

# Heartline

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

2022

March / April



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## Lent 2022

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 2 at 7:00pm

In-Person, Online at [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc)  
and by touch tone phone: 1.888.650.5835.

Begin your Lenten journey with the Ash Wednesday worship service. The awareness and the corporate and personal acts of repentance are the substance of the Ash Wednesday service. Marking the forehead with the sign of the cross in ash is an important part of this service for many. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Read more about the season of Lent on page 5.



Worship each Sunday in Lent at 9:30 am.

You can worship in-person, online at [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc), or by touchtone phone, 1-888-650-5835.

### LENT WORSHIP SERIES "UNAFRAID"

What is your greatest fear? Is it a fear that you have faced or one you expect to confront some day? Who knows about this fear? What is your support system for it? We all live with fear in our lives. What we do with that fear is what counts. The words "Do not be afraid" appear in some form in scripture over 140 times. God is trying to tell us something important - are we willing to listen? This Lent, we will explore a variety of topics that bring fear to many. We may end up with more questions than answers, but we will go through this together and with God. See page 4 for more information about this series.



**Holy Week and Easter details  
please see page 5.**



As I write an article for the *Heartline* newsletter to be published in March 2022, I cannot help but look back at the articles I wrote for the *Heartline* newsletter to be published in March 2020. I know, I know, that was everybody's favorite month, ever. When anniversaries surface, be they for celebrations, tragedy, or something in-between, we often look back to before, take stock of today, and look ahead. As I reflect on those articles, I see a mixture of things that never happened, things that happened in a different way, and things yet to come.

Lots of things didn't happen, at least in 2020. I wrote that we'd have fun if we went out as a church for trivia night at local restaurants (if you put the right generations together, you get a team who knows both Lawrence Welk and Cardi B, and that's how you dominate!). I mentioned the success I'd had developing a Pub Theology ministry before to talk faith in local breweries. I asked you to join me for the Challenging Islamophobia in-person conference. We listed a "save the date" for summer fare like LYFE Camp, VBS, mission trips, BWCA trips, the carnival, and movie nights. This is a sampling of what didn't happen in-person in 2020, though some returned that year or in 2021 online, at least. I see the invitation I wrote to you to come see my children and me perform in *Godspell* at Aldersgate UMC and we luckily squeaked in two performances before lockdown.

A few things happened but in a different way than we expected. MCCI director Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey was set to preach that month, but it would be 19 months before she would join us for worship. Likewise, our MCCI Express Day was set for September 2020 and we finally had it 13 months later this past October. We'd planned to have conflux candles in worship through Easter and now we celebrate our conflux moments as a regular part of worship. We also announced a goal to assemble at least

two taskforces that spring that have ended up reflected in our MCCI prescriptions: a space audit (Facilities Repurpose/Utilization Team) and a hospitality audit (Guest Connections Team). We had already been listening to God to break through. A pandemic slowed things down, but here we are today!

Finally, some things are yet to come. I wrote of outreach opportunities. We kept doing that and more are in store for this church. I wrote reminding you that if there's someone in the life of the church you haven't seen in a while to please be the person to reach out and invite them back. That is even more critical today and remember *nothing* will ever replace *your* personal invitation. I wrote that we need more servant volunteers in the tech booth during worship. Guess what? Talk about needed, needed, needed this spring! And I wrote about needing volunteers for the next session of the General Conference. That's... maybe happening? It's still scheduled for Minneapolis, now August 29-September 6, though many questions linger about whether it can finally happen (which is challenging and painful for many reasons, Lord in your mercy).

What a bizarre list of things that did not come to pass, though they could still come this year or in the future. What a strange twist of fate for things that came in unexpected ways and in a new time frame. What an odd assortment of things which are right here, right now or on the horizon. This mix is a reminder that God has been preparing this church for new blessings for a long time. Now, it is up to us to say "Yes!" to God and take a few steps forward. We still dwell in pandemic mystery, and we are people of faith. We are people who are used to dwelling in mystery and seeing the holy around us. There is great joy and hope in that. May a longing for that great joy and hope carry us through this season of Lent in our journey to Easter.

