

Heartline

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

2023
March / April



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Lent Worship Series “UNWAVERING LOVE”

February 26-March 26

We are blessed to be the children of a God of unwavering love.

When we love others, God is there.

When we mess up, God is there.

When we face the odds, God is there.

This Lent, we take a deep dive on the passion story that leads to Easter in a series inspired by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine's book and video series, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Go deeper and watch the supplemental [video series on Amplify](#), join one of the drop-in classes, or attend an online live Q&A with Prof. Levine.

[See p. 5 for more info on classes and the Q&A opportunities]



I'm stepping into Lent with gratitude. It was such fun making a list of our examples of radical hospitality and extravagant generosity in 2022 as I prepared for the February 5 church conference. We collected 4,000+ lbs. of food for VEAP, raised nearly \$20,000 in special offerings for Christmas, Easter, UMC Special Giving Sundays, rapid relief response funding, and to VEAP. We put in hundreds of hours of service to our neighbors with community events. We brought back in-person VBS, returned to in-person pastoral care visits, moved the Bell Choir downstairs, started up Pub Theology, and did major work on the carpet, the roof, the lighting, the walls, and the parking lot! No one can accuse this church of leaning back - not when the mission of Jesus calls us forward! I see all of the ways this church is digging into discipleship and outreach and it fills my heart with cheer.

It will be such an amazing experience to spend time with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine to ask her questions about her work. [Page 5] If you don't know her yet, you should - she's one of the greatest scholars of the New Testament today and her books are accessible and her videos are filled with joy as she teaches. While we didn't have enough entries to create our own Lenten daily devotional this year, the amazing Dr. Kate Bowler has created one for free and we have copies available. [Page 9] You might join me at a special event at St. Andrew Lutheran Church to hear her live in-person. [Page 5] And we'll try something new in Lent - short, 20-minute classes. Watch a 10-minute video, have 10-minutes of discussion, and still have 10 minutes to get a coffee and get to worship. Try it!

On the outreach front, the youth group is planning their summer mission trip after a multi-year hiatus. Thank you for your support with recent and upcoming fundraisers. We will participate in Minnesota FoodShare month with a fund drive because food shelves make a dollar go farther than we can as consumers. We are

discerning next steps for the potential signature ministries as part of the MCCI process and all of them are looking out to others in the community. [Page 3] It was reassuring to see the ministries you said sound exciting are also the ones you said you'd show up to help!

The next time I anticipate writing to all of you this spring is in a letter inviting you to Holy Week and Easter worship. Palm Sunday is a first Sunday of the month this year, so we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion the same day we wave our palm branches together. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are both powerful services filled with music and scripture to move your soul. I'll admit, these have not historically seen high attendance. Can this be the year that changes? I truly hope you will be there to experience as much of the Holy Week story as you can. Of course, Easter Sunday will be joyful. You won't want to miss it and I can't wait to see you there! [Page 3]

That letter will have an update on this year's Easter offering. The elected leaders of your Church & Society Team were inspired by your MCCI survey results that show you have a heart for immigration and refugee response and they've selected two causes in that realm. **The Immigration Law & Justice Network from UMCOR** advocates for and provides free or low-cost legal services to people who come to the US seeking freedom, safety, and opportunity while trying to navigate the complex immigration and asylum legal system. Locally, the **Minnesota Council of Churches** provides services for refugees and asylees in areas of employment, case management, education, housing, and more. They may be a potential partner if we pursue an immigration and refugee response signature ministry in our future. Please pray for all who are seeking freedom and a better life.

Resurrection is always right around the corner. Indeed, it is already here. I am proud to be your pastor and stepping into tomorrow with you. May you feel God's blessings all of your days!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher

HOLY WEEK AS RICHFIELD UMC

It is the most sacred period in the life of the church, and you are invited! You are encouraged to build a new habit or reinforce an old habit and commit to participate in the life of your church during Holy Week. These worship services with special focus on the final week of the life of Jesus stir up emotions and bring us closer to the holy through music, prayer, preaching, ritual, and sacrament. Make a commitment, invite a friend, and be part of something special and sacred as we journey with Jesus to the cross and celebrate his triumphant resurrection!

April 2—Palm Sunday, 9:30 am Arrive early to receive a palm branch to wave during the gathering hymn processional. We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion as we consider the Last Supper meal.

April 6—Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm Experience the tranquil beauty of special music and participate in contemplative spiritual practices as we remember when Jesus, the teacher, washed the feet of his students, the disciples.

