

Heartline

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

2022
November / December



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Christmas Eve Worship Saturday, December 24, 2022

Celebrate the arrival of the Christ child with joy! Come and worship on Christmas Eve in-person, online, and by phone and let us remember we are connected as one worshipping body on this glorious day. Both services feature the same sermon, the Nativity story, prayers of hope and peace, wonderful music, and "Silent Night" by candlelight. Please pray on who in your life needs this meaningful tradition in their lives and invite them to experience Christmas Eve worship with you.

4:00 pm Family-Friendly Worship features Victor Zupanc, a guest harpist and a special time with children. Nursery care available.

9:00 pm Traditional Worship features music from the Chancel Choir and a string quartet.



It's a Christmas tradition to adorn the church with poinsettias. Please see the back cover for the 2022 Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form.

NATE NOTE



I'm the kind of person who has to work hard at not working. While you know me as one who enjoys the advent of technology, the downside is it's easy for me to always be connected. That means if I didn't quite get things done in the office during the day, well, the computer is downstairs at home for a reason. I appreciate the advice of writer Stephen King who says when he's writing, he's writing, and when he's not writing, he's not writing at all, so he can be fully present with his loved ones. He also says that's hard because he likes the work!

I can appreciate the sentiment. For me, doing nothing is hard work. When his groundbreaking TV show *Seinfeld* ended after nine successful seasons, Jerry Seinfeld took a 1-year hiatus before he developed his next stand-up comedy routine. One of the opening jokes was acknowledging that people ask him all the time what he's doing and his response was simple: "Nothing." He went on to say, "I am so busy doing nothing... the idea of doing *anything*, which could easily lead to doing *something*, that would cut into your *nothing*, and that would force me to have to drop *everything*!"

From November 7 - December 7, I will be on a spiritual renewal leave. United Methodist clergy are eligible for this time apart for spiritual formation and growth for one month per quadrennium (UM Book of Discipline ¶ 350.2), but I've never taken it before, even as I enter year nine as a pastor. Around the time I would've been newly eligible to take it, I was starting a new appointment here at Richfield UMC so it wasn't time. Then pandemic. Then MCCI kicked into gear. But now it is time. We've had a successful fall launch, we've got big plans for 2023, and the longer I put off this time, the less helpful it is for me (and for you, too, so I can be the best pastor I can be).

My hope is some time away - some time working hard to do nothing - will give me time apart for reflection and growth as a human, a husband

and father, and as a pastor. Of course, it won't be a time of *nothing*, but in a relative sense it will likely be a slower time, a time that is more at my pace than the pace of the world, and that is a rare gift. I know some people who feel they have too much time on their hands (retirement can feel like that, especially at first, I've heard), and I know others who never seem to have a moment to themselves (bless you for all that you do for your family!). I'm somewhere in-between and this will be an interesting respite, for sure.

Several of you have asked me how I plan to spend my time away. As I said in my sermon on September 4, I'm not a fan of making predictions. However, I do have some hopes that may come to fruition. First, I'm looking forward to time spent with my family. This time will give me more flexibility for any special opportunities with them and that's what I'm looking forward to the most. Beyond that, I plan to do some reading, some fresh writing, some home projects, and have intentional time for devotion and prayer. I hope to spend time with some old high school friends and travel a little. And I'm likely to go on a silent retreat, a true gift that I've found nourishing in the past. When I look at all of that, I'll have to be mindful that too much something doesn't cloud out the nothing.

Sometimes, it's in the nothing that we experience the holy. People who sit on Adirondack chairs in the yard know what I'm talking about. So do people who people watch at the Mall of America, people who walk the trails of Wood Lake, people who catch themselves taking a deep breath of fresh air and appreciating it for what it is literally and figuratively. In moments like these, we catch glimpses of God's love. For as much bombastic "I AM WHO I AM" that Moses experiences from God in the vision of a burning bush in Exodus 3:1-17, there is still room for the still, small voice of God on the wind for the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-13. Perhaps this will be a still, small season for me.

Remember, "work" doesn't just mean a job. Work takes many forms, and none of us can serve God if we're burned out on work. God rested, so can we. Have a blessed time in your lives this November and I look forward to seeing you in Advent.