Resurrection is always right around the corner.

Sometimes, it is indeed, already here.

I love being your pastor. God bless you all!

In Christ,  
Rev. Nate Melcher  
Senior Pastor



## MCCI BREAKTHROUGH TEAM WORK IS UNDERWAY!

In February, we assembled the first people to join the MCCI Breakthrough Teams. These short-term teams will work with an MCCI coach over the next few months to lay the groundwork of implementing our MCCI prescriptions. This is our season of exploring our facilities use, revitalizing our campus strategic planning, grow in our hospitality, discern our children's ministry direction, and seek the signature ministry that sets our hearts on fire to share the love of God in our community. If you're already signed up for one or more teams, thank you for your hard work on behalf of your church! If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. And all members are expected to pray for the success of these teams and for God's dreams to be revealed in the midst of the work.

## CALL FOR SERVANT VOLUNTEERS: WORSHIP TECH CREW

Our tech crew has worked incredibly hard for months, overseeing sound, slides, and cameras for over 120 worship services since we pivoted to online worship experiences in March 2020. Now, we call on you to step up and join the team. Please do *not* let the word "tech" intimidate you. While there's more to it than what's below, the essential functions are simple and accessible:

**Sound:** Set up the microphones. Too loud? Turn it down. Too soft? Turn it up.

**Slides:** Tap "next" to get to the next slide or video.

**Cameras:** Tap "Camera 1," 2, or 3 as leaders go to their designated spots.

You will be trained, you will be welcomed, you will be amazed at how quickly you will become competent with your role. Plus, the camera operator gets to use a joystick!

**Please step up if you have even remote skills/interest. We want to be able to continue to provide online worship experiences, and this relies on building a robust tech crew roster, thank you!**

Contact Bill Johnson at [bull6973@gmail.com](mailto:bull6973@gmail.com).

## WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

The Regathering Taskforce continues to monitor the pandemic landscape and gather to discuss our protocols. Most recently, the church shifted to online-only worship and gatherings from January 16-February 6 due to increased COVID-19 cases. Many unknowns persist, and while many challenges linger we are all hopeful things continue to move in the right direction. As always, the taskforce monitors recommendations from the Minnesota Annual Conference, Minnesota Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and grace.

### 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

## ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP PLANNED FOR FIVE SUNDAYS

[youtube.com/richfieldumc](http://youtube.com/richfieldumc) or 888.650.5835

As announced at the church conference on January 30, the elected leaders of Ad Board approved a proposal to intentionally hold online-only worship with no in-person option on the following Sundays:

- May 29, 2022 (Memorial Day weekend)
- July 3, 2022 (Independence Day weekend)
- September 4, 2022 (Labor Day weekend)
- December 25, 2022 (Christmas Day)
- January 1, 2023 (New Year's Day)

Pandemic concerns will linger in 2022 as we live into an era of more stability. We continue to (re)build worship teams and giving our many servant volunteers intentional breaks will give them more excitement and less obligation to lead worship services. These Sundays had historically low attendance pre-pandemic and worship attendance numbers continue to rebuild. Similar to worship on September 5 and December 26, there will be a quality worship experience that is online and by phone only. Our Bishop and other conference leaders have affirmed our creative approach and may we affirm the value of online worship as we find God in yet another way.

## LENT WORSHIP SERIES - "UNAFRAID"

What is your greatest fear? Is it a fear that you have faced or one you expect to confront some day? Who knows about this fear? What is your support system for it? We all live with fear in our lives. What we do with that fear is what counts. The words "Do not be afraid" appear in some form in scripture over 140 times. God is trying to tell us something important - are we willing to listen? This Lent, we will explore a variety of topics that bring fear to many. We may end up with more questions than answers, but we will go through this together and with God. Sermon topics include:

- March 6 - Understanding and Countering Fear
- March 13 - Facing Today's Challenges
- March 20 - Failure, Disappointing Others, and Insignificance
- March 27 - Aging, Illness, and Death
- April 4 - Endings, Changes, and Missing Out