April 7—Good Friday, 7:00 pm Come to the foot of the cross and bravely face the stark brokenness of that fateful day. Hear the story laid out in scripture and music as the silence grows and the light fades.

April 9—Easter Sunday, 9:30 am He is risen, indeed! Come and worship with joy and hope to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in our lives! Amazing music, Time with Children, and preaching await you!

*Help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!
Easter flower donation form on page 16.*

MCCI SIGNATURE MINISTRY UPDATE

Thank you for taking the recent survey about potential signature ministries of the church. This crucial step in the MCCI process helped us go from coming up with ideas, and prayer over these ideas, to discovering what ideas have the most interest throughout the church - both as a missional value and for active participation. These ministries won't be all that we do, but they give us good potential for our forward trajectory. Please pray about these ministries and the community who will benefit! Now, members of this team and others will take the three ministries with the highest-rated excitement level, paired with high response in people saying they would personally show up and be a servant volunteer, and discern next step:

1. Mission Trip Hub Ministry: use open rooms on campus as "home base" to host church groups from across the nation here on summer mission trips to do community service in the Twin Cities metro area.
2. Immigration and Refugee Response Ministry: partner with organizations to offer support for immigrant dignity and rights, sponsor refugee families settling locally (home furnishings, clothing, education, social, and cultural acclimation, etc.)
3. Community Support Ministry: Provide resources like support groups (parenting, grief, divorce, etc.) and organize community service projects.

PUB THEOLOGY

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

Location:

**Protagonist Kitchen and Bar,
6601 Lyndale Avenue S.,
Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking)**

Next Gatherings: March 5, Apr. 2, May 7

Pub Theology is a new monthly drop-in group to discuss faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. The informal atmosphere is the perfect venue to get people of many generations talking and you're invited. Protagonist is in the former Houlihan's location in Richfield, with nearby covered ramp parking. Arrive early to order a tasty beverage and/or dinner, then stay for spirited conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: <https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>



LET'S TALK ABOUT SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY

Sunday, March 12, 10:45 - In-Person

What does RADICAL hospitality mean to you? Join the fun as we experiment and explore what radical hospitality could be at Richfield UMC, on Sunday mornings, for virtual church participants, and at other times. Treats, of course, will be shared. Everyone, especially greeters, are invited to take part! Contact [Gail Johnson](mailto:gailjohnson@richfieldumc.org) (612-250-1736) if you are interested but cannot attend in person.



FAITHFUL: A One-Year Worship Series

September 11, 2022 - May 28, 2023

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.



WORSHIP SERIES #7: "UNWAVERING LOVE"

February 26-March 26

Please see the cover for information about this series.



WORSHIP SERIES #8: "LESS MESS"

Life can get messy. We may wonder if there's any redemption in our mess. The story of Jesus is one that always points to redemption, reconciliation, and resurrection. In the Eastertide season, we learn from people in the Bible cleaning up their mess and work on our own lives. This series is inspired by Bishop Tom Berlin's book and video series, *Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*. Go deeper and watch the supplemental [video series on Amplify](#) or attend the online live Q&A with Bishop Berlin. [See below on this page for more info on the Q&A]



THREE SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

Hearts on Fire - In three **online-only** worship services, Pastor Nate's interconnected celebrate the birth of the church at Pentecost. Worship is online-only on May 28, July 2, and September 3.

I AM a Rock: God, Simon, and Garfunkel - In three **outdoor in-person** worship services, Pastor Nate preaches sermons inspired by a scripture passage and a Simon & Garfunkel song performed by the Living Waters Band. Services are in-person only, with a handpicked worship service reprise for online worshippers. We return to Summer Second Sundays outdoors:

June 11 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am

July 9 - Lake Harriet Bandshell at 10:00 am

August 13 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am

So Many Questions - In nine **in-person and online** worship services, the "So Many Questions" series returns with preaching inspired by your questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life. These worship services many featuring Groth Scholar musicians. So Many Questions happens:

June 4, June 18, and June 25

July 15, July 13, and July 30

August 6, August 20, and August 27

Q&A LIVE ONLINE WITH BISHOP TOM BERLIN

Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Bishop Tom Berlin joins us for a Q&A session about his book, *Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*. This book inspires our Eastertide worship series and you're encouraged to invite a friend and bring your questions about how God works through life's mess to bring restoration to us all. You can get a preview of the book by watching the [video series on Amplify](#). Get a [free account](#) today.