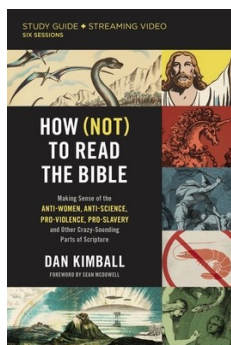
In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher

HOW (NOT) TO READ THE BIBLE

Thursdays at 7:00pm-8:00pm, [Zoom](#)
(online-only)

Remaining Sessions: November 3, 10
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81990390338?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81990390338?pwd=UzMmS3lTWXF0T2VtMG5JOG1WclRYdz09)
[pwd=UzMmS3lTWXF0T2VtMG5JOG1WclRYdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81990390338?pwd=UzMmS3lTWXF0T2VtMG5JOG1WclRYdz09)
Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 Passcode: 5835

Watch and discuss a video of Rev. Dan Kimball explaining concepts in his book, *How (Not) to Read the Bible: Making Sense of the Anti-women, Anti-science, Pro-violence, Pro-slavery, and Other Crazy Sounding Parts of Scripture*. To join this class or sign up for the next round in 2023, contact class leader Rexi Warner: rexiwarner@gmail.com.



ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835
Holiday weekends in the life of the church historically see low worship attendance, yet we've proven we know how to have meaningful worship experiences online. On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will give our hard-working servant volunteers time to be with their families and you are invited to worship online and by touch tone phone. Please do not come to campus these days, thank you.

The elected leaders of Ad Board approved these dates for online-only worship with no in-person option. These dates were announced at the church conference on January 30, 2022.

WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

We know that COVID-19 waves can be disruptive in our lives and the life of our church. As we enter winter, you are encouraged to receive any COVID-19 booster that you're eligible to receive. The Regathering Taskforce continues to monitor the pandemic landscape and gather to discuss our protocols, taking cues from the Minnesota Annual Conference, MN Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Thank you for your support as we move forward.



PUB THEOLOGY

First Sundays at 7:00pm-8:00pm
(in-person only)

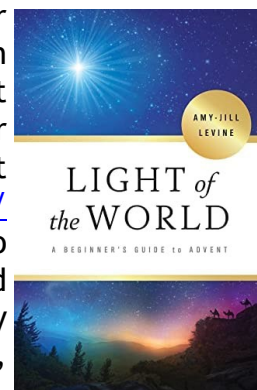
Wild Mind Ales, 6031 Pillsbury Avenue,
Minneapolis, MN 55419 (street parking)
Next Gatherings: November 6, December 4,
January 8

Pub Theology is a new monthly drop-in group to discuss faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Pastor Nate ran a pub theology for five years at his former church and the informal atmosphere was a perfect venue to get people of many generations talking. Arrive early at 6:30pm to order a tasty beverage and/or a bite from the food truck, then stay for discussion led by Pastor Nate.

More information: <https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>

ON-YOUR-OWN STUDY: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

New Testament scholar Prof. Amy-Jill Levine takes you on a deep dive through the Nativity story in a 4-part video series based on her book [*Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*](#). Watch it all for free at Amplify Media on your tablet, PC, smart device, or Roku TV. Get your free Amplify Media account today at richfieldumc.org/amplify for access to thousands of videos and audiobooks for daily devotional, Bible study, worship, and inspiration.



FAITHFUL: A One-Year Worship Series

September 11, 2022 - May 28, 2023

In 2022-2023, Richfield United Methodist Church begins a one-year worship series: **FAITHFUL**. Faith isn't just an hour a week on Sundays. It's an everyday way of life. Faith is core to who we are. We are called to live boldly on the journey with the God who has faith in us every step of the way. **Wherever life takes us, let us jump in with a commitment to life in faith, justice, and joy.**



The **FAITHFUL** worship series is made of 8 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 how we as individuals and as the church are capable to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and 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](#).

Full-Time Faith

All Together Now

I Serve God

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Half Truths

For God So Loved the World

Unwavering Love

Less Mess

Let your faith lead you every day and wherever you go.

Celebrate the good God can do when we work together.

Share stories of how serving God changes your life.

Live with the assurance and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Cut through the platitudes and get real with your faith.

See God's world through a mosaic of perspectives.

Experience the love that Jesus has for all people.

Journey through brokenness and find hope.

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.

WORSHIP SERIES #3: "I SERVE GOD"

We are all on a faith journey and we all have stories from that journey worth sharing. For some of us, it can be challenging to open up about that, however. Yet sharing stories about our faith not only helps us put it into action, and it can also inspire others to faith. When you serve God, you bless others. This November, experience two guest preachers as they share about their faith journey. First, Rev. Lauren Rheingans of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota preaches November 13, followed by Richfield UMC's Lay Leader, Gail Johnson, on November 20.



WORSHIP SERIES #4: "TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY" FOR ADVENT

One of the most important sentences in the Bible is "Do not be afraid." It's written in some form or another hundreds of times throughout the Hebrew Bible or Older Testament and the Christian Newer Testament, and Jesus himself says it. It has been a year mixed with challenges and celebrations. This Advent, we take time rejoicing in this good news that we do not have to be afraid, for God has tidings of comfort and joy for all people. Through music, preaching, and special presentations, may your Advent worship experience be a blessing on the journey to Christmas!



