

Heartline

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

2021
September/October



MCCI Update
Page 3

Church Bus Service
Page 3

New Worship Series
Page 4

One United Worship
Service
Page 5

New Member Class
Page 7

Children's Ministry
Page 8

Youth Ministry
Page 9

Men's Camping Trip
Page 9

Introducing Amplify
Media
Page 10

God's Hands Thrift Store
Pages 12

UMW Dates
Page 13

Video Conferencing /
Hybrid Meetings
Page 15



CONFLUX: A One-Year Worship Series begins on September 12.
See page 4 for more about this series.

Rally Day
Sunday, September 12, 2021
In-person worship on campus
at 9:30 am

Blessing of the Backpacks during the worship service.
Welcome Whirl and fellowship time with donuts
immediately follows the service.

Please bring your mask and be prepared to wear your mask as we continue to follow CDC guidelines.

Children, Youth, & Parents
Welcome Whirl is the official registration event for the school year. Stop by the outdoor Welcome Whirl to get your family registered for the year.

Welcome
Whirl

Worship continues to livestream,
at <http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>
and by touch tone phone at 1.888.650.5835,
so you can worship in-person when you're ready!



Let's start with the truth: we don't know what the fall season will bring, and that's not easy. I've spoken with several of you about what the final quarter of 2021 may be like as school returns, regulations and recommendations change, viruses mutate, and whatever else may come our way. It's a time with uncertainty and many of you, and I am right there with you, are holistically exhausted by it. May we take comfort in the Holy Spirit who is ever-present and ever-loving.

I write my "Nate Notes" around a month before publication, so I'm not even going to bother writing what the current mask policy on campus is because it could be completely different by the time you read this! You may remember we had a more relaxed mask policy as we prepared for Phase 1 of regathering, only to return to something stricter when the headlines changed overnight. As always, I thank you for your patience and grace as we move forward together.

Despite uncertainty and change, there is celebration and hope. We are glad to be in-person once again for worship and gatherings. We are hopeful the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) process proves fruitful for us. We celebrate all servant volunteers and paid staff for their incredible work these long distanced months. And we are hopeful God keeps breaking through in the life of our church. Have you felt God in your life, friends? Have you felt the conflux, the meeting of your life's journey with God's heart? I want to hear about it. Send me your "breakthrough story" of holy meaning to breakthroughstories@richfieldumc.org. It is always a blessing to celebrate these stories of faith with you!

As I wrote on the eve of the Phase 1 of regathering in-person as a church, please continue to bear a few things in mind as we journey into the fall season:

1. **We have not thought of everything!** We are human, working our way through our first pandemic. Along the path to regathering, we continue to (re)discover

pieces to sort out together. Some things are 100% in place, others are coming along, and still others aren't there yet. Thank you for your generous complements and your gentle feedback as we continue forward.

2. **Regathering for in-person worship is an adjustment for everyone!** In the Sanctuary, you can't change the thermostat, lighting, or volume (sorry, you can't mute the sermon!). You will be with people you know and people you don't know yet. Some elements will be familiar and comfortable, others new or different. We will all experience this to some degree; may we be in solidarity.

3. **The situation can always change.** The pandemic is not over and the headlines keep changing. It is possible we must stop in-person gatherings again later, a prospect that 89% of summer survey respondents said, "would be hard, yet I feel 'safety first' is the best move." We continue to monitor guidelines from the Minnesota Annual Conference, MDH, and CDC. Nearly 96% of summer survey respondents said 100% of their households are vaccinated except those with direct medical instructions not to be vaccinated due to current personal health conditions and/or children who are too young for currently-available vaccines. That is encouraging data as a church.

I am encouraged by you, Church. It has been my pleasure to be your pastor and to be the church together as we embark on our third fall season together. Please read this issue of *The Heartline* newsletter with fresh eyes seeking ways for you to stay informed, get involved, and be invitational. See what we're doing in Sunday School and Youth Group. Watch for music ensemble and small group details. Check out new classes and opportunities. Pay attention to worship matters and the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI). After a season of so much distance, we are preparing for a season of fresh togetherness. Yes, we may still have uncertainty and yes, we may still have exhaustion, but we still have the Holy Spirit of the loving God who sent Jesus into the world. May this truth lead us through.