DIVE DEEP INTO LENT WITH PROF. AMY-JILL LEVINE

Pop quiz! Amy-Jill Levine is which of the following:

- A. Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Hartford International University
- B. Creator of the book and video series *Entering the Passion of Jesus* on [Amplify Media](#).
- C. The author whose work inspires three study groups and our Lenten worship series.
- D. Coming to our church for two live Q&A session by Zoom.
- E. All of the above!



The exciting answer is **E. All of the above!** As we journey to the cross in Lent and celebrate the resurrection on Easter, may we dive deep into the scripture and our own discipleship. Spend time with amazing material by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, including two live talks with the scholar herself!

Q&A LIVE ONLINE WITH PROF. AMY-JILL LEVINE

Thursday, March 9, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Prof. Amy-Jill Levine joins us for a Q&A session about her book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus* as we enter the season of Lent. We are excited to have one of the most prominent scholars of Jesus with us and you're encouraged to bring a question, bring a friend, and bring excitement to this unique opportunity to engage an amazing author!

Q&A LIVE ONLINE WITH PROF. AMY-JILL LEVINE

Tuesday, May 2, 9:30 am-10:30 am

[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Prof. Amy-Jill Levine joins the Tuesday Bible Study for a Q&A session about her body of work. This group has gone through several of Prof. Levine's work and has plenty of questions for her. You are invited to join this special spring Zoom session! The Tuesday Bible Study will watch and discuss her video series, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, during Lent on [Amplify Media](#). Get a [free account](#) today.

LENT STUDY

CLASS: ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS

Sundays in Lent, 9:00 am-9:20 am

Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

The Lenten worship series, *Unwavering Love*, is inspired by the book and video series by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, *Entering the Passion of Jesus* on [Amplify Media](#). You'll learn, smile, and wonder as Prof. Levine offers new insight with her trademark charm and accessible scholarship. These classes are a breezy 20 minutes - 10-minute videos, 10-minute discussion - and will help you dive deeper into the powerful story of Holy Week. Videos start promptly at 9:00 am so please arrive in the Grace Room or the Zoom Room a minute early!

February 26 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry

March 12 - Jesus' Teachings in the Temple

March 26 - The Last Supper Traditions

March 5 - The Temple Incident

March 19 - The Anointing of Jesus

April 2 - Gethsemane

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: ENTER THE PASSION OF JESUS

Wednesdays at 9:00 am-10:00 am

Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

This growing group reads and discusses scripture readings for upcoming sermons. Meet in-person and get a cup of coffee or online, as works for you. For the latest updates, contact Pastor Nate to be on the email list for frequent participants. In Lent, the group will watch and discuss the video series *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine on [Amplify Media](#) (get a [free account](#) today):

Feb. 22 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry

March 8 - Jesus' Teachings in the Temple

March 22 - The Last Supper Traditions

March 1 - The Temple Incident

March 15 - The Anointing of Jesus

March 29 - Gethsemane

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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

In January, we had a super fun time in Sunday School creating puppets! Children were given the materials to make their own puppets, and were able to create their own designs. This ministry will continue in the coming months as we create more puppets with children, and they will be incorporated into Sunday School programming. As we continue into the Spring



and Summer months, the puppets will be finding their way into more and more ministries, so be on the lookout for them around the church, and help us celebrate our children and their beautiful creations. After many delays, Children First worship will be coming back later this spring. Rev. Hope is taking some time to re-imagine what this worship services looks like, and working with a team of people to incorporate puppets, singing, and other ways for children to lead us in worship in ways that are engaging and unique to them.

Calendar:

Sun., March 5: No Sunday School
Sun., March 12: Daylight Savings Time Begins
Saturday, April 1: Easter Egg Hunt
Sun., April 2: Palm Sunday
Sun. School in Fellowship Hall
Sun., April 9: Easter Sunday
No Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt

It's no joke, our annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 1 from 2-4pm, and we would love to see you there! This year, we will be hunting for eggs outside on our lawn. And while you wait to hunt for eggs, we will have fun games, as well as a photo booth, and we may have a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny! Pending weather and conditions, this event may shift to Drive Thru so keep your eye on email and Facebook for updates!