This worship series is supplemented by the video series *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* on Amplify Media. You can watch with your free account at [amplifymedia.com](https://amplifymedia.com), the Amplify app (Apple, Google, Amazon, or Roku), and the latest option - directly from the church's website: [richfieldumc.org/amplify](https://richfieldumc.org/amplify). You may also be interested in picking up a copy of Rev. Adam Hamilton's book of the same name. Here's what others are saying about it:

"I want every American to read Adam Hamilton's *Unafraid*. There is no saccharine advice in this book, only honest assessments about the danger of nurturing fears and the power of facing them down."  
- Diana Butler Bass, author *A People's History of Christianity*

"A road map for facing our fears with faith. I highly recommend this book." - Fr. Richard Rohr, author *The Universal Christ*

"Adam Hamilton has done it again, serving as a postmodern spiritual guide for a nation in desperate need of renewal. The mix of science, philosophy, practical biblical wisdom, storytelling, and personal testimony make this book a joy read." - Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL

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

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. Get started at [richfieldumc.org/ministries/amplify/](https://richfieldumc.org/ministries/amplify/).

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 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.      |

Let us worship the God who loves all people. All are welcome, and all means all.



### EASTERTIDE WORSHIP SERIES "X MARKS THE SPOT"

For many, summer is a season with different rhythms.

Less school,  
more travel.

Less structure,  
more freedom.

Less patterns,  
more improvisation.

This spring, we're going to equip ourselves with spiritual practices to prepare for the sporadic summer season. If a disciple's path is already hard to follow on a day to day basis, let us draw up a map that leads to the great treasure of Easter: Jesus resurrected! In May we'll also take time in worship to celebrate Caring for Children early learning center.



## LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on March 2. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The use of Ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

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

The United Methodist Book of Worship copyright© 1992 *The United Methodist Publishing House*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

We have a lot of music coming up for Lent that we hope will be spiritually meaningful. Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd this year and the Chancel Choir is singing for the 7:00 pm service. The choir will sing an anthem called "Restoration" based on a Kievan Synodal Chant arranged by Heather Sorenson. The remaining Sundays of March will feature the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Bell Choir and Living Waters Band.

As Holy Week begins, the Chancel Choir will sing the triumphant anthem "Make Way for the King" by A. Gartner. The Palm Sunday service will end with a foreshadowing to the passion of Jesus with Brad Gardner singing "Gethsemane: 'I Only Want to Say'" from Jesus Christ Superstar. Gretta Thorson will sing "In this Very Room" and "I Don't Know How to Love You" for the Maundy Thursday service. Good Friday's service is on April 15th with powerful music. Brad Gardner will sing "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserable, and the Chancel Choir will sing "He Carries My Cross" with oboe and cello accompaniment. Also, the choir will sing "*Requiem*" by Eliza Gilkyson dedicated to victims of natural disaster. The service will include cello solos and organ.

On Easter we celebrate with brass, timpani, organ, bells and choir. This service will send you out in the spirit of rejoicing of the risen Lord.

Please come to worship in-person or online in March and April!

Nancy Dierauer, Organist/Music Director

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022 RICHFIELDUMC.ORG



### **Palm Sunday | April 10, In-Person and Online Worship at 9:30 am**

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem for Passover. We join the ancient crowd who shouted with joy born of hope. Begin the Holy Week journey into Easter in this special worship service.

### **Maundy Thursday | April 14, In-Person and Online Worship at 7:00 pm**

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

### **Good Friday | April 15, In-Person and Online Worship at 7:00 pm**

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

### **Holy Saturday | April 16, Online Worship at 7:00 pm**

There will be an Easter Vigil at 7:00pm (online-only, 2021 rebroadcast) This is a time of prayerful online-only worship together.

### **Easter Day**

**Sunday, April 17, 9:30 am**

### **In-Person and Online Worship Service**

Celebrate the risen Christ - the hope of the world! - with worship filled with brass, timpani, organ, bells and choir!

