

Heartline

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

2022

May / June



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SPRING WORSHIP SERIES: “X MARKS THE SPOT”

This spring, we're going to equip ourselves with spiritual practices to prepare for the sporadic summer season. For many, summer is a season with different rhythms.

Less school, more travel.

Less structure, more freedom.

Less certainty, more improvisation.

Get ready for amazing music and fresh ideas to deepen your faith. 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!

NATE NOTE



I write this a few hours after Easter Sunday worship - our first in-person Easter since 2019! Well, it's more than a few hours after worship. It's also after a nap and a good night's sleep (and perhaps before yet another nap?). With gratitude

and delight, I can tell you Easter was our highest-attended in-person worship service in years. I was glad to see so many of you and to know others were able to connect online and by phone without interruption, as well. You can experience all the joy of Easter worship in the online archives at youtube.com/richfieldumc anytime!

As we enter the summer season, I'm looking forward to addressing some of your questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life in the "So Many Questions!" worship series. Time and again, this church proves questions are welcome, faith is a journey, and there's room to explore. Reading over your submissions this spring has been enlightening and gives me ideas for upcoming worship series, too. Thank you for being curious! I hope you'll invite a friend to experience worship with you this summer, or if a particular question is intriguing, that you'll pass along a link to the sermon archives. We do spend time, money, and energy advertising events in the life of the church. But nothing will ever beat your personal invitation. Will you invite someone?

I am praying daily about what ministry looks like in the life of the church this summer and fall. Is it a new Bible study for people who never read it and want to try for the first time? What about a mentoring ministry pairing young adults and older adults? Maybe it's time for pub theology, a time together in a local brewhouse to chat about God while enjoying a tasty beverage. Perhaps it's a new kind of community education forum or even a mini conference in alignment with our mission. Thank you for dreaming big dreams! Whatever we try, it will take people showing up and people welcoming newcomers with authentic attitudes. We try to make spaces warm and inviting, we learn about

new hospitality tactics. But nothing will ever beat your welcoming attitude. Will you welcome someone?

But before a summer of questions and a fall of new opportunities, we come to spring with new seasons of ministry together. My clergy colleague, Rev. Hope Hutchison, is slated to be made a fully-ordained United Methodist deacon in May and we celebrate this accomplishment with her! Deacons, like elders, are an ordination track in the UMC, though with different callings. As an elder, I am called to word, service, order, and sacrament. As a deacon, Rev. Hope is called to word and service. Confused? Before the mid-90s, UM clergy were ordained as a deacon and *then* as an elder, while now they are two separate roles. While we are both ordained to word (preaching) and service (inviting and encouraging people to serve their neighbor in the name of God), I'm also ordained to order (leading a church) and sacrament (presiding over communion and baptism). We'll talk more about this in worship. In the meantime, I invite you to join me in congratulating Rev. Hope for her ordination! Additionally please remember that while we are your clergy team, *you* are the ministers! All members of a church are called as ministers, in that you offer or *minister* to your neighbors with the love of God! You are in that sense "ordained" for greatness. Will you minister to someone?

Will you invite someone? Will you welcome someone? Will you minister to someone? Three big questions to enter the summer season with, friends. May your response be "Yes," and may the Holy Spirit lead you on a blessed path in the weeks to come! Now, off to that second post-Easter nap...

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor





MCCI BREAKTHROUGH TEAM WORK IS UNDERWAY

The MCCI Breakthrough Team chairs have met and are setting up meetings those who said “yes” to teams this winter. These short-term teams will work with MCCI coaches 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. Contact Gail Johnson, Lay Leader, for more information. And all members are expected to pray for the success of these teams and for God’s dreams to be revealed!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYS

Mark your calendar for three outdoor worship services this summer. These services are in-person only and will not be livestreamed or recorded for rebroadcast (an alternative online worship experience will be available online and by phone on these days). You are invited to these unique, live in-person only worship gatherings with your church.