We also need lots of help to make all of this happen. If you would like to help stuff eggs ahead of time, or donate candy, there are sign up slots on our sign up page. We also need help from volunteers to run all of our stations! If you are interested in helping children with crafts, games, or welcoming new people onto our beautiful campus, you can find sign ups here: <https://tinyurl.com/rumcegg hunt2023>. If you have questions about any of this, please reach out to Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Save These Important Dates

Vacation Bible Camp: Hero Hotline

June 26-30 at Lake Harriet UMC

Come join us as we partner with Lake Harriet UMC for Vacation Bible Camp. The curriculum will teach children how they are called together to serve God. This camp is open to children pre-K-5th grade, with leadership opportunities available for children in 6th grade and above. All VBC programming is free, and will happen from 9am-12pm daily. There is also after care available from 12-4pm for \$30 per child, per day. You can register at this link:

Camper: If your child will be attending as a camper (entering pre-K - entering 5th grade), please use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/VBCcamper2023>

Leader: If you, or your child, will be attending as a leader (entering 6th grade - adult) use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/VBCleader2023>

Please contact Rev. Hope at with any questions about registration, or other VBC things, or if you are interested in volunteering.

Summer Movie Nights

Wednesdays in July, starting at 5pm (July 5, 12, 19, 26) This year we hope to bring back our summer movie series! We will again be watching movies on Wednesday night. Movies will start at 5pm, and there will be tables set up for families to eat while the movie starts. Snacks will be available during the movie as well.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

It has been a busy start to 2023 for your Church & Society team.



Food Insecurity

Over January and February, you all raised over \$500 and 516 pounds of food for our SOUPER Bowl Drive benefiting VEAP. In 2022, RUMC was able to give over \$14,000 and 4,018 pounds of food, and we are already off to a great start to our 2023 giving to VEAP.

March is Minnesota Food Share, a grassroots effort to stock up every food shelf across the state of Minnesota in the month of March. Now a part of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC), this effort is now in its 41st year, and supports over 300 food shelves in Minnesota. This year, we will be raising funds only because that is the best for your donation to be stretched. On average, your \$10 donation to a food shelf can buy 2-3 times more food than you can purchase at a grocery store. This is because food banks can participate in discount and bulk purchasing programs. This year, we will be raising funds to donate directly to GMCC, so that they can distribute those funds to where they are most needed throughout the state.



Disaster Relief

On February 8, 2023, your Church & Society approved sending \$250 to the United Methodist

Committee of Relief International Disaster Response and Recovery Fund to help fund earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. These funds come out of the \$1,000 designated by Church and Society from our restricted Church & Society fund, and it will be spent on Rapid Response Relief in 2023. This money gives your Church & Society team the flexibility to send funds quickly in response to disasters and tragedies close to home and around the world. If you would like to learn more, or submit something for rapid response, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

Immigration and Refugees

There are also a lot of exciting things coming up soon! Our Easter Offering this year is benefitting two different organizations that work with immigrants in the United States. The first is the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services. Their services help find employment, case management, education and more to refugees who are resettled in the state of Minnesota. The second organization is the Immigration Law & Justice Network, which is an immigration ministry of the United Methodist Church. They provide free or low-cost legal services to migrants of all kinds across the United States.

Native American Ministries Sunday Special Collection on Sunday, April 23, 2023

After Easter, RUMC will celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday, one of the six special Sundays of the UMC, which help to deepen the connection between the local and global church in various ways. On this Sunday, we will take a special offering that will benefit Native American ministries in Annual Conferences across the United States.

Families Moving Forward Meals

Finally, from May 1-5, Richfield UMC will once again partner with Park Ave UMC and Living Spirit UMC to provide meals for Families Moving Forward, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collective's shelter program. For this week, we will once again provide meals for families that are continuing to be housed in hotels. This will likely be the last time that Richfield UMC does this service, as Beacon is looking to close this program, while finding other providers to house families. Please join us in prayer for these families during this week.

2023 RUMC WOMEN'S TRIP TO KOWAKAN

Once again, the women of RUMC are invited to come this summer for a trip of relaxation and fun to KoWaKan United Methodist Church Camp just outside of Ely on Section 12 Lake in the beautiful Northwoods. We will carpool for the drive up on Sunday, Aug. 20th and return Friday morning of Aug. 25th. You are welcome to come later or leave earlier as fits your schedule.

We will stay in platform tents with cots and have the use of the picnic shelter which has a refrigerator, propane stove and cooking supplies. There is a yurt with electricity available to us as a place to gather after dark, away from bugs or in case of inclement weather. You can charge your phones there and will have access to your cars.