May God's blessings always be upon your lives, friends!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor



MCCI UPDATE: STAY INFORMED AND BE INVOLVED

In August, all members will receive a letter detailing the next steps this fall for the Missional Church Consultation Initiative, or MCCI. Please save the dates on your calendar so you can stay informed and be involved in the process. Additional copies of the letter and other information are available both on campus and online at richfieldumc.org/mcci. Please pray for your church as we work toward a bold future together.

FRESH CALL FOR YOUR BREAKTHROUGH STORIES!

Pastor Nate needs to hear your stories about feeling God in your lives. Where did God break through this year? When did you feel God's love? What has prayer meant in your life? How did you encounter the Holy Spirit's comfort and strength? Your breakthrough stories, your conflux moments, are a blessing in your faith journey. Please send your story to breakthroughstories@richfieldumc.org or fill out a "Breakthrough Story" card at the Community Table. Your story may end up in a sermon or article to inspire others to seek God in their lives.

ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 5

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835
Holiday weekends such as Labor Day Weekend have historically low worship attendance. Meanwhile, we have had meaningful worship experiences online and this worship format continues to have value. In these early days of regathering and discovering along the way how to do so well, we will give our hard-working servant volunteers a break and worship on September 5 only online and by touch tone phone. 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.

CHURCH BUS IS UP AND RUNNING

We are thankful to have a church bus and a team of dedicated drivers to welcome folks to church on Sunday mornings who could not attend worship otherwise. Such a blessing!

To ensure safety in this transition time, the following guidelines are to be observed. These guidelines follow the most recent mandates from the MN Metro Transit, MN Department of Health, and the CDC. Please be aware that they are subject to change as we keep an eye on evolving and ever changing data.

1. Drivers and riders need to wear appropriate fitting masks while on the bus.
2. Riders are encouraged to spread out throughout the bus when possible.
3. The bus has a maximum number of 14 passengers with no rider limits at this time.
4. Appropriate cleaning measures will be taken between scheduled trips.

If you are interested in riding the bus to church or have any questions, please call the office at 612-861-6086 during open hours for more information.

WORSHIP ENTERS REGATHERING PHASE 2

It has been a blessing to gather in-person for worship since Phase 1 of regathering began on August 1. Remember, you are welcome for in-person worship and gatherings when you are ready. This fall, pending the wider pandemic scenario allows, we will continue in the next phases:

Phase 2 - September 12: In-person/online worship, indoor fellowship, outdoor Sunday School

Phase 3 - October 3: In-person/online worship, indoor fellowship, indoor Sunday School, Nursery

Phase 4 - November 7: Everything from Phase 3 plus the addition of small groups on Sundays

We continue to monitor the recommendations of the Minnesota Annual Conference, Minnesota Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Your patience, diligence, and cooperation is what has helped your church thrive in pandemic times, thank you.

CONFLUX: A ONE-YEAR WORSHIP SERIES SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 - MAY 29, 2022

In 2021-2022, Richfield UMC begins a one-year worship series: **CONFLUX**. "Conflux" is when two or more flowing bodies of water join together to form a single channel. In our lives, we have "conflux moments" when our life's journey meets God's heart. These sacred, special moments can be both life-changing, extraordinary moments and everyday, ordinary moments, too. Let us recognize the shape of life is "journey," and let us live this journey with our loving God.



The **CONFLUX** worship series is made of 7 miniseries that honor the seasons of the church such as Advent and Lent while exploring several themes in the overture of our lives. The series explores what we the church can do when we are at our best: grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and put our faith into action to heal a broken world. Spiritual practices, events, and media will help bring your weekend worship experience into your weekday living with prayer, journaling, daily devotionals, book studies, and video series to watch at your own pace with [Amplify Media](#) (see page 10).

Church Is a People	Be a church of people who rely on God and each other.
Overture	Celebrate the themes that bring us closer to God's dream.
Nativity Now	Share the gift of Jesus with hope, peace, joy, and love.
First Thing First	Live a life that reflects the love of God to everyone you meet.
Legacy	Remember the past, see the present, build the future.
Unafraid	Break away from worry and fear, live with courage and hope.
X Marks the Spot	Follow a road map that crosses paths with the Holy Spirit.

