 8546

No password needed.

Join Zoom the Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91073668546> or by phone, call: 312 626 6799 (standard rates may apply)

This group is open to anyone with an interest.

In *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist.*, edited by Rudy Rasmus, ten Black women and men explore life through the lens of compelling personal religious narratives. Individuals whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in face of hardship, disappointment, and determination.

This book is available at most book retailers.



KEEP IN TOUCH AND INFORMED

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 other news/updates. Subscribe/resubscribe in seconds at richfieldumc.org/email.

2. Engage On Facebook.



Interact with RUMCs Facebook content at facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch. "Like," comment, and share your church's content.

3. Engage On YouTube.



Engage with RUMCs YouTube Channel, youtube.com/richfieldumc. "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.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

LUNCH AND LEARN ONLINE SERIES

Remembering Patsy

Thursday, May 13

from 1:00 - 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 when we take a walk back in time and hear some of the great songs of the one and only American country music singer, Patsy Cline. With her talent and wide-ranging appeal, Patsy Cline was considered one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century and was one of the first country music artists to successfully cross over into pop music. We are excited to welcome back musician, Mary Hall, to our Lunch and Learn stage, and she will share some of her arrangements of Patsy Cline's iconic songs, such as "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces," and "Crazy," as well as interesting tidbits about Patsy Cline's life. This year will be Mary Hall's 53rd year as a professional singer/guitarist. She traveled for 13 years as a nightclub performer and has appeared on various TV shows, commercials, and concerts for all ages. Mary Hall has recorded 6 albums that have been purchased by people from all parts of the world. As a wife, mother, and new grandmother, Mary enjoys babysitting, shopping, studying the Bible, and taking daily walks with her husband and dog.



Are there real physical health benefits of spirituality?

This is a great question...and especially fitting to ask a parish nurse. Parish nurses concentrate on the integration of faith and health. They take a holistic approach to health and healing and believe health to be a dynamic process that embodies the mind, body, and spirit connection in every person. So let's dive in!

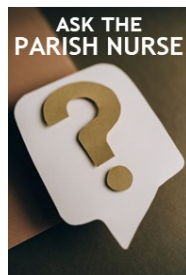
What is spirituality? Although spirituality means different things to different people, it is often thought of as a belief in something bigger than yourself; the way you find meaning, hope, and inner peace in your life. Although many people find spirituality through religion and faith rituals, others may experience it in art, music, journaling, yoga, meditation, or connection with nature. There is a growing body of research that supports the claim that there is a positive relationship between spirituality and improved health, and in fact, studies suggest that spiritual practices may add years to your life. What??? It might be hard to fathom how going to worship or contemplating a sunset can be as beneficial to our physical health as eating a bunch of broccoli, but evidence points to this very connection between our beliefs and spiritual practices and our sense of well being.

Let's take a closer look at the positive benefits that spirituality can have on our health:

- Stronger immune system
- Lower risk of depression and anxiety
- Lower blood pressure
- Decreased mortality due to heart disease
- Feel less pain (especially associated with prayer)
- Better and improved sleep
- Stress reduction (stress is a major cause of chronic disease) as a result of:
 - Richer social connections which provide a sense of belonging, security, and community
 - Better coping mechanisms
 - Strength of personal values and worldview
 - Leading happier, more productive lives
 - Enhanced ability to think clearly

ASK THE PARISH NURSE

This new column is all about you and what questions you might have when thinking about health and wellness. Chances are if you have a certain question, others have asked themselves the same question as well. Now to be honest, my email box has not been flooded with inquiries by any means, but I have received a few questions, including this one:



and positively having a significant impact on lifestyle choices

- o Naming of gratitude

So...take exquisite care of ALL parts of you...the mind, body, and spirit are indeed connected and the health of one affects the others.

Please email your questions to me at: kbergeland@richfieldumc.org; your names will be kept confidential. I look forward to hearing from you!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Be sure to tune in to worship on these special dates in May.

May 9

Please join us for a very special Mother's Day service on Sunday May 9 at 9:30 am. We will be joined by special guest, renowned storyteller Kevin Kling, who will regale us with stories about mothers in the way that only Kevin can. Kevin is a Minnesota treasure and you have probably heard him on NPR and on television and even at RUMC a few years ago. Kevin will be joined by his long time collaborator Victor Zupanc (our Living Waters music director) and together they will put a warm glow on everyone's Mother's Day. Don't miss it!