Meals are provided and all will pitch in to help with preparation and cleanup. We have use of the KoWaKan canoes and can make day trips in to the BWCA. One can also swim and canoe on Section 12 Lake. There is a sauna available for our use should you desire. There are hiking trails in the area to explore, or one can just chill to read books, do art, play board games, converse around the fire and just relax to enjoy the Northwoods.

If you are interested in coming, please contact Fern Albertson at wfalbertson@gmail.com or 612-214-4527. I would be glad to address any questions or concerns. Hope you can join us.

ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP PLANNED FOR THREE SUNDAYS

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

As announced at the church conference on February 5, the elected leaders of Ad Board affirmed holding online-only worship with no in-person option on the following Sundays:

May 28, 2022 (Memorial Day weekend)
July 2, 2022 (Independence Day weekend)
September 3, 2022 (Labor Day weekend)

Historically, these Sundays had low attendance pre-pandemic and going online-only for these holiday weekends gives our servant volunteers intentional breaks to keep the work they do for our worship services exciting. Please do not come to campus these three Sundays; instead, experience worship online or by phone, thank you.

IN THE COMMUNITY: AN EVENING WITH DR. KATE BOWLER

Sunday, April 23, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
Cost: \$35

Order your ticket online: churchanew.org/katebowler

Fans of Brené Brown, Elizabeth Gilbert, and Robin Wall Kimmerer will want to put Dr. Kate Bowler on their reading list! Spend an evening with NYT bestselling author, Duke religion professor, and incurable optimist, Kate Bowler for dynamic teaching and lively music. In-person and online tickets are available. If you're going in-person, let Pastor Nate know - he'll be there, too!

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

Spiritually filled music is coming up for Lent. **Sundays of March** will feature the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Bell Choir, and the Living Waters Band.

As Holy Week begins, the Chancel Choir will sing the triumphant anthem, "Ride on King Jesus" arranged by DeCormier.

Gretta Thorson will sing for the **Maundy Thursday** service.

Good Friday's service will be very moving with solos, the Chancel Choir and organ music.

On Easter Sunday we'll celebrate with brass, timpani, organ, bells, and choir. This service will send you out in the spirit of rejoicing of the risen Lord with "The Widor Toccata."

Nancy Dierauer, Organist/Music Director

WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

As our area transitions from pandemic to endemic living with COVID-19 variants, we lament and grieve that people continue to have their health impacted by COVID-19, and that hundreds continue to die each day. Everyone is asked to please maintain best practices for public health. Get booster shots you're eligible to receive, use good judgment to keep yourself and others safe and healthy, and if you're not feeling well, please stay home. 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.

CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

We are all excited for spring to come but in the meantime, the CFC children have been enjoying the early winter indoors with a celebration of Valentine's Day, music classes, and science exploration.

Kathy Newbauer, Director



ECO-PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Richfield UMC will once again have Eco-palms on Palm Sunday. Eco-palms promote environmental stewardship and fair trade.



Promote Social Justice

- Harvesting palms is an important source of income for gatherers.
- Gatherers receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.
- Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

- To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Did You Know?

- At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2-to-4-month period.

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONAL

We are not running a Lenten daily devotional from the church this year. Instead, you're encouraged to seek out a daily devotional or select one of the following:

1. [Bless the Lent We Actually Have](#) by Dr. Kate Bowler (print copies available on campus)
2. [The Upper Room](#) devo from the United Methodist Church (print copies available on campus)
3. [Daily Meditations](#) by Father Richard Rohr and the Center for Action and Contemplation

SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 10, 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Minneapolis Convention Center

This annual [Community Connections Conference](#) is a free event that connects residents of Minneapolis with community groups, neighborhood organizations, and local government officials. It often features dance, music, kid's activities, food, community conversations about interesting topics, and over 100 exhibits. Church members are encouraged to attend with an open mind and keep an eye out for potential partnerships, ideas on how to connect with our neighbors, and the trends and issues impacting people today.

THANK YOU, CHURCH CONFERENCE LEADERS!

Thank you to the many people who played a role in creating a successful church conference. The church was able to celebrate a year of ministry, look ahead to this year, review MCCI survey data, and pass the operating budget. With God's help, amazing things will happen in 2023 as the church! Thank you to Nick Dewey and Sue Restemayer for their presentations, Linda Schmidt for assembling the packets, Kathy Gertsema for diligent work on the operating budget, Pat Noonan and Tom Boisen for a clean and inviting meeting space, Sharon Gardner for work on the membership report, Gail Johnson for hosting online participants, Sara Watne for taking minutes and attendance, Bill Johnson and Steve Warner for running tech, and Wayne Johnson and SK Johnson for ushering!