THE CLERGY TEAM IS GOING ON SPIRITUAL RENEWAL LEAVE

As announced in worship on August 21, Rev. Nate Melcher will take a spiritual renewal leave from November 7-December 7, 2022 and Rev. Hope Hutchison will take hers from July 24-August 21, 2023. United Methodist clergy are eligible for this time apart for spiritual formation and growth for one month per quadrennium (UM Book of Discipline ¶ 350.2). Neither Pastor Nate or Rev. Hope have taken this leave before, both are long overdue for it, and SPRC and District Superintendent Rev. Dan Johnson have approved this leave. Plans are in the works for leadership, preaching, and emergency on-call pastoral care. Thank you for supporting your clergy team as they enter this renewal time.



MCCI WORK IS CELEBRATED AND CONTINUES

Our missional alignment process continues with the Missional Church Consultation Initiative. This September, we celebrated the work of our MCCI Breakthrough Teams. The chairs of each team gave updates during the sermons in worship and the teams continue to meet to explore our next steps for signature ministry, facilities use, long-range planning, guest connections, and welcoming families in the life of the church and Caring for Children. These interviews are in the worship archives for you to get updated. Expect more calls for feedback and surveys, and more ways to stay involved. All members are expected to pray for the success of these teams and for God's dreams to be revealed.

ELECTION DAY COMMUNION (ONLINE-ONLY)

Tuesday, November 8 at 8:00pm
youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

When the polls close, you're invited to gather online as the Body of Christ to celebrate Holy Communion together. May we remember we are not called to pledge allegiance to politicians or party platforms. We are called to love God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us set aside what divides us and celebrate what unites us. You are invited to gather the elements with care and delight for this special online-only worship service.

WORSHIP SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING (IN-PERSON ONLY)

Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm

The long winter nights, the coming of special holidays, and the close of the year can stir up many emotions, including loss, joy, wonder, exhaustion and grief. Let us gather in solidarity and support in this special worship service featuring gentle music, meaningful prayer, candle lighting and other interactive moments. This service is in-person only; you can experience an assembled worship service online at youtube.com/richfieldumc.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Celebrate the arrival of the Christ child with joy! Both services feature the Nativity story, prayers of hope and peace, wonderful music, an energetic sermon, and "Silent Night" by candlelight. Please pray on who in your life needs this meaningful tradition in their lives and invite them to experience Christmas Eve worship with you.

4:00 pm Family-Friendly Worship features Victor Zupanc in his Christmas Eve musical debut with Richfield UMC and a special time with children. Nursery care available.

9:00 pm Traditional Worship features musical blessings from Chancel Choir, a string quartet, and Nancy Dierauer playing the magnificent organ.

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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

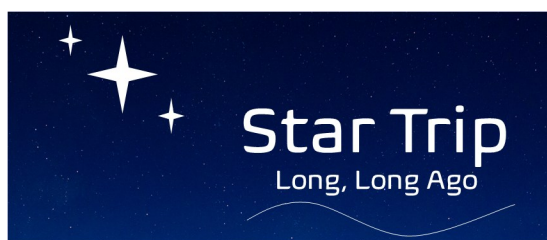
It has been a busy few months in our Children's Ministry, as we find our new normal! This Fall, we expanded our Nook area in the back of the Sanctuary to allow for more wiggle room for all of our children. We also expanded the offerings on the Art Cart to have more sensory toys available for children of all ability levels. This area has truly been a blessing during worship, and as we get back into the swing of things with Sunday School. We also had Bible Sunday last month, where we blessed 4 Bibles for our younger children, 5 third grade Bibles, and 6 Confirmation Bibles.



Outdoor Sunday School has been so fun this fall, but as the weather turns towards winter, we will be moving inside to the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to the Advent season, there are so many opportunities for families to be involved! On December 11, we will have our annual Christmas Pageant, and for the first time since 2019, it will be in person! The Sunday School Christmas Party returns on Sunday, December 18, with fun activities to learn more about Jesus's birth. And finally, there will be a family friendly Christmas Eve worship at 4pm on December 24, with the following two Sundays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, being online only services.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, November 6: No Sunday School
Fall Food Drive Ends
- Sunday, November 27: No Sunday School
(Thanksgiving Break)
- Sunday, December 11: Christmas Pageant
No Sunday School
- Sunday, December 18: Sunday School
Christmas Party
- Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship
4pm (Family Friendly) and
9pm (Traditional)
- Sunday, December 25: Online Only Worship
- Sunday, January 1: Online Only Worship



Children's Christmas Pageant

It is a period of unrest for the people of God. The Empire of King Herod - backed by the Roman oppressors - is a dark force in the land of Judah. Who can bring light into this dark situation? Who can bring light into the even deeper darkness of our own sin?