- **June 12 at 9:30am, Richfield Bandshell** - Graduation Sunday and Blessing of the Bicycles, We will honor all 2022 high school and college graduates affiliated with the church. Also, please bring your bicycle and helmet (or motorcycle!) and receive a special blessing for safe journeys as we get back outdoors in the summer weather.
- **July 10 at 10:00am, Lake Harriet Bandshell.** Please note the special start time for all summer services at the Lake Harriet Bandshell.
- **August 14 at 9:30am, Richfield Bandshell**

WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

The Regathering Taskforce continues to monitor the pandemic landscape and gather to discuss our protocols. Most recently, [the church shifted to an updated mask and group singing policy](#). 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.

PLEASE USE THE MAIN ENTRY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

When you come and worship, please use the main door on the north side by the parking lot to enter the church building. Effective immediately, the south door on the 59th Street side will remain locked on Sunday mornings to provide better safety and security. Thank you for your cooperation.

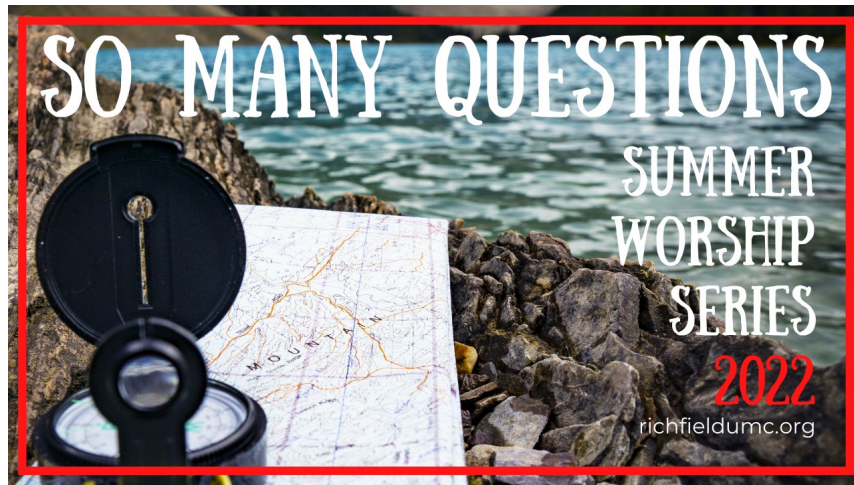
ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP PLANNED FOR FIVE SUNDAYS

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.



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #1: “SO MANY QUESTIONS”

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

- June 5 Why is church so weird?
- June 12 What about doubt?
- June 19 What is the Trinity?
- June 26 How do I listen to God?

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #3: “SO MANY QUESTIONS”

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

- August 7 What are the sacraments?
- August 14 Where is God when we suffer?
- August 21 Which version of the Bible is the best?
- August 28 What is atonement?
- September 4 What’s next?

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/.



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



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES #2: “SUMMER AT THE MOVIES”

Summer at the Movies returns with an all-new lineup of sermons inspired by an excellent movie. As always, special care is taken so you don't have to watch the movie beforehand to get something out of the sermon. This is your opportunity to invite your “movie buff” friends to worship with you and/or connect with someone in your family in another generation with a movie that's right up their alley!

All movie selections are rated G or PG. Parents/Guardians can read **content advisories** at imdb.com. Search for the movie, then scroll to “view content advisory,” or tap/click “content advisory” in the digital edition of *The Heartline* for a direct link.

You can watch the movies in several ways:

- RUMC Summer Movie Nights, please see the article on page 6
- Stream
- Buy
- Rent a digital copy online (see all your options at justwatch.com)
- Buy the DVD/Blu-ray
- Borrow from a friend
- See if your local library has a copy to check out.