Save the date: May is Staff Appreciation Month. SPRC will have ways you can show your appreciation for your hard-working church staff and Caring for Children early learning center staff.



HELP WANTED: FIX-IT CLINIC

Are you handy with repairs? Do you like to troubleshoot and fix small household appliances? Can you hem or patch clothing? Know how to clean up an old smart device so it runs like new? Hennepin County is looking for new host sites for free Fix-It Clinics in our area. We don't have to supply all of the volunteer fix-it people, but if we have some, that helps! Is this a potential community event to host on our campus? Contact Pastor Nate if this interests you. [Visit their website to learn more](#) about upcoming clinics to bring your own items and get some free help.

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

As I write these notes, we have 3,066 books by 1,726 authors in our church library. You may look at the titles and authors by stopping by when the church is open, or by going to the church's webpage (RichfieldUMC.org) and proceeding to the Library link under Ministry. The library's books have been catalogued electronically in a program called LibraryThing. You can check a title, author, or topic of interest for yourself.

Earlier this morning I had a phone call from a friend who has retired from being a law school librarian. As I was cataloguing some books at the time, she asked if I had a "Content Development Policy" and said that was the official term for the criteria by which books are accepted or not when donated or bought. For our church library this CDP asks that books be in harmony with our church's mission and values, that they not be written in or too worn, and that they not be duplicates. I thank those who donate who have kept very well within these values. More specifically, I thank Linda Schmidt, Christie Cozad Neuger, and Rexi Warner for their donations in the last month. Thank you, also, to the eight retired clergy of our congregation who named favorite or influential authors for themselves. Books from our library that match those authors are on the Theme Table. And, it is winter. Lots of snow is on the ground. Check out the good puzzles that are available for two week periods.

-Wayne Albertson

HELP WANTED: SLIDE SHOW RUNNERS

We need 1-3 new people who can move PowerPoint slides forward for lyrics and liturgy on Sunday mornings. All it takes is the click of a button! Your tech crew has grown to 5 people, and we need a few more to help with this simple, meaningful opportunity to serve. If 1-3 people step up to do slides, the crew trained on audio and cameras can do that and everyone has more breathing room! To express interest and receive training, contact Rev. Bill Johnson to help: bull6973@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: CARING FOR CHILDREN STAFF

Our staff in the Caring for Children early learning center are excellent, providing quality care for more than 60+ children every day. However, we continue to have less staff than we need, especially for growth and stability so we return to enrollment levels closer to our 80 children licensing limit. If you have a friend or family that is looking for part-time work, or full-time work with benefits, in the realm of child care, please connect them to Kathy Newbauer, Director of CFC, at director@cfcumc.org. **We have immediate openings for a qualified preschool teacher!**

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Youth

The Youth Group would like to thank all of you who contributed to our Super Bowl Snacks Fundraiser! We sold out our snacks, and altogether raised almost \$400 towards our Mission Trip this summer. Thank you all so much for your generosity. This money will help pay for our travel to and from Detroit this summer so we can participate in economic disaster recovery projects planned by Motown Mission, such as home repair, feeding, and greening. To learn more about Motown Mission, please visit www.motownmission.org. We also have another fundraiser for our mission trip! If you would like to help us raise money towards the costs associated with Motown Mission, you can contribute here: <https://tinyurl.com/rumcmision2023>. Thank you all so much for helping our youth learn to love their neighbors in new ways.



Last month, the confirmation class helped Pastor Nate and Rev. Hope to lead our Ash Wednesday service. As a part of learning more about what church membership means, our confirmands spent a class talking with Pastor Nate about what different elements of the worship service mean, learning how to lead different parts of the service, and deciding which parts they wanted to lead. Thank you to all the confirmands, parents, and guardians who helped to make this worship experience fulfilling for all.