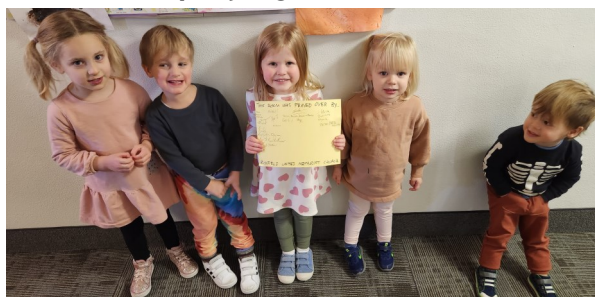
Men from the east believe they have found the answer. These men - who some call wise, some call Magi, some say they were kings - they spot a new light in the night sky. They follow this star believing that it will lead them to another light. A light for all men and women. The light of the world - the one sent of God.

Come join us in worship in December as we journey alongside the Magi as they follow the star! Our youth will lead us in this program, with a variety of roles for children of all ages throughout the worship. Interested in participating? Contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center
Kathy Newbauer, Director, Caring for Children

Thanks for praying over our classrooms!



MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

We warmly welcome Tanner VanderKrabben as our new Chancel Choir Director. Tanner VanderKrabben is a singer, conductor, and educator based out of Minneapolis. A graduate from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Tanner has worked in Minneapolis Public Schools for three years, teaching elementary music, middle school choir and general music, and high school choir. The past five years, Tanner was on staff at First Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Minneapolis as their Bass Section Leader and Handbell Choir Director. While studying voice under Professor Jean Del Santo at the University of Minnesota, Tanner sang a variety of lyric baritone repertoire, from Mozart to Menotti. With experience on the podium, on the stage, and in the classroom, Tanner is excited to bring all of these skills and experiences to the role of Chancel Choir Director with Richfield United Methodist Church.



Special Upcoming Music Ministry Dates

Victor, Tanner, and I send greetings to you for the months of November and December. We have great music planned for upcoming services.

November 6

On All Saints Sunday, November 6, the choir will sing two beautiful anthems. The bell will be tolled as the Roll Call of Saints is read.

November 20

Sunday, November 20 is a blended service of music including the Chancel Choir. Nancy Dierauer will play "Now Thank We All Our God" by J.S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox for the offertory.

November 27

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent. This is the season where we prepare once again to celebrate the coming of Christ.

December 7

On Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm there will be a service of Hope and Healing.

December 11

A Children's Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 11. Families interested in participating, contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

December 18

Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 18 that will include the Chancel Choir and a string quartet.

We look forward to having you in-person in church or connecting online.

Nancy Dierauer, Organist/Music Director

Richfield Symphonic Band In Concert

Get into the spirit of the season with the Richfield Symphonic Band Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 pm. A free-will offering will be split between Richfield UMC and the band. The Richfield Symphonic Band has been sharing the magic of making music with its members and the public since 1979. They will entertain us with a wonderful holiday benefit concert on Sunday, December 4, at 4:00 pm at Richfield United Methodist Church. This concert will also feature our own Nancy Dierauer on the organ. Learn more about The Richfield Symphonic Band at rsband.org.



BE THE PERSON WHO WELCOMES NEW GUESTS ON SUNDAYS!

Any given Sunday is an opportunity to welcome new worshippers on campus. But just because that welcome can be done by *anybody* doesn't mean you should leave it to *somebody* else! Being a welcoming congregation is a team effort. **We must never take for granted the courage it takes for someone to walk into a church building for the first time!** Here are three things *anybody* can do to make new people feel welcome - so make sure it's *you* who does them:

1. **Show Up.** If you wake up on Sunday and feel the pull to worship from home more out of convenience than a concern for health and safety, please come to campus. Your church needs people like you here and offering a friendly presence to new faces. **A full Sanctuary is a welcoming Sanctuary.** We hope to see you!
2. **Show Up Early.** With a 9:30 am start time, it's easy for members to walk into the building right before worship begins. However, new guests are more likely to show up between 9:00 am-9:15 am and we don't want them feeling alone or confused. **People in the building brings life to the building.** We hope to see you early!
3. **Show Your Welcome.** Coming to campus is a chance to see old friends and that will always be a joy. It's also an opportunity to help a new person feel at home by introducing yourself, inviting them to a conversation, and listening to their story. **When people feel included, they feel at home.** We hope to see you early and with an inclusive attitude!

PUT THE 5-10-LINK RULE INTO PRACTICE

The 5-10-Link Rule is one way we can become a more welcoming church to everyone.

1. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know **5** minutes before/after worship.
2. Engage someone you don't know within **10** feet of you to talk with you/your friends.
3. **Link** your new acquaintance with another person nearby with a common or similar interest, such as a hobby or occupation.

Pick up a reminder card on campus to carry with you so you don't forget. The other side of the card has the Breakthrough Prayer on it so you can have it with you wherever you go.

WE NEED TWO NEW WORSHIP TECH CREW SERVANT VOLUNTEERS

We want to keep livestreaming worship when we gather and this relies on a robust servant volunteer team who are invested in keeping the church connected. Please help build this critical team's rotating roster as we prepare for the fall. You will be trained, you will be welcomed, you will be amazed at how quickly you will become competent with your role. Contact Rev. Bill Johnson at bull6973@gmail.com

WE HAVE A RECYCLE MINISTRY

It started in conversation on a Sunday morning. Who knows where to get rid of small batteries and unused medicines? We didn't know, but we knew with research we could find out. Thus, the Recycle Center, a cabinet near the front door was born. On its shelves are printed handouts that answer the questions we have been asked so far. Current titles: **What can't go in your trash? How to recycle medicines, How to recycle salvageable materials, What does the Hennepin County drop site take? A list of hazardous waste companies, and How to choose an LED light bulb.**

We also discovered that amber-colored pill bottles are recyclable, but no one is collecting them locally, so we set up a basket at the Recycle Center to collect them.

If you have a recycling question please send me an email, Kentjmn@gmail.com and we will start researching. Kent Johnson





GET YOUR RICHFIELD UMC SWAG!

Share your church's mission with pride in your neighborhood. Check out these brand-new items that you can pick up anytime campus is open. They're free to you and if one of your neighbors is inspired and would like one, yes, we have enough that you can take one for them, too! Come get your...

1. Richfield UMC t-shirt, in child and adult sizes, in a trendy heather gray color.
2. "Love Your Neighbor" yard signs to send a new message in a heated election season.
3. "Love Your Neighbor" postcards to put up in your office, condo, or wherever you need it.
4. "Love Your Neighbor" window clings to put up in your vehicle or home window.

ONLINE SAFETY AND YOUR CHURCH

October was Cybersecurity Awareness Month and we want you to be safe online. Not only that, it's important to be "safety first" on campus, too. Here are some tips and reminders:

Online Scams:

From time to time, scammers send fake emails from bogus email accounts pretending to be church staff or clergy. This is known as a "phishing scam." Often, these scammers will "phish" for good people like you who want to be helpful... by pretending the church needs you to buy gift cards or give out banking information! Richfield UMC clergy and staff will never solicit money, gift cards, or other "assistance" with this kind of email. Staff email always comes from richfieldumc.org.

What to do:

If you receive a scam email, please do not reply in any way. Send a copy to the church, block the sender, and delete the original email. Thank you for your cooperation.

Online Harassment:

Another area of online safety as a church is "trolling," when people harass churches members online. If someone makes inflammatory remarks, inappropriate comments, or sends you harassing messages about clergy, staff, members, or the church in general, please do not respond. Sometimes, these comments are made to provoke the church into a response, please do not respond. Please do not give them the provocation they are looking for.

What to do:

Never give out any personal information about clergy, staff, or church members to someone you don't know, including addresses and contact information. If someone needs to "talk to the pastor," send the message to the clergy instead of giving the person the clergy's information. Thank you for your cooperation.

Help Keep The Building Safe - Be Mindful With How You Enter

The main front doors are nearly always locked for the safety and security of those inside. When you visit campus during business hours, please use the Aiphone intercom system to connect with a staff person or volunteer to gain entry. If someone tries to enter with you and you don't know them, it's okay to say, "Sorry, I don't know you. Please use the intercom." Likewise, please do not "piggyback" and enter with someone you don't know and please don't take offense if they tell you no. It takes all of us working together to keep the children of CFC safe, the staff and members safe, and the overall building secure. Thank you for your cooperation.

If There Are Protestors:

Unfortunately, some churches do receive protestors near their property. They will sometimes say things that are offensive or have signs that have harmful language. These situations can be painful and bring high emotions. However, we must remain calm if protestors show up in our area. There are three simple steps to take:

1. Minimize the impact. Don't give protestors the attention they crave and avoid responding. Bring the matter to the attention of staff or an usher.
2. Be kind and defuse the situation. If they engage you, you can speak in friendly ways and move along. Do not escalate. Often, protestors wear body cams or have other recording devices and you want to represent yourself and the church well.
3. Know the law. Protestors know to stay off official church property, sticking to places like public sidewalks. Know the boundaries and again, do not escalate.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Formerly United Methodist Women



The Fall Craft Fair

Saturday November 5th, 10 am-2 pm

Get a start on your holiday shopping and help support local businesses.