Here are the movies and options for how to watch them before worship:

July 3: Minions - What is my purpose in life? (Online-Only Worship!) [content advisory](#)

June 29 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: AppleTV+

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$3.99)

July 10: Encanto - How do we talk about the tough stuff? (Lake Harriet Bandshell Worship!) [content advisory](#)

July 6 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Disney+ subscription

Digital Rental: Amazon Prime Video (\$5.99)

July 17: Enchanted - What is the power of love? [content advisory](#)

July 13 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Disney+ subscription

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$3.99)

July 24: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey - How do I make friends? [content advisory](#)

July 20 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: Disney+ subscription

Digital Rental: YouTube (\$3.99)

July 31: The Wizard of Oz - What are my spiritual gifts? [content advisory](#)

July 27 Summer Movie Night at Richfield UMC

Stream Online: HBO Max subscription

Digital Rental: Amazon Prime Video (\$3.99)

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



Rev. Hope Hutchison
Director of CYF & Outreach Ministries
hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

It has been such a blessing to use our Fellowship Hall for Sunday School throughout the winter months so that our children can run around and play! But, we are looking forward to having Sunday School outside once again as soon as the weather allows!

Sunday School will run through May 22nd, before pausing for the summer. On our last Sunday School session, we will celebrate the year with a party! Throughout the summer, the Art Cart and the Nook will remain available for children to wiggle and play during the worship service.

Children's Ministry Calendar:

- Sunday, May 1: No Sunday School
- Sundays, May 8 & 15: Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, May 22: Sunday School Celebration in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday May 29: Online Only Worship No Sunday School
- Sunday, June 5: No Sunday School
- Sunday, June 12-Wednesday, June 15 5-7pm: Evening VBS
- Sundays, June 19, 26: No Sunday School
- Wednesday, June 29 5:30pm: Summer Movie Night: Minions

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TO MARS AND BEYOND

June 12-15 from 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 together for a few evenings this summer. 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.



On Wednesday evening, to celebrate our time together at VBS, we will be watching WALL-E together in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in volunteering, or helping with VBS in other ways, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS

Come join us on Wednesdays in July for the return of our Annual Summer Movie Nights! We will gather at 5:30pm for dinner on the lawn. Each week, we will watch the movie that will be featured in worship the following Sunday! So come on Wednesday for a movie, and return on Sunday morning to hear how themes from the movie can deepen your spiritual life. Please see article on page 5.

Families can eat together in pods with their sack dinners brought from home. At 6:00 pm, we will move inside and watch movies together! Snacks will be available indoors during the movie.

Movies begin at 6:00 pm

- Wednesday, June 26: Minions
- Wednesday, July 06: Encanto
- Wednesday, July 13: Enchanted
- Wednesday, July 20: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey
- Wednesday, July 27: The Wizard of Oz

CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

Spring is an exciting time for young children. Using our senses to observe weather changes, plant growth and baby animals are just a few of the ways Spring "comes to life" for our children. As winter ends and spring begins, we are looking forward to getting back on the playground and exploring all the newness of the season.

At the beginning of April, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child, a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

Kathy Newbauer, Director, Caring for Children



*Recently a Magician visited.
The children were amazed.*

MAPLE SYRUP MAY FUNDRAISER

Youth Scholarships
For Camps and Mission Trips

12oz for \$10

All \$10 dollars go to the
scholarship fund

Available Sunday mornings or call
612-616-7682



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Youth

In-Person Youth Group

Wednesday, May 4, 11, & 18, 7:30-8:30 pm

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.

Confirmation

May 1 and 15, 10:40 am

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 our youth will meet in-person Pastor Nate's office, with hybrid options available upon request.

Youth Lock-in

May 13-14, 7:00 pm-8:00 am

Come join Rev. Hope, Pastor Nate and your fellow youth for a lock-in! We'll get started at 7pm with games, movies, and a service project. We will stay on site all evening, and will have lots of snacks available, but please eat dinner before coming to church. Pick up is at 8am the next morning, youth may bring one same gender friend who is not affiliated with Richfield UMC, and the cost is free!

Graduation Sunday

June 12

Come join us as we honor our 2022 Graduates! On Sunday, June 12 at our Outdoor service at the Richfield Bandshell, we will honor our 2022 Graduates in worship.



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 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.

\$470—Grades 7 - 10 (\$170+ scholarships available!)

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

Leaders: Rev. Nate Melcher & Rachel Devereaux

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.