Later this spring, the youth group will engage in a Service & Cinema Lock-in. On Friday, May 5, the youth will gather before going to Feed My Starving Children to pack meals that will be sent out to people in need throughout the world. After returning to church, the youth will gather to watch Guardians of the Galaxy, before going to watch a matinee showing of the new Guardians of the Galaxy 3 on Saturday, May 6. To register, please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

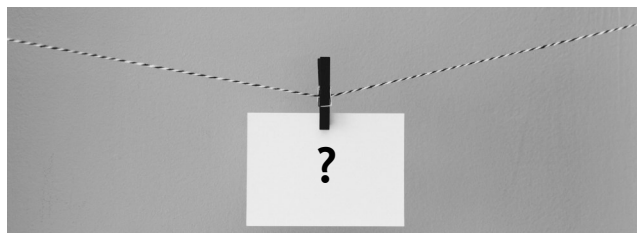
Calendar:

Sunday, March 12: Confirmation
Sunday, March 26: Confirmation
Saturday, April 1: Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 16: Confirmation
Sunday, April 30: Confirmation
Friday, May 5-Saturday, May 6: Spring Lock-in

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

DEEPEN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP: WORSHIP ARCHIVES

Nearly three 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.

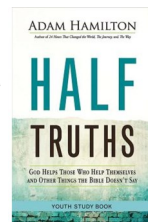


“SO MANY QUESTIONS!” WORSHIP SERIES RETURNS - SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

All throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to submit your question(s) about God, faith, church, life, and the Bible for the return of our popular summer worship series, “So Many Questions!” If you have a question about any of those topics, chances are someone else has the same question, too. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome. Please [email your question\(s\) to Pastor Nate \(nmelcher@richfieldumc.org\)](mailto:nmelcher@richfieldumc.org) by Easter, April 9.

DONATE BACK A COPY OF “HALF TRUTHS”

We gave out almost 100 copies of *Half Truths* for our recent worship series and we heard you loud and clear: you read and enjoyed this book! Keep this book as a gift from your church. If you don't want it any longer, you can donate it back to the church and we will repurpose it for the library, classes, or other ministries. Thank you for reading a good book together.



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.

HARRASSMENT AND PROTESTORS

Another area of safety as a church is “trolling,” when people harass churches members online or with in-person protests. 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.

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 “Love Your Neighbor” yard signs, postcards, or window clings and your Richfield UMC t-shirt, in child and adult sizes, in a trendy heather gray color.



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!

Don’t miss **Let’s Talk About Sunday Morning Hospitality** on Sunday, March 12, 10:45 - In-Person
Learn more about this gathering on page 3.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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

March

Program: Wrap it Up!! The Craft of Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls, with chef Terry John Zila

Thursday, March 9th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (both in-person and online offerings)

Join us for a delightful hour as we take a look at fresh spring rolls, one of the most recognized dishes of Vietnamese cuisine. What makes these rolls so popular is how versatile they are as they can be an appetizer or main course and you can roll just about anything you want into them. The balance of herbs and flavors appeal to many, and important for most (certainly this parish nurse!), they are very healthy and refreshing.



While seeing this demonstration of how to make a fresh Vietnamese spring roll, we will also enjoy one of these tasty, vegetarian rolls!

We welcome back to Time for LIFE, entertaining chef, baker, and caterer, Terry John Zila. Terry has over twenty years in the restaurant industry. Terry appears regularly as a Food and Entertaining Contributor on local TV/radio including, KSTP, WCCO, and KARE. Over the past year, Terry has opened Hepcat Coffee and the Alley Cat Lounge in St. Paul.

We are going to have fun . . . please join us!

Date/Time: Thursday, March 9, 1:00-2:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00. This fee is to help offset rising food costs and is for in-person participants only. Please pay the day of the event.

Please RSVP by Sun., March 5, Sign up in the Commons, call the church office 612-861-6086 or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

The Church Bus is Available: Please call the church office 612-861-6086 by Sun., March 5, if you would like to ride the church bus.



April

Program: Make the Stars Your Old Friends! with Mike Lynch

Thursday, April 13th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (both in-person and via online/phone offerings)

"Make the Stars Your Old Friends" is a wonderful program designed for stargazers of all ages! There is a great celestial show over Richfield every clear night. Mike Lynch, retired meteorologist from WCCO Radio, will help us get to know the constellations like The Big Bear, Orion the Hunter, Leo the Lion, and some of the great stories behind them! You'll receive a large handout package with user-friendly star maps and constellation charts, apps, websites, a telescope-buying guide, and more!



We are so fortunate to have Mike come speak with us! He has been hosting star watch parties and teaching astronomy for over 50 years. Mike also writes a weekly stargazing column for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and is the author of the book, *Stars, a Month by Month Tour of the Constellations*, that will be available for purchase. If interested, you can also purchase super cool glow-in-the-dark star shirts along with some of Mike's astrophotography. Join us for this scintillating program!!!