# Children

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES



Rev. Hope Hutchison  
Director of CYF & Outreach Ministries  
[hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org)

After a short break in January, we are so excited to return to in-person Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall! It has been such a joy to be able to run around and play games while we teach children how to grow in love of God, and in love of neighbor while they interact with each other. We are still requiring masks at indoor Sunday School, and meeting in the large Fellowship Hall allows us to distance better, as we continue to find ways to have fun together while staying safe!

We are also looking to resume our Children First Worship in March. As we continue to be flexible to pandemic restrictions, we also continue our commitment to living into our values of listening to children as the leaders of not only tomorrow, but today. This service is usually on the first Sunday of each month, and it allows our children to try on different leadership roles in worship alongside adults. If you are interested in leading alongside children in worship, or if your children have particular gifts they would like to share, like greeting, reading Scripture, or leading a prayer, please contact Rev. Hope at [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org).

### Children's Ministry Calendar:

- Sunday, March 6: Children First Worship, No Sunday School
- Sunday, March 13, 20, 27: Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 3: Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall (please note different worship schedule for April)
- Saturday, April 9, 2-4pm: Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 10: Sunday School in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 17: Easter Worship, No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 24: Sunday School in Fellowship Hall

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

## Youth

### In-Person Youth Group Resumes, Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30pm

Join Rev. Hope, Pastor Nate and your fellow youth and servant volunteers for an evening of fun! Activities range from games, puzzles, to videos and guest speakers. So come check in with us, and build community together. Please note the shift in time to 7:30pm, and thank you!

### Confirmation Resumes 2nd & 4th Sundays at 10:40am

As our confirmation-age youth prepare to join Richfield UMC, they are meeting twice a month with clergy and mentors to read the Bible! Immediately following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, our youth will meet in-person the Grace Room, with hybrid options available upon request.

LYFE Camp—See page 9.

## EASTER EGG HUNT



Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 9 from 2-4pm! This year, we will be hunting for eggs outside on our lawn! And while you wait to hunt for eggs, we will have some games, a craft, as well as a photo booth, and we may have a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny! Pending weather and pandemic conditions, this event may shift to Drive Thru so keep your eye on email and Facebook for updates!

We also need lots of servant volunteers to make all of this happen. If you would like to help stuff eggs ahead of time, or donate candy, there are sign up slots here: <https://tinyurl.com/5853c9ct>. We also need help from servant volunteers to run all of our stations! If you are interested in helping children with crafts, games, or welcoming new people onto our beautiful campus, you can find sign ups here: <https://tinyurl.com/5853c9ct>. If you have questions about any of this, please reach out to Rev. Hope at [hhutchison@richfieldumc.org](mailto:hhutchison@richfieldumc.org)

## SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES

### Vacation Bible School: Mission to Mars June 12-15, 5-7pm

Come join us for our evening VBS program! The curriculum is focused on children entering pre-K-5th grade, but the event is open to all. We would love to have families, and children of all ages, as well as children at heart come and learn about God and God's creation. There will be dedicated time for dinner at 6pm, where we will gather in family pods on the lawn to eat sack dinners brought from home.

### Summer Movie Nights Wednesdays in July, starting at 5pm (June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27)

This year we hope to bring back our summer movie series! We will watch movies on Wednesday, and hear sermons based on themes in those movies the following Sunday. During each movie, there will be a break for a meal, where all in attendance can go outside and enjoy a meal on the lawn in family pods.

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## FROM THE PARISH NURSE

### TIME FOR LIFE:

#### LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND FELLOWSHIP FOR EVERYONE

(in-person or online; program only, no lunch, no cost for these programs)



**THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH, 1:00–2:00 pm** (note: 3rd Thursday of the month)

**Program by Grace Hospice on the gift of hospice and the journey of grief.** Look for more information about this program in the bulletin and e-newsletter.