You can listen to Kevin tell stories, including the poignant "Prayer" on the MPR archives:

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2007/10/29/midday1>

You can buy Kevin's short story collection *The Dog Says How* to read "Prayer," "Mom's Purse," and other wonderful gems:

<https://amzn.to/3dp63tx>

May 16

On Sunday, May 16th, The Chancel Choir will present a musical portrayal of Christ during the service:

"The Word Became Flesh
...and lived for a while among us"
by Tina English, John Purifoy, and Bob Kauflin

A CONFLUX DEVOTION

By Garrett Johnson

1 Peter 4:10

And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts.

Every Sunday during worship we take some time to light candles to celebrate the conflux moments in our lives. But what exactly is a conflux moment and how do you know you are having one? During this time where we are putting the pause on the zoom session and preparing to meet again, we will be having a weekly devotional to help us search for those conflux moments in our everyday lives.

So what is a conflux moment? If you do a simple google search for the word "conflux" you stumble upon a band who goes by the name Conflux who are based out of Chicago. By typical google search expectations, this probably wasn't what you were looking for. However, if you take a moment you are quick to learn that Conflux (the band) is a Jazz/Metal band. Two things that typically don't go together and aren't really associated together. Together they take these two types of music and weave them together in something that is truly unique. That's exactly what we are talking about when we celebrate your conflux moments in church. Think of it as your week is a Metal handbanger of a song and God is a smooth jazz saxophone, there will be times when the songs don't mix and sound like an elementary school band concert. But there will be other times that the songs will line up so perfectly together, it sounds like the band Conflux is performing in your life.

So what does it look like when we are having a conflux moment? It would be really nice if when we have one of these moments the skies would open up and a beam of light would shine down on us, but that's unlikely to happen. However, there is a sign we can look for, it's a smile on the face of someone you serve. When you do something nice with the gifts God has blessed you with, that's when we have these conflux moments. When you turn your heart and what you love towards the things that Jesus taught us to do, that's when we have these conflux moments. Conflux moments are not about you trying to be something or someone you aren't or who you think you should be, but using what you have and what comes naturally to you.

I am going to wrap up this week's devotional with a quote my own youth leader used when I was a teen, "You may be the only Jesus somebody ever meets". We often don't know how the simplest of actions that we take impact others. Go out of your way this week to do good and seek out those conflux moments in your life.

Loving God,

Help us this week to identify those conflux moments in our lives that heart meets you. Guide us in our lives so that we can do your works here on earth. Help us to be with those who need our help and our blessings. We pray this all in Jesus name. Amen.

CALL FOR YOUR EASTER BUTTERFLY PHOTOS!

On Easter Sunday, you were encouraged to put your butterfly from the February Drive-Thru Joy somewhere you would see it every day as a constant reminder of resurrection in your life. We want to create a collage of photos from people of their butterflies. We'll take them anytime, but we hope to have a video for worship in time for Pentecost Sunday, so if you can, **please submit by May 16**. If you didn't get a butterfly or need a replacement, please contact Pastor Nate, 612.399.6272 Church Mobile or nmelcher@richfieldumc.org. To submit a photo, please email to rumc@richfieldumc.org.

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



It has been a fun and busy spring here at CFC! In April, we had a lot of fun celebrating, "The week of the Young Child" with our families and community. The families and staff have worked on collaborative, hands-on projects together throughout the month. Each family has made their own "family masterpiece", which is now a mural in our childcare center. The families have also created a "hopes and dreams" tree, in honor of their child(ren).

Our Pre-K class established a pen-pal connection at Walker Methodist Nursing Home, the children have sent cards and pictures to the residents there. We have also enjoyed the change of seasons and have enjoyed more time outside.



We have also welcomed some new faces here at CFC. As I moved into the director position, we needed additional teachers to fill the times that I had spent in the classrooms.



CFC is now looking forward to summer, and all the fun it will bring.

Kathy Newbauer
Director, Caring for Children



**Minnesota
Annual Conference**
of the United Methodist Church

Dear Richfield United Methodist Church,

Thank you for contributing 100% of your 2020 apportionment allocation! You generously support your local church budget, community outreach, and global missions. This denominational giving is truly "a portion meant" for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual, no one church could accomplish alone.

We now live and minister in pivotal times. Health pandemic, racial justice, and denominational division implore us to envision and embody church in new and nimble ways. I am awed by the creativity and commitment of our Twin Cities District congregations over the past year. As *United Methodists*, we faithfully strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world - disciples that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training, and support for this vision to bear fruit in and through our local churches. Yes, we are in this together and together we are making a difference!