Each worship experience features a wide variety of Spirit-filled music, inclusive and justice-centered liturgy, meaningful interactive moments, and preaching that connects scripture with everyday living. Worship together on Sundays at 9:30 am, online at youtube.com/richfieldumc, or by touch tone phone at 888.650.5835. For the latest updates on worship and the life of the church, visit richfieldumc.org. Let us worship the God who loves all people. All are welcome, and all means all.

FALL WORSHIP SERIES #1 - "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. This worship series is supplemented by the video series, "A Disciple's Path," available free to watch at your pace on [Amplify Media](#) (see page 10).

FALL WORSHIP SERIES #2 - "OVERTURE" October 24 - November 14

Our lives have had many moments of feeling and sharing God's love. Adding up these moments, these critical themes that bring us closer to God's dream, is an exercise of celebrating the power of our faith and its fruitfulness. We look back to our history, reflect on our present today, and look boldly into our future as we steward our resources and share our gifts as the church. Each week, be blessed by the overture of God's loving impact in your daily life. This worship series is supplemented by the video series, "The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith," available free to watch at your pace on [Amplify Media](#) (see page 10).

ONE UNITED WORSHIP SERVICE COMES WITH ADAPTATION

9:30 am on Sundays in the Sanctuary

In many ways, the united worship service resembles both what worship has looked like during distanced times and pre-pandemic. Still, there are some differences that are worth noting:



1. **Music:** The usual rotation schedule for music in worship is 1st Sundays - Organ/Choral Music; 4th Sundays - Living Waters Band; 2nd/3rd Sundays - Blended Music. This “3 on, 1 off” schedule gives worship a balanced and unique musical flavor. May we innovate with courage, honor tradition, and expand the ways we praise God through the gift of music. Worship leaders on the chancel will often be unmasked. You must follow the latest guidelines for congregational singing and masking.
2. **Sharing the Peace:** 100% touch-free signs of peace are best for now. It is important to greet your neighbor with a mutual, consensual sign of peace. That means, “No thank you, and God’s peace to you!” is a friendly and reasonable response to the question, “God’s peace to you, would you like to shake hands?”
3. **Conflux Candles:** You may light a candle before worship or when invited during the Celebration Music to celebrate the conflux moments when your life’s journey met God’s heart.
4. **Holy Communion:** Celebrated on 1st Sundays, you may gather and bring your own alcohol-free elements with care and delight or take a single-serve juice and wafer kit in the Sanctuary. When invited, consume the elements while seated in your pew.
5. **Other Items:** Place your **offering** in the single plate at the rear of the Sanctuary upon arrival. Please wear your **name tag** to help (re)build the church community. And **mark attendance** in the Welcome Pad if you are the person seated at the end of the pew, thank you.

WISDOM ON GIVING OTHERS THE GIFT OF WORSHIP

Dr. Rev. James Forbes is Pastor Emeritus of Riverside Church in New York City. A true pioneer, he was the first Black senior pastor at this interdenominational church and served there 18 years. A few years ago, he spoke of “The 75% Philosophy,” a way to use our worship experience as an analogy of how we can embrace the diversity of God’s creation:

“The 75% Philosophy [means that] a truly diverse congregation where anybody enjoys more than 75% of what’s going on is *not* thoroughly integrated. So that if you’re going to be an integrated church you *have* to be prepared to think, ‘Hey, this is great, I enjoyed at least 75% of it,’ because 25% should grant for somebody’s precious liturgical expression that is probably odious to you; otherwise it’s not integrating. So an integrating church is characterized by the need to be content with less than total satisfaction with everything. You have to factor in a willingness to absorb some things that are not dear to you but may be precious to some of those coming in.”

This wisdom from an 87-year-old pastor who still preaches some of the best sermons in the nation may very well be a guiding principal for this church as we embark on one united worship service together. A variety of music and other elements all but guarantees each one of us will have some parts which are our favorites and others that are not for us. May we give these to one another as gifts as we share time and space together to worship. May we worship not our preferences but our God who loves us all!

SERMON ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE

richfieldumc.org/sermons

Have a favorite sermon or one you missed or one you want to share? All sermons since June 30, 2019 are listed in chronological order at richfieldumc.org/sermons. Look up a sermon by title, preacher, scripture, or date with “Find in Page” in your web browser. Tap/click the sermon title to go directly to it in the worship archives at youtube.com/richfieldumc. The link may go to where you last left off. If so, use the chapter list in the video description.