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH ALL SUMMER LONG

Be on the lookout for a wide assortment of ideas, collections, and tools for you to enhance your faith all summer long. Right now, we're gearing up to provide books, original videos, guided prayer, keepsakes and tokens, Amplify Media video plans, and more ways to dive deep. If you're interested in something like a Bible Study or particular class, please contact Pastor Nate today and let's see if we can get something going.

Pastor Nate
nmelcher@richfieldumc.org
612-861-6086

CALL FOR SERVANT VOLUNTEERS: WORSHIP TECH CREW

Our tech crew has worked incredibly hard for months, overseeing sound, slides, and cameras for 130+ worship services since March 2020. Now, we call on you to join the team. 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!

Advance Care Planning Workshop



Sunday, May 15th

10:45 - 11:45 am, in the Fireside Room

Facilitator: Rev. Edward Holland

Parish Nurse Kay will be present as well.

Sign-ups are encouraged, though walk-ins are welcomed that morning.

For childcare RSVP to [Rev. Hope](#) by 5/8

Join us for this important conversation when we will have the opportunity to consider some meaningful questions about our health, our life, and our death. In this workshop, we will begin either working on and/or completing our Health Care Directives. We are excited to welcome back the Rev. Edward Holland, a retired hospice chaplain and marriage and family therapist, who has worked for many years to encourage people to talk to their loved ones about what matters most, especially as their health changes. In Ed's words: "Don't ever let that happen to me!" For many years prior to their deaths, I vividly remember my parents emphatically saying this to me and my sister and brother whenever our mom and dad heard about someone who spent long periods of time on futile, aggressive life support before dying. I suspect most of us would never want that to happen to us or to those we love. While not a perfect solution, a Health Care Directive can help to assure that our choices at the end of life are honored. Advance Care Planning can make a difference. Each of us has a right (and I would argue, a responsibility) to make decisions and express our wishes about our health care options, including end of life care. And, we have a right to select a surrogate decision maker (agent) who can make health care decisions on our behalf when we are unable and/or unwilling to decide for ourselves. In Minnesota, what many still call a living will, is now correctly and legally known as a Health Care Directive, a written document which gives each of us the opportunity to select a health care agent (surrogate decision maker) or agents and to give instructions about the care that we want and/or don't want if we are seriously ill and incapacitated. Having a Health Care Directive can be valuable for all adults, regardless of current age or health status."

Advance Care Planning involves a series of conversations between individuals and their loved ones and their healthcare providers. The goal is for everyone to be on the same page, regarding each individual's values, goals, and wishes to minimize confusion, fear, anger, and conflict should a situation ever occur where communication is no longer possible. If you have not completed your Health Care Directive or would like to update your current one, please attend this workshop. Health Care Directive forms, as well as other helpful resources, will be available. Ed will gently lead us in this conversation, and with his experience be able to answer any specific questions that might arise. Remember, "it's always too soon until it's too late" to have this conversation!

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

TIME FOR LIFE: LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND FELLOWSHIP FOR EVERYONE

Thursday, May 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Program: *Music, Memories, and Laughter* by the GraceNotes Trio

In-person only! Please let Nurse Kay know if you would like to ride the church bus.

RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or send an email to kbergeland@richfieldumc.org by Thursday, May 5th

Cost: No cost. Free will donation.

If covid restrictions allow and you would like, stay and enjoy a delicious spring dessert by our very own chef Kelsey following the program!

The GraceNotes Trio -- Diane, Pat, and Connie -- loves to sing old favorites from the 40's and 50's with an Andrews Sisters-Big Band sound. Their message is positive and upbeat! We will also hear some familiar Christian songs and energetic spirituals -- music guaranteed to "make a joyful noise." The GraceNotes Trio has been together for over 20 years and has produced four recordings. Several of their CD's will be available for purchase (cash or check only). They sing all over the metro area and continue to have "the time of their lives!" Join us for this entertaining program of music and humor!



LOVE OFFERING—SUNDAY MAY 1

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the [2022 Annual Conference](#)—which will take place May 24-25—is “Jesus: Healer.”

Bishop David Bard invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as a generous expression of God’s wild and extravagant love.