If you or someone you know is interested in a table or you would like to donate items to the UWF table, please contact Rhonda Olson: rhonda.s.olsons@gmail.com or Toni at 612-840-9797 or toni@ggrreegg.com

UWF Bake Sale

Sunday December 11th, 10:30 am

Get your holiday baking done the easy way. Cookies, breads and other items for sale, gluten-free items available. Cookies \$.50 cents each other items priced as marked. Cash, check, or Venmo.

If you would like to donate items for the sale they can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, December 10th between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm or Sunday morning before service. Any questions please contact Toni Locke at toni@ggrreegg.com or 612-840-9797.

CHARGE CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 22

Tuesday, November 22 in the Ad Board meeting by Zoom (contact the church for login info)

There will be a charge conference at the Ad Board meeting to approve clergy compensation for 2023. All worshippers and members may attend. Ad Board members may vote. Clergy compensation is included in the 2023 budget all members may vote on at a church conference on January 29, 2023.

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

First, I want to thank those persons who made donations for the used books culled from the library at the end of September. We received a bit over \$150 and that money will be used to obtain new texts for the library. (And, I hope you enjoy the books you chose for yourself.)

Secondly, we have obtained enough books to modify the categories by which books are shelved. Shelf labels have been made and a "map" will indicate the locus of each topical area. There are three main divisions to the library: Fiction & novels are closest to the Sunday morning coffee area; biographical and cultural studies are on the west side closest to the Heritage Room; Christian Resources (Bibles, commentaries, theology, & devotional material) are on the outside wall of CFC. I invite you to take some moments to think about your favorite topics and/or authors and then look in those areas for them (and related materials).

Speaking of favorite authors, I have asked our program staff and our retired clergy for the names or their favorite authors and those who have influenced their thinking the most. Books by those authors will be placed on the theme table in the coming months. Please watch for them.

Finally, we have a few cookbooks. If persons have ones to donate that are from a local church or from another national or ethnic background, we would be happy to add them to the shelves. Please note the type of cookbook. Thank you. -Wayne Albertson

DEEPEN OUR DISCIPLESHIP: WORSHIP ARCHIVES

Nearly 3 years of worship, sermons, and music are at your fingertips. Worship is archived at youtube.com/richfieldumc. 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.

WHAT IS YOUR "CONFLUX MOMENT"?

Conflux moments are when our life's journey meets God's heart. Have you had a moment in your life this year - or ever - when you can say yes, that is a conflux moment? Pastor Nate wants to hear your story of God breaking through in your life. Send your story to breakthroughstories@richfieldumc.org, fill out a "Breakthrough Story" card at the Community Table, or reach out to Pastor Nate.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Youth

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

The fall program year is off to a great start with one final field trip to Minnesota's Largest Candy Store, and the start of Youth Group and Confirmation. Youth Group is a mix of Bible Study and games, all the while building community and talking with our youth about their big questions about life and faith. On October 2, we also blessed the Bibles that our confirmands are using as they learn more about their church. On October 14-15, our youth gathered for a lock-in! For the first time in 3 years, our youth group was able to do an off-site service project at Feed My Starving Children on Friday night, before coming back to the church for games and a movie.



Advent will be a busy season for the Youth Group. This year, the youth are leading our Christmas Pageant, taking on the bigger acting roles. During Youth Group in November and the first week of December, youth group will serve as rehearsal for the pageant, all leading up to the pageant in worship on December 11. This year, the youth group Christmas Party is also making a return on Wednesday, December 14, where we will celebrate our successful pageant, and play some fun holiday games.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, November 6: Fall Food Drive Ends
- Sunday, November 13: Confirmation
- Wednesday, Nov. 23: No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Break)
- Sunday, November 27: No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
- Sunday, December 11: Christmas Pageant Confirmation
- Wednesday, Dec. 14: Youth Christmas Party (last youth group of 2022)
- Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship
4pm (Family Friendly)
9pm (Traditional)
- Sunday, December 25: Online Only Worship
- Sunday, January 1: Online Only Worship

Youth Lock-In

In October, youth gathered for a lock-in! In addition to fun and games, youth help feed hungry people by serving at Feed My Starving Children. **Feed My Starving Children** is a Christian non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food to people in developing nations. Founded in 1987, it has reached out to more than 70 countries, fmsc.org.



CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Rapid Relief Causes Helped

Your Church & Society Team has been busy over the past few months. In 2022, we committed to making 4 donations of \$250 to rapid relief causes as disasters happened over the year. In February, we donated to United Methodist Committee On Relief's International Relief Fund in support of their work in Ukraine as the war there began. Over the summer, we donated \$250 each to Beacon and VEAP as both of our longtime mission partners experienced hardship due to rising costs, and ongoing pandemic-related pivots. And this fall, we gave our last \$250 donation to UMCOR's Domestic Disaster Relief Fund in anticipation of what has become a difficult hurricane season.

Fall Food Drive

Our Fall Food Drive benefiting VEAP wraps up on Sunday, November 6. Like many food shelves, VEAP has been experiencing high demand for its services over the past few months, and summer has left its shelves pretty bare. We want to stock those shelves as full as possible in anticipation of winter. There are paper bags with flyers of most needed items available in church, or you can donate online through our giving portal. Be sure to come to worship on November 6 where we will bless our offering before sending it to VEAP.

Families Moving Forward

As the Fall Food Drive wraps up, we will be starting our week hosting Families Moving Forward, the shelter program of our mission partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collective. When we first committed to this week last spring, we thought that we would be housing families in our church building once again. However, Beacon has decided to continue housing families in hotels for the remainder of 2022, with more updates to come soon about the future of this program. So, from November 7-11, Richfield UMC will instead be providing meals and groceries for Families Moving Forward, in partnership with Park Avenue UMC and Living Spirit UMC.

Christmas Offering

As we head into the Advent season, it is time for our Christmas Offering. As food costs continue to rise, the Church & Society Team decided to focus on food and hunger as we chose this year's recipients. Likewise, we elected to choose one international organization as international food security becomes increasingly unstable, and one local

organization as our local food prices continue to affect marginalized communities close to home. This year's Christmas Offering recipients are: Twin Cities Food Justice, and Growing Hope Globally. More information on both organizations will be coming shortly.

SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Looking forward to January, we will continue to focus on food as we participate in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring. This Food Drive focuses on shelf stable, hearty, canned soups for the winter, stocking as many food pantries full of these important items as possible during the heart of winter. Please keep this drive in your prayers as you consider your donations at the start of the new year.

THANK YOU, PENN FEST CREW!



In September, we had our first-ever booth at Penn Fest, the annual family fun event in the city of Richfield. We engaged hundreds of people that day and there were many smiles as kids played carnival games and families received bags to contribute to the church's fall food drive. It was also wonderful to see many Richfield UMC members and families enjoying the day, many wearing their brand-new Richfield UMC t-shirts. Penn Fest is scheduled for September 17, 2023, and it's never too early to mark your calendar!



FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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



Program: "How Birds Survive Winter" with speaker, Stan Tekiela
Thursday, November 10th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Both in-person in the Heritage Room and via online/phone offerings (see information below)



Have you ever wondered how birds can survive the coldest days of the year? Can birds actually freeze to death? In this new presentation, well known naturalist and award winning photographer, Stan Tekiela, will answer these very questions and many more! Stan will examine how birds survive the winter; how they adapt, migrate, or die. We will see Stan's amazing images of

birds in harsh winter environments and be entertained by his interesting and fun stories as we learn together. This is Stan's record breaking fifth time to RUMC, and he remains a crowd favorite!

Date: Thursday, November 10th

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (program time)

Cost: There is no charge for this event; to help offset rising costs, a "pay-what-you-can" model will return in 2023

Social dessert time: Instead of lunch, you are invited to enjoy a delicious dessert made by our very own Chef Kelsey after the program!

RSVP: For planning purposes, please RSVP by Sunday, Nov, 6th, by signing up in the Commons, emailing kbergeland@richfieldumc.org, or calling the church office (612-861-6086)

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)

The Church Bus is Available: Please call the church office (612-861-6086) by Sunday, Nov. 6th, if you would like to ride the church bus

Questions: Call/email the Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, at 612-861-6086 or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

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

Program: "Churches of Minnesota; Highlighting the Christmas Season", with speaker, Doug Ohman

Thursday, December 8th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Both in-person in the Heritage Room and via online/phone offerings (see information below)

We are excited to welcome back Doug Ohman to our Time for LIFE series. Doug is a popular speaker, historian, author, and entertaining storyteller. He is also an expert photographer with deep Minnesota roots. In his presentation, "Churches of Minnesota", we will take a drive through the country with Doug as he stops at many churches to learn the stories of these sacred places. He will highlight some memories of when going to church at Christmas was such a special memory for many. Join us for this wonderful holiday program!

Date: Thursday, December 8th

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (program time)

Cost: There is no charge for this event; to help offset rising costs, a "pay-as-you-can" model will return in 2023

Social dessert time: Instead of lunch, you are invited to enjoy a delicious dessert made by our very own Chef Kelsey after the program!