I know such dedication does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship, and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! Thank you for the impactful ministry in which you are engaged! It is an inspiration to serve with you as a partner in offering Christ's light and love.

With joy and appreciation,
Rev. Daniel Johnson
Twin Cities District Superintendent

"THANK YOU" TO LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONAL CONTRIBUTORS!

Thanks to the 13 contributors of photos, poems, songs, stories, spiritual practices, and Bible studies and for Linda's design of the 2021 Lent Daily Devotional.

Print copies were snatched up at Drive-Thru Joy and well-read all Lent long, and each daily entry was posted on [your church's Facebook page](#), too. You can download and read a digital copy of the 2021 Lent Daily Devotional and the 2020 Advent Daily Devotional at richfieldumc.org/devo. You'll also find links to 15+ recommended daily devotional emails, blogs, and podcasts.



“THANK YOU” FOR YOUR FINANCIAL AND FOOD GENEROSITY FOR VEAP FOOD PANTRY!

As a church, we may be in distanced times, but we are finding ways to come together. Through a series of five drive-thru food drives over the course of six months at Trunk-or-Treat, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Drive-Thru Joy, your church has centered the compassion of the Holy Spirit in this community. Through these drives, we've collected \$2,000+ and 3,200+ lbs. of food and health donations for our longstanding mission partner, VEAP Food Pantry. This is a conflux moment! Can you feel what God is doing through your church? Your faith in action is changing lives, thanks be to God! You can learn more or give directly at veap.org.

MN FOODSHARE 2021

At the Drive-Thru Joy on Sunday, March 21, 2021, we received \$260 and 1,127 lbs. for this year's Minnesota FoodShare Drive, thanks be to God!



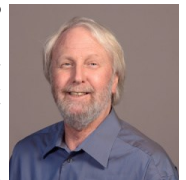
“THANK YOU” FOR FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD SUPPORT!

During the week of April 11-17, your church partnered with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and provided two meals plus groceries and beverages for the whole week for several families who were experiencing homelessness. The families are temporarily housed in area hotels, which is Beacon's housing format during pandemic. We shared the week's responsibilities with our two regular church partners, Living Spirit UMC and Park Avenue UMC. For the type of response we needed this time, we ended up receiving an overabundance of interest, and so thank you to all the unpaid servant volunteers who helped, Steve and Rexi Warner, Sue and Jerry Burmeister, Molly Reko and Fern Albertson, and to those who inquired and will help next time. Special thanks to Sharon Hall for her coordination efforts. God's Hands Thrift Store provided financial support for expenses during this week.



“THANK YOU” TO TY MOORE FOR 20 YEARS OF WORSHIP AUDIO!

TY Moore has been a steady presence as the primary audio technician for around twenty years. Nearly every Sunday - including during this season of pandemic - he has helped ensure musicians, liturgists, and preachers sound loud and clear for the worshiping body. TY is taking a much-deserved break! The tech crew is taking over and he shifts to playing back up. On behalf of the entire church, thank you, TY, for your expertise, your servant heart, and your dedication to the worship life of your church!



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:

May 3: A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness

June 7: A Pilgrimage to Eternity by Timothy Egan

July 5: The Almost Sisters by Joshilyn Jackson

To join by Zoom, email both Fern (WFalbertson@gmail.com) and Molly (mollyreko@gmail.com).

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, 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.

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 3 for more information.

WOMEN'S TRIP TO THE BWCA

August 23-29, 2021

Sign up and hold these dates if interested

The women of RUMC who have historically gone to the BWCA have new plans. We will 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, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Rexi Warner's friend, Heidi, Laurel Lien, Lenny Klosinski, uncle of Steve Klosinski, David Berner's father, Wilber Berner, Brian Boardman, Bob Wright, Reid, brother-in-law of John Meeker, James York, father-in-law of Randy Matheus, Caroline Riley, and Sharon Morrow.

Prayers for Comfort:

All those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- The Alexander and Currie families in the death of Meg Alexander. Read [Meg's obituary](#).
- Linda Wilkins in the death of her son, Douglas Wilkins.
- Sherree Stratton in the death of her sister, Dawn.
- John Meeker and family in the death of John's sister, Michele.
- Clarice Lien, and her son (and former RUMC member), Dan Lien, in the sudden death of his wife, Kristen.
- The family and friends of Judy Znerold, former RUMC member. Read [Judy's obituary](#).