“Even in difficult times, Minnesota United Methodists have shown themselves to be generous in sharing the healing love of Jesus,” he said. “Our world confronts countless challenges, and though one offering cannot meet or overcome them all, it can do good and bring healing in the name and spirit of Jesus.”

Our Love Offering this year will address food insecurity by supporting three Minnesota United Methodist food ministries. Funds will also assist those in need in our nation and world by supporting Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia and Volunteers in Mission trips.

The funds from this year’s offering will go to:

- The Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia (40 percent)
- Food insecurity across Minnesota (50 percent, divided among the three ministries)
 - Holy Grounds at Centenary UMC, Mankato (17 percent)
 - Simpson Food Pantry, Minneapolis (17 percent)
 - West African Family and Community Food Shelf, Brooklyn Center (17 percent)
- Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent)



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. **We will celebrate on Sunday, June 5.** Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference (50%) and through the General Board of Church and Society (50%).

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities

In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue

In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will. Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

Your Giving Makes Possible the Proclamation of Christ's Peace. Through your giving, good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor.

Thanks be to God!

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

A number of items: First, I wish to thank the following persons for book donations to our church library - Rev. Lynn Borgeson (books for Black History Month); Maxene Schwanke (UM studies); John and Vicki Sells (Devotional); Sandra Nelson (Self-Help); Malissa Whitaker (Fiction); Lynne Alexander (assorted). Their gifts are thoughtful and purposeful in their use by others and in serving the mission of our church. If you wish to see the most recent books new to the library, the list is on display on top of the check-out kiosk. As a side note, there have been a few books returned that have been out for a few years as people have done some cleaning in the pandemic. If you see any RUMC books in your cleaning, just drop them off in the kiosk for others to read.

Then, I report that our books (a total of 2,956) have been catalogued online in a service called 'TinyCat', a division of LibraryThing. This allows others outside our church to see our holdings, and allows persons to find reviews and recommendations, to be part of online book discussions, and more. Check it out. Go to our church website, richfieldumc.org/library. You can search by title, subject, author, or keyword. We are the 1,080th largest non-personal library in TinyCat.



And, for the future, I would be very happy to have you tell me the best books you have read in the now two years of Pandemic Time. If you are so inclined to make a book donation of these "goodies", please remember that our library serves the purposes and mission of our church. It is part of a variety of ways we serve Christ amongst the people where we are.

Wayne Albertson

SAVE THE DATE: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING / CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 am in-person
and online by Zoom
Meeting ID: 842-4704-2137, Passcode:
5835

Or call in: 312.626.6799 (standard rates
may apply)

There will be a brief church conference
for the purpose of voting on new elected
leaders immediately following worship. In
-person attendance is encouraged, and a
Zoom option will be available.

WITNESS REV. HOPE HUTCHISON'S ORDINATION LIVE IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
at 7:00 pm
River's Edge Conference
Center, St. Cloud, MN

The Celebration of Life
and Ministry worship
service at the 2022 session
of the Minnesota Annual
Conference is open to the
public and you're invited!



Witness Rev. Hope and her ordination
class be received with joy as she wears
her stole - the mark of ordination - for
the first time. People who attend in-
person can stand in body and all may
stand in spirit during the moment Rev.
Hope has the Bishop lay hands on her
shoulders and she becomes fully
ordained. The worship service will also
be livestreamed at the [Minnesota Annual
Conference Facebook page](#) and you will
be able to watch at no cost and you will
not need a Facebook account to access
the livestream.

**We are considering making the church
bus available. If you are interested,
please contact the church office. You
must sign-up in advance (first come, first
served). You would meet the bus on
campus (no pick-ups) and be expected to
be able to mind yourself physically once
on-site as the driver will only be
responsible for transportation. It has
been quite some time since our church
witnessed one of their clergy be
ordained. Come and be part of this
unique experience!**

DEEPEN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP:

Worship Archive

Nearly 3 years of sermons and 1 year of music are
at your fingertips. Sermons are timestamped and
archived at richfieldumc.org/sermons, listed by
sermon series, title, preacher, and scripture
passage. Music is timestamped and archived at
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.

Sermon Archive

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.

Music Archive

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. 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.

