



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 30, 2023 at 9:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Walk With Me”

by John S. Rice

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Vibrant God, Alive God,
God of visions and dreams,
God of intimacy,
God of sustaining connections,
God of birdsong and whale song,
God of dance, laughter, art, and play:
Pour your Spirit of Life upon us,
that in our gathering we might live the joy of Holy Relationship.

1. The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e’en for his own name’s sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

Centering Prayer

Passionate Spirit, we have witnessed too much destruction and felt too much grief to devote ourselves to systems that betray thriving. Enliven our imaginations and awaken our senses to your creative presence, that we might be architects of communities that serve only your life-giving ways. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through 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.

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

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a mutual sign of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate the moments this week where your life's journey met God's heart.

Celebration Music

"Celebrate Peace"

by Handt Hanson

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-20

Rev. Lynn Borgeson

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Bless This Mess”
“Less Mess” Worship Series 3 of 6

Rev. Nate Melcher

The Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The LORD’s Prayer

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sharing Our Gifts

*Your gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online at richfieldumc.org/give
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“Faith to Be Strong”

by Andrew Peterson

THANKSGIVING

Doxology*

UMH No. 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Gratitude*

Heavenly Creator, we seek to be the sheep of your holy pasture. As we dedicate these offerings, help us to examine carefully the deepest recesses of our own hearts. Guide our ways so that we may share abundantly your love and your compassion with those seeking your pasture. We pray in the name of the Risen One. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

vs. 1 - 3

FWS Hymnal 2223

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Refrain*

3. We Will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. *Refrain*

Benediction*

...And until we meet again, let us live...
in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.

Postlude

“Have I Told You Lately”

by Van Morrison



**Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.**

Hello, guests! Welcome to worship as Richfield UMC. It's a big step to come to a new church and we're glad you're here. If you have questions, please ask any church member, and we hope you have a good experience.

RICHFIELD UMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday, April 30, 2023

Children's Sunday School today, Children go to Sunday School from worship after the Time for Children

Worship Series "LESS MESS" Continues

Life can get messy. In this series 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*.

Pizza With The Pastor / New Member Class

Today, 10:45 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Interested in learning more about church membership? Come to "Pizza with the Pastor" today after worship. We'll get to know one another, talk about the life of the church and membership vows, and share a great meal. New members are scheduled to join on June 4 (if you cannot make the June date and are still interested in membership, come anyway!).

This Week: Families Moving Forward Meals

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. Please join us in prayer for these families during this week.

Q&A Live Online With Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

This 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. You are invited to join this Zoom session!

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

Location: Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking) **Next Gathering: next Sunday, May 7**

This monthly drop-in group to discuss faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

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

A delightful musical program with our Living Waters Band Leader, Victor Zupanc. Thurs., May 11, from 1:00-2:00 pm (both in-person and online) In-person cost: \$5 RSVP by Sun. May. 7, sign-up in the Commons Area or contact Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland at kbergeland@richfieldumc.org or call 612-861-6086.

Vacation Bible Camp: Hero Hotline

June 26-30, 2023, at Lake Harriet UMC, 4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis
Open to children pre-K-5th grade, with leadership opportunities available for children in 6th grade and above. Visit richfieldumc.org/ministries/children/ for all the details and registration information.

All members and frequent worshippers should take this new survey about three potential Signature Ministries and the life of the church. **Take the survey between April 1-30, 2023** and results will be shared at the semi-annual meeting after worship on June 4, 2023.



Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read

May 2: Where the River Ends by Charles Martin

Contact Fern Albertson, wfalbertson@gmail.com, to get connected.

Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study

Contact Molly Reko, mollyreko@comcast.net, to get connected.

Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study

Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group

Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

Families with Young Children are always welcome in worship!

Here are some options to help your family have a good experience when worshipping.
The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment in a sensory friendly environment.

Art Cart - Children can use items from the cart while worshipping in the Nook or can fill a bag with items to take into the sanctuary during worship

Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them at the front of the sanctuary. Parent/guardians are welcome to join too.

Sunday School - Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook. Sunday school is held in the Fellowship Hall or outside (weather-dependent). There is no Sunday School on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Nursing Mothers - You may nurse wherever you like. There is also a reserved Nursing Room available near the Library area.

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 and with gratitude.

We pray for those who are ill: Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Jane Parry, Agnes Danzl, Connie Gillespie, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, Betsy Petersen, daughter of Mary Kay Petersen, Marta Borgeson, niece of Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Lee Weiser and Richard, Sarah Sumner, daughter of Mary Martha and David Butler, Ann Johnson, Dave Mueller, brother of Tom Mueller, Jim Vetsch, and Caroline Gillespie.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of Bonnie Stemme. There will be a memorial service for Bonnie on Monday, May 1st, at 3 pm. This will be held at Mainstreet Village in Richfield (7601 Lyndale Ave. S.) with time for fellowship after the service.

We pray for our neighbors and for all in the RUMC community.

Please call the church office to be included in any of the prayers of our church.

This Week's Calendar

The church office/Campus is open Tues.-Thurs., 8am-4pm.
The Church Library is open when the campus is open.

Sunday, April 30, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Pizza with the Pastor/New
Member Class

Monday, May 01, 2023

Families Moving Forward Meal Week
through May 5th

- 1:30 pm Women Who Read
- 3:00 pm Bonnie Stemme Memorial
Service at Mainstreet (7601
Lyndale Ave. S.)
- 5:00 pm Care Minister Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 02, 2023

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 am Q&A Online with
Prof. Amy-Jill Levine
- 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, May 03, 2023

- 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 04, 2023

Friday, May 05, 2023

Saturday, May 06, 2023

- 8:30 am Men's Group
- 10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, May 07, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 10:45 am Confirmation
- 7:00 pm Pub Theology

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

Please let the church office know if you or someone from the church is hospitalized or immediately pre or post hospitalization. The pastoral care team is available to extend care and provide support in times of need. The Parish Minister for the week of April 30 is Gretta Thorson.

Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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Richfield United Methodist Church

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.