2021 LOVE OFFERING: FEEDING THE HUNGRY AND MINISTERING TO MIGRANTS

Special Collection on Sunday, June 13

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2021 Annual Conference—taking place June 22-24—is “Jesus. Waymaker.” The Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus—feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God’s compassion and grace.

The Methodist Border Friendship Commission Recipient of 50 percent of 2021 Love Offering

The [Methodist Border Friendship Commission](#) (MBFC) is a ministry of the El Valle District of the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC. It supports a number of immigrant and refugee service organizations along the Texas border. One such organization is [La Posada Providencia](#) shelter in San Benito, Texas. For over 30 years, La Posada Providencia has served individuals and families who flee to the United States due to political oppression, natural disaster, and other life-threatening actions in their native countries. Currently it provides housing, English lessons, and life skill classes for six-12 months to about 24 people who are awaiting resolutions to their legal cases. These clients also receive assistance navigating paperwork and the complex immigration process. School-age children are enrolled in local schools so they don’t fall behind in their education. Please visit <https://lppshelter.org/> to learn more about this organization.



Ruby’s Pantry host churches

Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering

Albert Lea UMC, First UMC (the Coppertop) in Duluth, and Forest Hills UMC in Forest Lake each host monthly [Ruby’s Pantry](#) grocery distributions at their churches as a way to live out Jesus’ call to feed the hungry and love our neighbor. For a \$20 donation used to cover food storage and transportation, each guest receives an abundance of high-quality grocery items. Between the three churches, groceries are provided to about 750 households each month. Please visit <https://www.rubyspantry.org/> to learn more.

Matthew 25 food distribution

Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering

Originating at Spirit River Community UMC in Isanti 12 years ago, this food distribution ministry has been relaunched as a partnership between Spirit River, the Spirit River Foundation, and Coon Rapids UMC. Once a month, groceries sourced from corporate and community partners are prepared by volunteers and distributed to everyone who comes, no questions asked. Currently, groceries are freely given to 600-800 families per month.

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) scholarships

Recipient of 10 percent of 2021 Love Offering

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) participants of every age serve in all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Most teams from Minnesota spend up to two weeks working on hands-on projects in construction, disaster response, teaching, health care, and packing supplies for overseas shipment. Every year, 10 percent of the Love Offering goes to help offset the cost for first-time participants.

HAPPY MAY AND JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May

Maxene Schwanke	01
Allan Reko (partner to Yana)	02
Bob Wright	02
Alicia Owens	04
Anna Restemayer	06
Amanda Currie	09
Phoebe Waltz	09
Nora Freeman	10
Maya Olson	10
Pat Doncavage	11
Reine Whitaker	12
Lee Weiser	13
Marge Osterdyk	16
Pat Schilling	16
Cole Dewey	17
Jerene Jex	17
Michele Wegscheid	21
Pam Currie	22
Bill Hillger	22
Laura Pratt	22
Sherree Stratton	23
Susan Johnson (partner to SK)	25
Harold Teachout	27
John Cogan	30

June

David Butler	01
Kay Kessel	02
Agnes Danzl	03
Mark Dierauer	04
Denver Callahan	05
Sara Watne	05
Suzanne Johnson (partner to Kent)	06
Fern Albertson	07
Fletcher Loge	07
John Darling	08
Roxanne Hillger	09
Calvin Koskey	09
Joseph Warling	11
Ruth Phelps	12
Oscar Reichenberger	13
Carol Oliver	14
Lisa Keith	15
Lynne Clarke	17
Sarah Currie	18
London Owens	19
Margaret Haines	21
Toni Locke	22
June Berglund	23
Mark Bosch	23
Helen Bodger	24
Tiffany Holt	25
Ann Krause	25
Kathy Bodger	26
David Doty	26



5835 Lyndale Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-861-6086 office
rumc@richfieldumc.org
www.richfieldumc.org

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Heartline

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

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

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

OUR BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving God of all,
renew our hearts and minds.

Reveal your wildest dreams,
breakthrough to each of us.

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

Transform us by your song,
create our harmony.

May we embrace your future
and be your loving church.

Amen.

Richfield United Methodist Church

Website: richfieldumc.org **email:** rumc@richfieldumc.org **Phone:** (612) 861-6086
Facebook: facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch **Twitter:** twitter.com/RichfieldUMC