**Both in-person and online,** Zoom info below; the church bus will be available.

For in-person, please RSVP by March 15. Sign-up sheet located on the table in the commons area or contact Nurse Kay, 612-861-6086 or [kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1:00–2:00 pm**

**Program: "Vanishing Landmarks", with speaker Doug Ohman**

**Both in-person and online,** Zoom info below; the church bus will be available.

For in-person, please RSVP by April 12. Sign-up sheet located on the table in the commons area or contact Nurse Kay, 612-861-6086 or [kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org)



Join us for an interesting program as we travel with photographer and storyteller, Doug Ohman, as he takes us on an exploration of "Vanishing Landmarks" in our beloved state. We will journey down back roads and small towns while hearing stories of Minnesota's historic buildings that are quickly disappearing. Doug will share his experiences visiting many of these sites from Minnesota's oldest Courthouse to the last Civil War recruiting station. We will visit noteworthy churches, barns, schoolhouses, libraries, and other structures that dot the prairies, woodlands, and towns of the state. Doug is a popular speaker, historian, and entertaining storyteller. He has spent the last 30 years uncovering and bringing Minnesota's rich history to life in a fun and casual style. Doug has deep Minnesota roots and shares over 300 presentations every year.

**Zoom link:** Online Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835 OR Call-In: 312-626-6799, then enter Meeting ID and Passcode (standard rates may apply)

**Questions:** Contact Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, at 612-861-6086, or email to [kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship for Everyone

Thursday, May 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (both in-person and online)

An upbeat program of music, memories, and laughter by The GraceNotes Trio!

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## REACTIVATION OF THE PARISH MINISTER TEAM

Knowing there is a role for both pastor and lay in a crisis, parish ministers are an extended ministry of the church and serve as tangible witnesses to the care of the community. Parish ministers are committed volunteers who seek to reach out as the presence of Christ to those who are in short term need of care. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, parish ministers were asked to make visits to hospitals or long term/transitional care facilities. Currently, as care team member in-person visits are on hold, the care extended by our parish minister team will come in a phone call or hand-written note. It is important to mention that parish ministers always maintain confidentiality; names, conversations, and situations are never revealed unless permission has been granted first. Parish ministers have received many hours of training by the Lead Consultant of Caring Ministries, Rev. Dr. Christie Neuger; they are provided with continual education and supervision throughout their ministry work in this role.

Please let the church office know if you or someone from the church is hospitalized or admitted to a care facility, as churches are no longer called during the admission intake.

## RECONCILING CONGREGATIONS 2022 SOCIAL GATHERING

You are invited to join with other MN Reconciling United Methodists on Saturday, March 12 at 12:45. Our denomination is in limbo; there is racial unrest; we don't know what's happening with the pandemic. How do we survive this time of uncertainty? Come hear Rev. Leah Rosso, First UMC of the St. Cloud Region, speak on "How to take care of ourselves in times of turmoil" as well as hear Reconciling updates. The location closest to us is Good Samaritan UMC in Edina, other gathering locations available at [www.mnrcumc.org](http://www.mnrcumc.org) or view the live-stream at [www.fumcscr.org](http://www.fumcscr.org).



## RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

One of the experiences I indeed love the most about working with the church library is the personal interactions: seeing a child's name on the check-out card in their young handwriting as they take responsibility themselves for choosing and checking out a book; receiving personally a book due five years ago from a person who recently discovered the book while cleaning; finding a signed handwritten note on a donated book explaining the source of the book and the purpose in donating it; having persons stop me before or after worship to tell of a book that excited them and which they would suggest for the library. All of these conversations or encounters and more are fruitful for helping the library fulfill more strongly the purposes and mission of our church. They also lead to a bit more depth in the relationships I and we share together in the life of our congregation, a time of spiritual sustenance in our individual and collective well-being. Thank you. Wayne Albertson

Wayne Albertson

## THANK YOU: SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thanks to your extravagant generosity, the church has donated 784 lbs. and \$2,295.75 to VEAP Food Shelf. In this season when we were distanced for most of the drive, we ended up with a different result than usual: less cans and more cash. This does, however, benefit VEAP in refreshing ways, as they can make a dollar go much further as an organization than any of us can as shoppers. Thank you for giving from your hearts as members of the Body of Christ, thanks be to God!



## UMCOR SUNDAY

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church.