Date/Time: Thursday, April 13, 1:00- 2:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00. This fee is to help offset rising food costs and is for in-person participants only. Please pay the day of the event.

Social Dessert Time: You are invited to stay and enjoy a delicious dessert made by our very own chef Kelsey after the program!

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 9th, Sign up in the Commons, call the church office 612-861-6086 or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

The Church Bus is Available: Please call the church office (612-861-6086) by Sunday, April 9th, if you would like to ride the church bus.

Time for LIFE Zoom Information and Questions Contact

Zoom link: Online Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835 OR

Call-In: 312-626- 6799, then enter Meeting ID and Passcode (standard rates may apply)

Questions: 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 Pat Steffer. A service was held in December 2022.
- * The family and friends of Bill Hillger, especially Roxie Hillger. There will be a memorial service on the morning of Monday, June 5.
- * Rhonda Olson and family in the death of Rhonda’s father, Sebron Tyler.

HAPPY MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

March

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

April

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



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP!

Camp listings and registration information are on

campminnesota.org.

Signing up for camp is EASY!

Online

Look through the complete list of Camp Minnesota offerings at campminnesota.org/campsessions. Then click on “Register Online” in the camp description.

Phone

To register by phone call toll-free **855-622-1973** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

For MAIL and EMAIL options, contact the camper office by phone or email camps@campminnesota.org for instructions.

Incentives and Discounts

Register by April 30th to receive the **Early Bird** Camp Store Credit of \$25 to be used during the time at camp.

With our **Bring-A-Friend Incentive**, for each new camper you bring to camp you can earn a discount of \$25 off the price of your camp.

The Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church believes that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds. We have scholarship funds available to campers who need them most, based on personal and family needs. Before registering, check with your local church to see if they assist with the cost of registration. For financial assistance access information at campminnesota.org/camperships, or speak with Pastor Nate.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 7 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm (in-person only; online archives: [April 1, 2021](#), [April 14, 2022](#))

April 8 - Good Friday, 7:00 pm (in-person only; online archives: [April 2, 2021](#), [April 15, 2022](#))

April 9 - Easter Sunday

May 14 - Living Waters Fest

May 21 - Music Splash

May 28 - Online-Only Worship

June 4 - Church Conference following worship (elect new leaders)

June 11 - Outdoor Worship at the Richfield Bandshell

July 2 - Online-Only Worship

July 9 - Outdoor Worship at the Lake Harriet Bandshell

August 13 - Outdoor Worship at the Richfield Bandshell

September 3 - 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. At the January online gathering the group will decide which books to read and discuss this year.

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am

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. **On Tuesday, May 2, 9:30 am-10:30 am** Prof. Amy-Jill Levine will join the Tuesday Bible Study for a Q&A session about her body of work.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:00 am—In-person on campus in the Grace Room or by Zoom or phone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81990390338>

Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338; Or call in: 312-626-6799

All are welcome to read and discuss upcoming sermon scripture passages for its context then and its relevance now. In Lent, the group will watch and discuss the video series *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

SAVE THE DATE: Time for LIFE

Thursday, May 11th
from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
both in-person and online.

A delightful musical program with our gifted Living Waters Band Leader, Victor Zupanc.



Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

⇒ In-Person Worship
in the Sanctuary

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

⇒ By touch tone phone at
1.888.650.5835

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

OUR BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving God of all,
renew our hearts and minds.

Reveal your wildest dreams,
breakthrough to each of us.

Unite us in your vision,
equip us for your work.

Transform us by your song,
create our harmony.

May we embrace your future
and be your loving church.

Amen.

Richfield United Methodist Church

Website: richfieldumc.org

email: rumc@richfieldumc.org

Phone: (612) 861-6086

Facebook: facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch

Twitter: twitter.com/RichfieldUMC



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

2023 EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM

The Easter tradition to adorn the church with beautiful flowers is made possible by generous donations from the RUMC community. This year you are invited to honor your loved ones by giving towards the flowers that will be used to beautify the church for this year's Easter celebration. 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 9:30 am Easter Day worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing. The suggested donation is \$25.00, but a donation of any amount will be accepted to defray the cost of the flowers. Please make checks payable to Richfield United Methodist Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo. **Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, April 2** to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____