NEW: MUSIC ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE

richfieldumc.org/music

Have a favorite song or hymn that you want to experience again? All worship music since May 9, 2021 is listed in alphabetical order at richfieldumc.org/music. Tap/click the date the piece appeared to go directly to it in the worship archives at youtube.com/richfieldumc. The link may go to where you last left off. If so, use the chapter list in the video description.



ONLINE WORSHIP: CHAPTER NAVIGATION

youtube.com/richfieldumc

Ever wanted to experience a worship hymn, sermon, or prayer again? All elements of worship since May 9, 2021 are time coded in the video description as “chapters.” Tap/click the chapter timestamp to skip straight to that chapter. Past worship archives will receive chapter lists soon.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS:

- Sept. 5 Online-Only Worship
- Sept. 12 Rally Sunday
- Sept. 19 MCCI Resource Refocus Sunday
- Oct. 3 Servant Sunday/World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 17 MCCI Report Day
- Nov. 7 All Saints’ Day
- Nov. 14 Commitment Sunday / New Member Sunday
- Nov. 21 MCCI Vote Day

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS IS OPEN DURING THE WEEK

Members and Friends,

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

Please note, the main entrance will be locked during these hours but there is a doorbell to the right of the main doors by the windows, see photo below. Please press the button and have patience, this system is new to all of us. You may be asked to identify yourself over the intercom. You will be “buzzed-in,” or someone will come to the door.

Additionally, the church phone will be answered during these open hours.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Special Collection, October 3, 2021

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus’ affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all individuals—especially those who’ve historically been assigned to the world’s margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for U. S. national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God’s children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we’re resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 pm

Contact Rev. Nate Melcher:

nmelcher@richfieldumc.org

The church is on the move, and it's time to join the movement! Spend time with Pastor Nate, current members, and others interested in joining what God is doing with this church as we talk about faith, the church, and the meaning of membership. New members join during worship on November 14 (if that date is tricky, please come to the class, anyway!). Learn more at richfieldumc.org/membership.

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

After the last newsletter article about roughly fifty new books obtained for and shelved in the church library, and of asking folks to check on any long-held books that may have been hanging out in their homes, I was thrilled when I attended worship in the sanctuary on August first and looked in the library to see several of the new books checked out and several books in the return drawer. A few of those books, both incoming and outgoing, are children's books. Thank you! On another note, Rev. Melcher has discovered an online cataloguing app called "Librarything" which allows persons from outside one's community to see what our library has. It is a vehicle that can draw attention to who we are as a church and our values and ministries. The "catch" is typing in the names of authors/titles to the database. I have already done the 735 books obtained in my tenure with the library and recorded on my laptop. However, it would be helpful to have some persons willing to bring their own laptops to the church and volunteer to "adopt" a row or two of books and type them in. It is not hard and I can easily show persons the process for so doing. If you are willing, please let me know and we will make arrangements. Meanwhile, enjoy perusing the shelves and that which you take home from them.

Thank you.
Wayne Albertson

THANK YOU, OUTDOOR WORSHIP CREW!

Many people went into making outdoor worship a success. Thank you to all who came and participated as well as those who played a servant volunteer role. There were musicians, liturgists, photographers, videographers, sound engineers, food drive leaders, counters, greeters, ushers, roustabouts moving tents and other heavy objects, and so many more. It truly takes many hands to make worship happen and thank you for helping your church succeed.



Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES



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

After over a year of gathering online only, regathering as a Sunday School community is rapidly approaching! This fall, after Rally Sunday, we will return to our pattern of having children stay in worship on the first Sunday of the month. For the remaining Sundays, children will have the opportunity to go to Sunday School following the Time with Children during worship. We are hoping to return to our Children First worship, where our children lead us in worship on the first Sunday of the month, in January.

On **Rally Sunday, September 12**, we will have a small Welcome Whirl celebration outside. This is our Sunday School Registration Fair, and we will have some cool snacks, and a photo booth to celebrate! Following this, on September 19 and September 26, we will have Outdoor Sunday School on the playground outside of the Fellowship Hall. This time will be focused on Bible stories, games, and getting to know each other again.

