

Gathering Hymn "Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom"

UM Hymnal No. 508

Vs. 1 and 5

1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom,
plans that picking of the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest,
when the buds begin to sprout.
5. Faith believes that God is faithful:
God will be what God will be!
Faith accepts the call, responding,
"I am willing, Lord, send me."

Centering Prayer

Holy Spirit, the cruelty of oppressive forces enrages us. We know it doesn't have to be this way. May we follow in the legacy of our teacher, Jesus, who, amidst empire, lived creatively and compassionately. In our heartbreak, comfort us and open us to your expansive Ways. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

**Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through 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.**

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

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace*

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a mutual sign of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

*You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate
the moments this week where your life's journey met God's heart.*

Celebration Music "Preludio in E major" from Partita no. 3

by J. S. Bach

Penelope Corbett, violin
Groth Scholarship recipient

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-14, 27-31

NRSV

Now concerning spiritual gifts, siblings of the Spirit, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Has the pandemic changed the church forever?”

Rev. Nate Melcher

“So Many Questions!” Worship Series 8 of 9

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The LORD's Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

*Your gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online at richfieldumc.org/give
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“How Great Thou Art”

Swedish Folk Song/arr. D. Forrest

Brad Gardner, soloist

THANKSGIVING

Doxology

UM Hymnal No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude

Holy God, we are grateful for your constant presence in our lives. We acknowledge that every perfect gift in our lives is a gift from you. We have listened to your guidance, directing us to offer you our first fruits. So, we now join in this generous act of giving. We pray that these resources may care for your children everywhere who are experiencing distress. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday—September 5

Online-Only Worship on September 5
[youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://www.youtube.com/richfieldumc) or 888.650.5835

After this long season of distanced worship from necessity, we will experiment with distanced worship with intentionality. Please do not come to campus that day and thank you for your grace.

Summer Worship Series “So Many Questions” Concludes with the question, “How can I really believe all of this stuff?”

Upcoming

Sunday, September 12

Rally Sunday with Blessing of the Backpacks in worship, Welcome Whirl for children and youth, and donuts for fellowship time.

In-person worship at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Please wear your mask. Worship will continue to livestream, so you can worship in-person when you’re ready!

Fall Worship Series Begins - “Church Is a People” September 12 - October 10

As the old hymn goes, “The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, **the church is a people.**” Most importantly, the church is people who rely on God and each other. As we regather and rally this fall season, we remember our vows as members of the church to “faithfully participate in its ministries by [our] prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.” Each week, affirm the power of each vow and explore what they mean to you.

Confirmation Coming Soon

We will be starting our next round of confirmation classes this fall for any youth who are in at least 7th grade and older who wish to become full members of the church. For more information please contact Garrett at gjohnson@richfieldumc.org.

Sunday September 19

MCCI: Missional Church Consultation Initiative

Resource Refocus Sunday - Sept. 19, 10:45 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
An MCCI coach meets with the church as we name our current ministry activities, organization, partnerships, and resource areas that make up who we are and how we operate as a church today. This is your opportunity to lift up and celebrate the resources God has given our church!

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read

Sept. 13: (note date change) *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

Contact **both** [Fern Albertson](#) and [Molly Reko](#) to get connected.

Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study

Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group

Contact [Kent Johnson](#) to get connected.

Women's Bible Study is taking a break and will resume on Tues., Sept. 14.

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

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

- Openness for “conflux moments.” May all experience God in their lives.
- People in need of a loving church home. May they be embraced.
- Our fellow MCCI church, First UMC: Windom . May the Spirit break through.
- We pray for all Minnesota Annual Conference churches leading into General Conference 2022. This week we pray for: Wrightstown UMC (Parkers Prairie), Wykoff UMC, Wyoming UMC, Zion UMC (Bellingham), Zion UMC (Buffalo Lake), Zion UMC (Danube), Zion UMC (Lydia), Zion UMC (Sargeant), Zion UMC (South Haven)
- Children near and far. May all be shown safety, stability, and care.
- People facing the brokenness of inequities, poverty, loneliness, racism, toxic politics, complex family systems, and other pressing challenges amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. May all who do justice and love mercy rise up as active, partnered signs of God's healing love.
- Our church's people, elected leaders, paid staff, and partners. May the Spirit break through.

Prayers for Healing:

Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Maxene Schwanke, Jan Hansen, Joyce Walls, Agnes Danzl, Sara Watne's sisters, Hope and Lora, Laurel Lien, James York, father-in-law of Randy Matheus, Lori Claussen, and Bev Crandall's brother-in-law, Howard.

Prayers for Comfort:

Betty Donovan, Barb Rogers's mother, and all in hospice and their families.

Prayers for those who are Grieving:

Grace Cogan and family in the death of RUMC member, John Cogan.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Jodi and Jim Young in the death of Jodi's father, Harold M. Fratt, Sr.

The Church Office/Campus Is Open

The church office and campus is open, with operating hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The Church Library is open when the campus is open.

Stop by to look through the new books and check-out a book to read.

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Brad Gardner

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Garrett Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech Crew: Rev. Bill Johnson, Garrett Johnson, Dale Olson

Greeter: Gail Johnson

Driver: John Wittenborg

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