RSVP: For planning purposes, please RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 4th, by signing up in the Commons, emailing kbergeland@richfieldumc.org, or calling the church office (612-861-6086)

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)

The Church Bus is Available: Please call the church office (612-861-6086) by Sunday, Dec. 4th, if you would like to ride the church bus

Questions: Call/email the Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, at 612-861-6086 or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org



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:

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who grieve:

- * The family and friends of RUMC member Joan Hanson who died on October 2.
- * Cori and Jill Williamson.
- * Sara and John W., and Michael and Paul, in the death of Sara’s sister, Hope.
- * Gretta Thorson, in the death of her brother, Tim Lawson.
- * Sharon and Brad Gardner and family in the death of Sharon’s mother, Nancy.

HAPPY NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November

John Sells	2	Grover Dodds	15
Todd Doncavage	3	Kate Koskey	17
Marj Wittenborg	5	Bonnie Stemme	18
Mitchell Wilson	6	Paula Wendt	21
Michael Haines	6	Peyton Owens	28
Buerkley Owens	6	Sandra Overland	29
Kim Knuttila	7		

December

Lauren Gunderson	1	Merry Rendahl	24
Connie Wester	3	Rhonda Olson	24
Sally Knutson	3	Nick Dewey	25
Knox Gaertner	4	Brennan Currie	26
Caroline Riley	6	Mary Kay Petersen	27
Suzann Tarvin	8	Steve Klosinski	28
Noah Dewey	10	Orlean Kovach	29
John Meeker	11	Marilyn Dodge	30
Luzia Tavares	12	David Haines	30
Andi Olson	12	Charlotte Weibel	30
Curt Stull	18	Marissa Moore	31
Brantley Gaertner	19	Ryder Whitaker	31

LIGHT THE WAY HOME: A BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE FUNDRAISER

Join a community of supporters inspired to create homes, support families, and impact policy to achieve Beacon’s vision that all people have a home.



Friday, November 11, 2022

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Free and in-person

Radisson Blu at Mall of America

2100 Killebrew Dr, Bloomington, MN 55425

Ensuring that all people have a home will require the investment of both public and private funds. Light the Way Home offers an invitation for community members to give generously and come together to address housing instability.

There is no requirement to give, cost to the luncheon, or any minimum gift, but we think that you’ll be inspired to join us with your donation or multi-year pledge. Every gift matters and every donation is more than a gift, it’s another person who has joined with us to say that now is the time that all people have a home.

Visit Beacon’s website for more information

<https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/light-the-way-home-a-beacon-fundraiser/>

THANK YOU

On September 25, 2022, Pew Bibles were offered for members and friends to take home for personal use. These well-used Bibles were gifted to the congregation years ago by Mel and Becky Yarlott (originally gifted in memory of Laura Robinson, Becky’s mother and Mel Yarlott Sr., Mel’s father) and Joseph and Jean Urista (originally gifted in honor of their loved ones). We greatly appreciate these gifts and know the Bibles will continue to be used and loved by those who now use them.

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 307 to 315 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 543 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 316 to 320 subscribers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

November 6	All Saints Sunday, Commitment Sunday
November 8	Election Day Communion (online only)
December 11	Christmas Pageant
December 14	Hope & Healing (in-person only)
December 18	Lessons & Carols
December 24	4:00pm Family Christmas Eve
December 24	9:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve
December 25	Online-Only Worship
January 1	Online-Only Worship

CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

Women Who Read (WWR)

1st Mondays of the Month

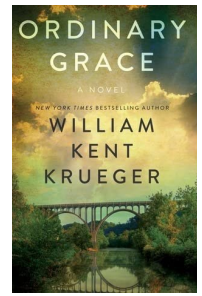
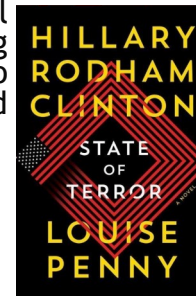
1:30-3:00 pm, online by Zoom

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

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:

November 7: *State of Terror* - Louise Penny and Hillary Rodham Clinton

December 5: *Ordinary Grace* - William Kent Krueger



Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am (no class on Sept. 6, 2022)

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!

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:00 am

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

Connect Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81990390338>

Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338

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

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.



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rumc@richfieldumc.org
www.richfieldumc.org

Heartline

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

2022 Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form

The Christmas tradition to adorn the church with poinsettias is made possible by generous donations from the RUMC community. You are invited to honor your loved ones by giving towards the flowers that will beautify the church for this year's Christmas celebration. As in previous years, the practice of having the loved ones you are honoring listed in the bulletin will continue. At the conclusion of the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing.

The suggested donation is \$15.00, 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 "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.

Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, December 11, 2022 to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please mark and print dedication: ☐memory of ☐honor of ☐celebration of

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____