On **October 3**, we look forward to celebrating some milestones in our children's lives with Bibles! On this special Sunday, all of our children who are present will stay in worship to celebrate. Following this, on **October 10**, we will begin Indoor Sunday School again, but in a new location! This year, we will have Sunday School in the Little Lunch Room, which is located at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Finally, we are looking forward to our traditional fall and winter activities that are coming up soon! The **Trunk or Treat** will be an outside drive-thru event once again this year. We are also hoping to be able to do a Christmas Pageant in person this year!

Returning to in-person activities is exciting! But we need lots of help to make this happen. In particular, we need more people to help lead Sunday School. If you would be

interested in teaching or helping with Sunday School once a month, or more, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

Upcoming Dates:

- September 12: Rally Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks in worship
Welcome Whirl outside following worship
- September 19: First Outdoor Sunday School during worship, after the Time with Children
- October 3: Bible Sunday during worship
No Sunday School
- October 10: First Indoor Sunday School during worship, after the Time with Children
- October 30: Outdoor Trunk or Treat
- November 7: No Sunday School
- December 12: Christmas Pageant
No Sunday School
- December 19: Sunday School Christmas Party
- December 24: Christmas Eve Service
- December 26: Online Only Worship Service
No Sunday School

DRIVE-THRU TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is coming back once again on **Saturday, October 30 from 2-4pm** in our parking lot! Let's help bring some Halloween joy into our neighborhood!!

To maximize safety, this will be a Drive Thru event, and masks will be required for everyone over the age of 2. Please watch Facebook for details regarding this, and other pandemic safety measures that will be clarified closer to the event.

We need lots of volunteers to help make this event fun and safe for our neighborhood families! If you are willing to help with any of these things:

- Help set-up
- Regulate traffic flow
- Decorate their trunks and hand out candy

Please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org, or go to this link to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/32v9f962>

Youth

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES



Garrett Johnson, Youth Leader
gjohnson@richfieldumc.org

Youth Update for the 2021-2022 School Year

As we all know this past year has been a tricky one in a lot of ways. From the way we did school to the way we did youth group and worship, things were different. This upcoming year will most likely have some challenges as well. What our youth activities look like this fall could be different and next spring could be a whole other style. No matter what happens or who we meet one thing remains constant, God is at work with our youth ministry.

At the time this article was written the plan is to attempt a slow launch to a return to "normal." Just like with worship we will also be phasing in our youth ministry this fall. For more details on what to expect with each area of youth ministry please read through the other youth articles. If you have questions please let me know and I will be happy to clarify anything you may need.

Youth Group Returns

Youth group will start the year as a hybrid of in-person outdoor time Sunday Mornings and a digital check Wednesday evenings at 7pm. This schedule is for the month of September starting on the 15th of September as we remain in Phase 2 as a church. Assuming conditions are right as we enter phase 3 as a church we will shift to our traditional Wednesday night Youth Group here at the church. I will communicate those details out as we get closer to phase 3.

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. We will be holding an informational session for both youth and their guardians on Sunday October 3rd after worship in the youth room. For more information please reach out to me at gjohnson@richfieldumc.org.

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 to

ensure that the emails are being received by all who need them. If you or any one in your family needs to be added to the list, email me at gjohnson@richfieldumc.org.

Adult Volunteers Needed

We are in need of adult volunteers who are willing and able to help our youth program be the best that it can be. We need volunteers who are willing to help with Sunday school this fall, Confirmation, Youth Group, and all the fun events that we do. Whether you are able to commit weekly, monthly, or just from time to time, please email me and let me know what you are interested in helping with so that I can start filling our volunteer needs for this upcoming school year.

MEN'S FALL KOWAKAN (BWCA) TRIP 2021

Kowakan camp is on the edge of the BWCA about 16 miles east of Ely, MN. We sleep and cook in the base camp and take day trips by canoe or hiking to see the beauty of the BWCA and Ely area. Hopefully the fire season will be over.

We have reserved the camp from Wednesday, Sept. 15 - Monday, Sept. 20. You can attend for as many days as you like. A list everyone's contact number will be available to encourage carpooling.

The daily fee of \$25 for the overnight and 3 meals.

Contact Kent Johnson to reserve a spot, get more information or ask a question.
Kentjmn@gmail.com.