UMCOR Sunday celebration is March 27, 2022. This special offering is collected on the fourth Sunday in Lent and provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

**March 2**

Ash Wednesday at 7:00pm

**March 13**

Daylight Saving Time begins

**March 27**

UMCOR Sunday

**April 10**

Palm Sunday

**April 14**

Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm

**April 15**

Good Friday at 7:00pm

**April 16**

Easter Vigil at 7:00pm  
(online-only, 2021 rebroadcast)

**April 17**

Easter Sunday

**May 22: Music Sunday**

**May 29: Online-Only Worship**

**June 5: Graduation Sunday and  
Semi-Annual Meeting**

**June 12**

Peace with Justice Sunday

## CAMP MINNESOTA: EXPERIENCE CHRIST, CREATION, AND COMMUNITY

Camp Minnesota offers cutting edge summer camp experiences for all ages and interests. Whether you're looking for a first-time camp experience, a family adventure or personal retreat, Camp Minnesota welcomes you.

Go to [campminnesota.org](http://campminnesota.org) to explore all the options, read about the COVID-19 precautions in place, and to register.

### Youth LYFE Camp (Live Your Faith Everywhere)

#### LYFE Camp - #176

In small groups and worship, explore who God created you to be, and let your identity as a beloved child of God shine. Feel the Spirit in games, crafts, sports, campfire, and Quest. Share the love of Christ with your friends in song, support, and lots of laughter. Carry on beloved traditions and make new ones in our summer together. Make the road by walking the next steps with Jesus on your spiritual journey at LYFE Camp. See photos and testimonials at [www.lyfecamp.org](http://www.lyfecamp.org).

\$470—Grades 7 - 10

6/19/2022 - 6/25/2022 [Register](#)

Leaders: Rev. Nate Melcher & Rev. Rachel Devereaux

#### LYFE Camp - Leader in Training & Adult Volunteers #276

Leaders in training put campers first by serving them with leadership, friendliness, and a flexible, can-do spirit. Carry on loved traditions and empower the next generation of campers to experience the expansive love of Jesus in this diverse camp community. Lead worship, help campers feel at home in cabins and small groups, and share the love of Christ with everyone. **New applicants welcome!**

\$512—Grades 11 - 12

6/18/2022 - 6/25/2022 [Register](#)

### Financial Assistance Is Available

Richfield UMC feels strongly that everyone who wants to attend camp can do so, and that no camper will be turned away because they can't afford to pay. Please contact Pastor Nate with requests for financial assistance to attend camp.

## "SO MANY QUESTIONS!" WORSHIP SERIES RETURNS SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS!

All throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to submit your question(s) about God, faith, church, life, and the Bible for the return of our popular summer worship series, "So Many Questions!" If you have a question about any of those topics, chances are someone else has the same question, too. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome. Please [email your question\(s\) to Pastor Nate](#) by Easter, April 17.

## SERMON ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE

[richfieldumc.org/sermons](http://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](http://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](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc). The link may go to where you last left off. If so, use the chapter list in the video description.



## MUSIC ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE

[richfieldumc.org/music](http://richfieldumc.org/music)

Have a favorite song or hymn that you want to experience again? All worship music since Palm Sunday on March 28, 2021 is listed in alphabetical order at [richfieldumc.org/music](http://richfieldumc.org/music). Tap/click the date the piece appeared to go directly to it in the worship archives at [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://youtube.com/richfieldumc). The link may go to where you last left off. If so, use the chapter list in the video description.



## DEEPEN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP: WORSHIP ARCHIVES

Nearly 3 years of sermons and 1 year of music are at your fingertips. Sermons are timestamped and archived at [richfieldumc.org/sermons](http://richfieldumc.org/sermons), listed by sermon series, title, preacher, and scripture passage. Music is timestamped and archived at [richfieldumc.org/music](http://richfieldumc.org/music), alphabetically listed by title. Sharing a favorite sermon or song with a friend is an invitation for them to learn more about the mission of your church, be glad for your church experience, and perhaps consider if this church is a good fit for them, too.

## 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](mailto: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.

## THANK YOU, STAFF!

The church staff and Caring for Children staff continue to work with dedication to help your church operate on a daily basis. From communications to finance, from campus needs to pastoral care, from teaching children to making music, your staff, each staff person plays a role in the church's success. Please take a moment to thank your staff for their contributions to the mission of the church!