CHURCH BUS

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!

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.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Rapid Response Update

In the first few months of 2022, the Richfield Foundation granted the Church and Society Team \$1000 to use to fund Rapid Response Relief. These funds were granted with the idea that they would give the church flexibility to send funds when natural disasters, tragedies, or other significant events occur. In March of 2022, the Church and Society Team approved the use of \$250 for Ukraine relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief in the early days of the conflict. As needs arise, the Church and Society Team are open to requests and suggestions from the congregation for these funds. If you have a rapid response request that you would like to bring to the attention of the Church and Society Team, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Cleaning Buckets

Throughout the fall and winter, UMCOR has been responding to natural disasters throughout the United States. One of the ways they respond is by sending cleaning kits to areas affected by floods, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. However, following the storms throughout the Midwest last fall, the supply of kits in warehouses is in need of replenishing! Our youth will be packing these kits during their lock-in on May 13, and the kits will later be blessed during worship. These kits will then travel to Annual Conference to be blessed before being sent to warehouses, where they can be distributed immediately following natural disasters.

Great Giveaway

Last fall our Great Giveaway for the clothing and items in God's Hands was a huge success! But, we still have lots of clothing for spring and summer that is stored and we want to give it away now! On **Saturday, June 11 from 10am-1pm**, we will have our second Great Giveaway. We will need help on Friday afternoon to set up, Saturday to staff it, and we will be taking donations of paper bags again this spring.

Peace with Justice Sunday

This is one of the United Methodist Church's special giving Sundays. This year, we are celebrating it on **June 5, 2022** in worship. Giving to this fund on this date will help the United Methodist Church fund justice efforts here in Minnesota, and throughout the world. Examples of ministries that have been funded in the past include: peace ministries that unite Arizona border communities, and many more. Sometimes it can feel as if it is difficult to make a difference when it comes to systemic issues, but by banding together across our denomination, we can have a larger witness, and make a larger impact. Please see the article on page 10 for more information about this special offering.

THANK YOU: WEST AFRICAN FAMILY FOOD PANTRY DRIVE RESULTS

Thanks to your extravagant generosity, the church has donated food and health supplies to the West African Family Food Pantry of Brooklyn United Methodist Church. You shopped with cultural competency to deliver not just quality items but also items that match a West African diet. You are sharing the love of God with your neighbors on the north side in a critical time. Thank you for giving from your hearts as members of the Body of Christ, thanks be to God!



WOMEN'S CANOE TRIP

The Richfield UMC Women's Canoe trip for this year will be **August 14-19** based again at Camp KoWaKan. All women are welcome. At KoWaKan you sleep in a platform tent in new comfortable cots. There is a large yurt that has electric lights, chairs, couches, and tables that serves as a wonderful gathering place especially if there is inclement weather and after dark. There is a picnic shelter, with picnic tables, a propane 2 burner stove, and a refrigerator, one has access to your car. We have use of the camp's canoes, paddles, and lifejackets, but you may prefer to bring your own. Regardless of your skills or interests, there is something for everyone to do, be it canoeing, hiking, swimming, fishing, playing games, doing arts and crafts, writing, meditating, singing, visiting, worshipping etc. Meals are provided. You only need to bring your own personal gear. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Fern Albertson at 612-214-4527, wfalbertson@gmail.com.



MUSIC MINISTRY

The music department at RUMC has exciting plans for May and June. On May 22, the Chancel Choir will provide a special morning service called "Hymns of Courage and Hope." It will include a string quartet, and poetry readings. On May 15, the Living Waters Band will provide a service with extra instrumentalists. Please come if you can attend these services. Also, we will have Groth Scholarship recipients play for several services during the summer.

Beginning in June we will be celebrating our services outdoors on the second Sunday of each month from June-August. On June 12 and August 14 we will be at the Richfield Bandshell. On July 10 we will be at Lake Harriet Bandshell. These are wonderful opportunities to enjoy the outdoors while going to church. Victor and the Living Waters Band will provide a rich mix of hymns and contemporary classics. There will be special musical guests to help celebrate. Spread the word. Invite your families and friends. Pray for sun!