INTRODUCING AMPLIFY MEDIA

Our church now has a subscription to Amplify Media, a multimedia streaming platform. Think of it as “Netflix for Churches,” only instead of you getting your own subscription, the church has one for you! All of us can watch any video on it at any time through your tablet, mobile device, computer, and some smart TVs (Roku-enabled).

Amplify Media features thousands of videos and audiobooks you can use for daily devotional and reflection, Bible studies, worship, and inspiration. There’s content for adults as well as children, including some content recommended by Pastor Nate that can enhance several of this year’s worship series and sermons. We hope this is a constant and powerful way for you to put your faith development into your own hands and explore videos at your own pace.

To create your Amplify account and access thousands of videos, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurchmi> (The “mi” at the end is from the first two letters in “Minnesota,” so yes, that is supposed to be there.)
2. Enter our church’s unique access code: **HTMZFL**
3. Create your own user profile with your name, email, and your own private password. (You will *not* be charged a fee. Richfield UMC already has the paid subscription that is for all members.)

SAVE THE DATE: SERVANT SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 3

The church will honor and thank all who have been a servant volunteer in the life of the church since we went into distanced gatherings and ministry on March 15, 2020. So many contributed to keep the church thriving in these times - paid staff, elected leaders, musicians, tech crew, business and finance, hospitality, VBS and Sunday School teachers, food drive leaders, event crews, and more - we will lift you up in prayer in worship. Thank you for sharing God’s blessings in the life of your church!

WORSHIP LEADER WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm

Contact Rev. Nate Melcher:

nmelcher@richfieldumc.org

This workshop will give you new skills for public speaking, addressing people in-person and online at the same time, and writing prayers and other worship liturgy. If you want to help lead worship and build your craft in writing and delivering community prayer, be part of this one-night only workshop.

SMALL GROUP LEADER WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm

Contact Rev. Nate Melcher:

nmelcher@richfieldumc.org

This workshop is for members who want to try their hand at leading a small group, book study, or other gathering in the life of the church. You’ll be equipped with skills in setting the scene for the group, asking engaging questions, and keeping the discussion flowing. If you want to join others for a deep dive on scripture or social justice topic, be part of this one-night only workshop.

SHARING SPACE: HERITAGE ROOM ON SUNDAYS

This church has blessed to host the Great Love Mission Church for worship for over thirty years. This dedicated church body worships Sundays in the Chapel at 11:30 am, followed by fellowship in the Heritage Room. Because they are adjacent, sound travels easily from the Heritage Room to the Chapel. Now that Richfield UMC worship begins at 9:30 am, any groups or events in the Heritage Room will likely have a later starting time than before the pandemic, though the ending time remains the same. Please be mindful and remember groups or events must end by 11:15 am so you can quietly and quickly clean-up and depart so the Great Love Mission Church can have a peaceful, respectful time of worship. Thank you for sharing space with our longstanding church partner.

LOOK AHEAD, ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WRITERS

Advent begins November 28 and we will be asking writers to write about gifts: the gifts we've given, the gifts we've received, and the gifts God has put in our lives. Start thinking about where your writings may take you and look for the call for writing - and the deadline - coming up later this fall.

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

Happy Summer Memories at CFC!



THERE WILL BE SINGING!

As we continue to navigate the changing health climate, we are finding ways to safely restart activities we have put on hold. We are happy to announce that the Chancel Choir will begin regular, weekly rehearsals beginning Wednesday, September 8th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. For the time being, the choir will sing in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

With this said, there will be some protocols in place for safety. To participate in the choir (in-person), you **MUST** be fully vaccinated - this is non-negotiable and based on CDC recommendations. In addition, if you sing with us, please be prepared to be "mask-fluid." This means that we will be ready to sing with or without masks as is recommended by the CDC at any time and as is needed by our proximity to others during worship or rehearsals. (Participants may choose to wear a mask at all times if they wish).

All are welcome to join us in singing! Please contact choir director, Paige Armstrong, with any questions or for more information (parmstrong@richfieldumc.org).



Kathy Newbauer
Director, Caring for Children

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

SAVE THE DATE

Lunch and Learn returns on Thursday, November 11th.

We are hoping to offer an in-person event with lunch and a program! Watch for more detailed information to come.