## HAPPY MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

### March

Sarah Callahan	05	Sheryl Gunderson	19
Gero Fuhrmann	06	Mary Pavia	20
Mary Jane Regan	11	Betty Klint	21
Mackean Haines	11	Lynnae Haines	22
T.Y. Moore	12	Dave Berner	23
Scott Clarke	13	Lois Etkin	26
Betty Bosch	14	Victoria Rebeck	26
Lynne Alexander	15	Cooper Loge	26
Amy Burmeister	16	Joanne Green	28
Ryan Whitaker	16	McKenzie Gaertner	29
Marlys Hudson	17	Sarah Musgrave	30
Beverly Crandall	18		
Ryan Olson	18		

### April

Marylee Fithian	01	Gail Johnson	17
Nick Olson	02	Michael Niesen	18
Jim Young	03	Steve Kirchner	19
Jerry Burmeister	04	Jackie Doncavage	20
Laurel Lien	04	Dan Koskey	20
Wayne Johnson	05	Steve Restemayer	21
Roger Boyce	06	Sue Restemayer	22
Joann Schuldt	06	Wayne Albertson	23
Alex Currie	10	Mary Martha Butler	27
Pat Eder	12	Dan Bur	28
Blake Rogers	14	Tim Nelson	28
Katri Reko	15	Asher Teal	29

## AN EVERYDAY PRAYER LIFE IS FOR EVERYONE

**May we devote time and energy to God and neighbor and pray every day for:**

- Open minds and hearts for "conflux moments."
- People in need of a loving church home.
- Our church's journey toward vitality.

### Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- \* The family and friends of Sharon Morrow who died on January 31, especially Donald Morrow.
- \* The family and friends of Elaine Peterson who died on January 26, 2022.
- \* The friends and family of Helen Bodger who died on January 22, especially Chuck, Kathy, Steven, and David Bodger.
- \* The family and friends of Edith Armstrong who died on January 18, 2022.
- \* The family and friends of Jan Hansen who died on January 1, 2022.
- \* The family, especially Anne and Russ Ruona, and friends of Peggy Hamilton who died December 4, 2021.
- \* Barb and Dave Rogers and family in the death of Barb's mother, Betty Donovan.

*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.**

## BE A “DIGITAL SUPERFAN” OF YOUR CHURCH!

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

### Sign up 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](mailto:richfieldumc.org/email). Help your church go from 310 to 320 subscribers.

### 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 530 to 550 fans.

### 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 306 to 315 subscribers.

## UPDATE:

### VIDEO CONFERENCING / HYBRID MEETINGS

The church has completed setting up two video conferencing installations. There is a permanent installation in the Grace Room and an AV cart which is housed in the Heritage Room. Each are the type of same setup: a 65” Samsung 4K TV, a physically small yet powerful computer, and a Logitech camera and microphone system to enable teams and small groups to have hybrid meetings. 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!

## 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. Next books to read and discuss:

March 7: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson

April 4: The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

May 2: In Five Years by Rebecca Serle

To join by Zoom, email Fern [wfalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:wfalbertson@gmail.com).

### Women's Bible Study

#### Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am

#### Currently online only by Zoom

You are invited to contact Molly, [mollyreko@comcast.net](mailto:mollyreko@comcast.net) or 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 on campus in the Heritage Room or 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)



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

### 2022 EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM

You are invited to honor your loved ones by giving towards the flowers that will be used to beautify the church for this year's Easter celebration. The names of the loved ones you are honoring will be listed in the bulletin. At the conclusion of the 9:30 am Easter Day worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing.

The suggested donation is \$20.00, but a donation of any amount will be accepted to defray the cost of the flowers. Please make checks payable to Richfield United Methodist Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo.

**Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, April 10** to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

All names will be listed together within category. Names will be listed within these categories (please mark) ☐ in memory of, ☐ in honor of, ☐ in celebration of: **(please list names)**

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Your Name:

Phone #:

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