Nancy Dierauer, Organist/Music Director

INDIGENOUS SACRED SITES TOUR



With Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Director for Racial Justice with the Minnesota Council of Churches

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

Contact Pastor Nate ASAP at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086.

Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs is the Director for Racial Justice with the Minnesota Council of Churches was one of our consultants for your church's land acknowledgement. He leads Sacred Site tours of locations around what is now the Twin Cities metro that are of cultural and religious significance to Indigenous Peoples, and he is often assisted by Kelly Sherman-Conroy, one of our guest preachers in February and another one of our land acknowledgment consultants. Tours are typically in groups of 15 with a per person cost (scholarships available). Typically on a Saturday, they are four hours long, conducted entirely outdoors, and involve some limited walking on slightly uneven ground. **If we have a group of 15 interested, we will schedule a tour with Rev. Jim Bear as a church.**

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH STORY MATTERS!

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.

HAPPY MAY AND JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May

Allan Reko (Yana)	2	Pat Schilling	16
Alicia Owens	4	Jerene Jex	17
Anna Restemayer	6	Cole Dewey	17
Amanda Currie	9	Michele Wegscheid	21
Maya Olson	10	Bill Hillger	22
Nora Freeman	10	Pam Currie	22
Pat Doncavage	11	Laura Pratt	22
Reine Whitaker	12	Susan Johnson (SK)	25
Lee Weiser	13	Harold Teachout	27
Marge Osterdyk	16		

June

David Butler	1	Sarah Currie	18
Agnes Danzl	3	London Owens	19
Mark Dierauer	4	Margaret Haines	21
Sara Watne	5	Toni Locke	22
Denver Callahan	5	June Berglund	23
Suzanne Johnson	6	Mark Bosch	23
Fern Albertson	7	Ann Krause	25
Fletcher Loge	7	Tiffany Holt	25
John Darling	8	David Doty	26
Roxie Hillger	9	Kathy Bodger	26
Calvin Koskey	9	Brent Pavia	26
Joe Warling	11	Beth Gieseke	27
Ruth Phelps	12	Shari Burt	28
Oscar Reichenberger	13	Matt Currie	29
Carol Oliver	14	Kate Currie	30
Lisa Keith	15	Lisa Oster	30
Lynne Clarke	17		

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.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.

We pray in celebration:

Rev. Hope Hutchison, provisional deacon, affirmed for full ordination as a deacon by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who grieve:

*The family and friends of Maxene Schwanke who died on March 31.

*Peter and Nikki Johnson, son and daughter-in-law of SK and Susan Johnson, on the sudden death of their nephew, John.

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS AND TECH CREW!

We are a blessed church to have so many gifted musicians. From vocalists to instrumentalists, singing choir to bell choir, paid staff and servant volunteers, and a few special guests along the way, you have enhanced your church's worship experiences with God's beauty and joy. Likewise, we are incredibly blessed to have a dedicated and growing worship tech crew. Livestreaming worship, doing recording work, and setting up new technology takes skill and passion, and you've got it! Everyone is encouraged to thank our musicians and tech crew this month. And, everyone is invited to pray on how you might join these groups, if this is your time.

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. 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 307 to 315 subscribers.

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

- May 15 Living Waters Music Fest
- May 22 Music Splash Sunday
- May 29 Online-Only Worship
- June 5 Pentecost / Semi-Annual Meeting
- June 12 Outdoor Worship (Richfield Bandshell)
Grad Sunday, Blessing of the Bicycles
- July 10 Outdoor Worship (Lake Harriet Bandshell)
- August 14 Outdoor Worship (Richfield Bandshell)
- August 21 Blessing of the Animals
- September 4 Online-Only Worship

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 books to read and discuss are:

May 2: *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle

June 6: *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes

July 11: *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin

(Note date change because of Independence Day Holiday)

To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am

In-person on campus in the Heritage Room or online by Zoom or phone

You are invited to contact Molly, 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 Grace Room (new location) 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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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

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Facebook: facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch **Twitter:** twitter.com/RichfieldUMC