PASTORAL CARE VISITS

Despite our hope and initial planning to open up in person lay pastoral care visits, after thoughtful consideration to everyone's safety and well-being, these plans have been put on hold. This is due to the quickly evolving data regarding the dramatic surges in Covid cases caused by the Delta variant. For pastoral care staff, Pastor Nate Melcher plans to return to in-person pastoral care visits after a Covid-19 vaccine becomes available for his young children. Kay Bergeland, Parish Nurse, will be available for in-person pastoral care visits on a case by case basis. Thank you for your understanding. We will continue to look at the data very closely and adjust our thinking as needed to make the best decisions we can for the health of us all.

Please call the church office and ask to speak with Nate or Kay if you are in need of care, support, and/or prayer.

CALLED TO CARE

Seventeen months ago, at the start of the pandemic, the Called To Care ministry team was created at RUMC with one simple mission: to connect as many individual and family units of our church community with a caring and hope-filled presence as possible. The Called To Care volunteers did an incredible job of maintaining connections in our church and helped our community stay united in the many months we needed to stay apart. As in-person worship has resumed, the Called To Care ministry program will officially close at the end of August. Our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who served faithfully on this team! To everyone who has found ways to stay in touch and extend care to one another, our deep gratitude as well.

SAVE THE DATE

Flu Shot Clinic
Sun., October 3rd
Time: 9:00-11:30 am
Place: Richfield UMC

Coordinated by
TRUST/MVNA/
Hennepin Healthcare

Flu Vaccination

GOD'S HANDS THRIFT STORE

God's Hands Thrift Store: Pray for Next Steps

This fall, we will pray and listen to God as a church for what is the future of this ministry. For 15 years, servant volunteers made God's Hands Thrift Store a gift to the community with quality items at unbeatable prices with proceeds supporting a wide variety of ministries. Sharon Hall, a stalwart servant volunteer for many years, is stepping away from the thrift store and we celebrate her leadership. This fall, pray for God to reveal what is next for our church and this outreach ministry. For more information, go to richfieldumc.org/thriftstore.

God's Hands Thrift Store: The Great Giveaway

Saturday, October 2
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Open to the public, all pre-pandemic stock will be given away for free, one-day only! Clothes, shoes, games, toys, knickknacks, and more! Whatever is next for God's Hands Thrift Store, we know we want a fresh start, and the Great Giveaway is an opportunity to practice extravagant generosity with our neighbors. We need servant volunteers for set-up that week, and hospitality/clean-up that day. To register, contact Sharon Hall at (952) 894-3722 or [blessings325@gmail.com](mailto: blessings325@gmail.com).

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 2022.
- We pray for all Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church leading into General Conference 2022.
- 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, 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, mother of Barb Rogers, and all those in hospice and their families.

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- * Christie and Win Neuger and family in the death of Christie’s brother, Doug Cozad.
- * Steve and Rexi Warner in the death of Steve’s father, Rev. Sherman Warner.
- * Victor Zupanc and Dianne Schmiesing in the death of Dianne’s father, Robert.
- * Jodi and Jim Young in the death of Jodi’s father, Harold M. Fratt, Sr.

UMW SAVE THE DATES

UMW Craft and Vender Fair

Saturday, November 6th, 10am to 2pm

Have you been busy crafting during the pandemic? If you or someone you know is interested in having table please contact Rhonda Olson at rhonda.s.olson@gmail.com for information and an application. Please consider donating items to the UMW table. Contact Toni Locke at toni@ggrreegg.com or 612-840-9797 about dropping off items or if you have any questions.

UMW Bake Sale

Sunday December 12th after service.

Do your holiday baking the easy way. Cookies 50 cents each, other tasty treats available priced as marked. Cash or check only please. Cookie or other treat donations can be dropped off at the church kitchen on Saturday, December 11th between 10am and 2pm or Sunday, December 12th before service. If you have any questions please contact Toni Locke at toni@ggrreegg.com or 612-840-9797.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

September

Roger Dammer	01	Brian Boardman	16
Kira Locke	02	Marna Labelle	17
Jill Williamson	03	Vada Klint	18
Gertie Melcher	04	Amy Reichenberger	19
Edith Armstrong	06	Susan Westerdahl	19
Dewitt Killam	09	Jim Vetsch	20
Cameron Currie	10	Chloe Novak	22
Jane Barton	11	Yana Reko	24
Nancy Dierauer	12	Marie Taylor	24
Marlene Davis	13	Pat Robertson	27
Al Reko	14		

October

Cori Williamson	03	Jason Teal	19
Scott Ellich	04	Sharon Hall	20
Jack Exline	05	Dale Olson	20
Barb Larson	05	Phil Williams	22
Sandy Nelson	06	SK Johnson	27
Elizabeth Wittenborg	08	Tari Tanhoff	27
Pat Norton	12	Sue Burmeister	28
Susan Johnson (Wayne)	16		

VICTOR ZUPANC'S ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT

Friday, August 27

You've heard Victor Zupanc's music in worship, every theater in town, on tv and film and radio. But now...Victor has released a new album of his original music! This labor of love has been growing for years and it has finally blossomed. Come help him celebrate at his album release concert. This is a rescheduled event due to rain on the initial date.

Friday August 27 at 6:30pm
Amphitheater at Lyndale Gardens
Lyndale Ave. S. and 64th St., Richfield MN
Outdoors—Free

Victor will be joined by some very special guests and will be performing music from his new album, Welcome to MY World. You will also hear original music from his other projects as well as a handful of his favorite cover songs and probably a polka or two!

The Amphitheater at Lyndale Gardens is a beautiful new venue with plenty of built-in seating and room for folding chairs. Please note the early starting time. Bring dinner and enjoy a fabulous program with some of the best players in town.

Check out this new album at: <https://victorzupanc.com/welcome-to-my-world-new-album>



CREATION JUSTICE TIPS

It's an outdoor party—lots of people. Go ahead and use plastic cups. But put out a bin, labeled Cups Only. Afterward, wash the cups. Just recycle any damaged cups, if possible. But **think Reuse before Recycle**.

Ask to **have your packages shipped plastic-free**. Activate live-chat and request that your order and all future ones come without the single-use plastic that envelops our habitat and harms life for all. Amazon is one company that provides the service.

Don't throw away the peelings or tops of your veggies. Freeze them and when you have a good stash, cook them for veggie broth or stock for nutritious soups and other homemade goodies. Find out how at ohmyveggies.com/how-to-make-vegetable-broth-with-kitchen-scrap/. Food waste is the #3 culprit in damaging the environment.

Don't beat yourself up! **You don't have to be perfect** in making earth-friendly changes in your lifestyle. Remember John Wesley's point that we are "going on to perfection." As in our faith, we are on a journey toward a goal. God's grace covers our failings, and God's Spirit enables us to continue. Hold the vision of perfection and keep taking steps toward it.

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors.

For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.

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 or resubscribe in seconds at richfieldumc.org/email. Help your church go from 311 to 325 subscribers.

2. ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.



Interacting with [your church's Facebook content](#) 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. Help your church grow from 516 to 525 fans.

3. ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.



Engage with [your church's YouTube Channel](#) 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. Help your church grow from 302 to 315 subscribers.

UPDATE:

VIDEO CONFERENCING / HYBRID MEETINGS

At the time of this writing, the church is in the midst of purchasing and installing video conferencing equipment to enable teams and small groups to have hybrid meetings. This new technology will allow some people to meet in-person on campus while others join the meeting from their computer or mobile device at home. Everyone will be able to see and hear one another, too. This forward-thinking, future-focused tech upgrade is financed through the generosity of the Memorials Fund. Thanks be to God for all who contribute to this fund and the saints who are honored by such gifts. May this fund continue to grant the church new opportunities to reach new people in new ways!

CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

Women Who Read (WWR)

1st Mondays of the Month

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:

Sept. 13: (note date change)

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Oct. 4: *Afterlife: A Novel* by Julia Alvarez

Nov. 1: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger

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

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays (beginning Sept. 14)

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

9:00 am

In-person in the Heritage room (in-person begins Sept. 15)

Online by Zoom or phone

All men are welcome to read and discuss upcoming sermon scripture passages 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.

Connect Online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95435276775>

Meeting ID: 954 3527 6775

Or call in: 312-626-6799 (standard rates may apply)



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

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 91532

Date Sensitive Material

Return Service Requested

Heartline

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

**Worship on Sundays
at 9:30 am**

⇒ **In-Person Worship
in the Sanctuary**

⇒ **Online Worship**
<http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>

⇒ **By touch tone phone at
1.888.650.5835**

*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