

Heartline

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

2023
May / June



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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, JUNE 4

**10:45 am-11:15 am In-Person (Fellowship Hall)
and Online**

There will be a brief church conference for the purpose of:

- Voting on new elected leaders
- Receiving an operating budget report
- Hearing an MCCI Signature Ministry survey update
- Appreciating servant volunteers
- Welcoming new members

See all the details on page 3

POTLUCK LUNCH SUNDAY, JUNE 4

11:15 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to our first potluck in years! Lunch is served immediately following the church conference! Please see page 3 for more details.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYS

Sunday, June 11

Outdoor Worship at the Richfield Bandshell

[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield
(free parking at Ice Arena)

Mark your calendar for the first of three outdoor worship services this summer. See page 4 for details about these special services



Wow, what an Easter Sunday we had! It was less than a month ago and we're still hearing great things from people who experienced worship in the Sanctuary, online, and by phone. It's true, there was such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Thank you to the estimated 250 people total who were part of Easter, plus another estimated 250 people on campus for the Easter Egg Hunt, and a special thanks to all the servant volunteers and staff who came together to make it a wonderful experience. Maybe 250 is important because it's around 250 days until Christmas Eve! Does it seem too early to talk about that already?

The big push toward the Easter season wouldn't have happened without our tremendous staff, and that's why the Staff-Parish Relations Team has designated May as Staff Appreciation Month. Let's thank the church staff for all they do, whether up in front of everybody or behind the scenes. It's also Teacher Appreciation Month and we celebrate the hard-working Caring for Children early learning center staff. Many people are helping church members succeed in our mission to build a world where all can live in faith, justice, and joy.

As we step into summer, I encourage every one of you to take control of your faith life and do something amazing. This is often a period of travel and leisure and different patterns. Keep or build in your patterns to participate in the life of your church and practice your faith.

Summer worship sees the return of the popular "So Many Questions!" worship series. You submitted excellent questions and once again, we can't get to them all, but we'll get to as many as we can. These services, with sermons that explore the questions that many hold and the Groth music scholars sharing their talents, provide an excellent opportunity for church members to invite a friend to worship. Likewise, I'm excited to get back to worship outdoors at

the bandshell three times this summer. This year, we'll have special worship inspired by the music of Simon & Garfunkel, a duo whose hits have spanned the airwaves for multiple generations. Online-only worship on the holiday weekends gives our servant volunteers a break while offering quality worship wherever we are, including those of you who travel on those longer weekends.

This may be the summer when you pick up a new devotional, a book on faith, read your Bible, or join a Bible study. It may be the time to return to the daily Breakthrough Prayer if you fell out of the habit. And I'm meeting with people all summer long for coffee, tea, and smoothies - my treat! Nobody can force you to deepen your faith... except you! Feel the nudge from God to go deeper. If you do end up traveling this summer, take a "Love Your Neighbor" postcard with you wherever you go. Occasionally, churches do a "Flat Jesus" project, where you essentially take a Jesus-on-a-stick wherever you go and take a photo with him (it's based on a popular children's book, *Flat Stanley*). We have fresh church postcards, so we'll try it this way. Send in your photos because we want to see everywhere that Richfield UMC goes this summer!

Make sure you kick off the summer right! You've taken the new survey about the three potential signature ministries. Come to the semi-annual meeting on June 4 when we'll get the survey data back and have our first pot luck lunch in years! We'll have more info by then on so many great things gearing up for the summer season: movie nights for the neighborhood, Vacation Bible Camp, and a youth mission trip, etc. The Spirit is moving amid this church!

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 your days!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING / CHURCH CONFERENCE - JUNE 4

10:45 am-11:15 am In-Person (Fellowship Hall) and Online

Zoom Meeting ID: 886 0975 2661 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

There will be a brief church conference for the purpose of voting on new elected leaders immediately following worship. We will also receive an operating budget report with potential voting items from the Finance Team, an MCCI Signature Ministry survey update, appreciate servant volunteers, and welcome new members. In-person attendance is encouraged, and a Zoom option will be available.

POTLUCK LUNCH - JUNE 4

11:15 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to our first potluck in years! Lunch is served immediately following the church conference! Please bring a dish to share: appetizers, soups, salads, main dishes, side dishes, or desserts. Did you perfect a new recipe during lockdown? Been itching to thaw that half loin and slow cook some pulled pork? Wondering if everyone will just bring a bag of chips? Come and see! The church will provide beverages and plateware. Each of us will provide good food and fellowship!



MUFFINS ARE BACK!

May 7, May 14, and May 21

Muffins are available on Sundays after worship on all three Sundays in May when we have in-person worship. They are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. The proceeds above covering costs goes toward funding for Children and Youth ministry scholarships (VBS, mission trips, field trips, etc.).

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

9:00 am-12:00 pm

most Tuesdays this summer

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher

Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you all summer long to check-in, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting at Caribou Coffee (6545 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

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: May 7, June 4 (then a summer hiatus)

Pub Theology is a 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>



SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

May 14 - Living Waters Fest

May 21 - Music Splash

May 28 - Online-Only Worship

June 4 - New Member Sunday, Semi-Annual Meeting, Potluck

June 11 - Outdoor Worship at the Richfield Bandshell

July 2 - Online-Only Worship

July 9 - Outdoor Worship at the Lake Harriet Bandshell (10:00 am)

August 13 - Outdoor Worship at the Richfield Bandshell

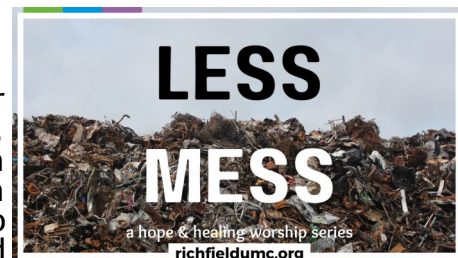
September 3 - Online-Only Worship

SUMMER WORSHIP 2023

SPRING WORSHIP SERIES #8: "LESS MESS"

Through May 21

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](#).



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES: "SO MANY QUESTIONS!"

Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online

Prelude begins *before* 9:30 am, please arrive early!

This popular series returns and is based on your submitted questions about God, faith, church, life, and the Bible. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome. Most Sundays feature a Groth Scholar musician, as well. This year's "So Many Questions" topics are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| June 4 - Is religion ending? | July 30 - What does the Bible say about heaven? |
| June 18 - Will the Bible ever change? | August 6 - What does the Bible say about hell? |
| June 25 - What makes a Methodist? | August 20 - Why is forgiveness hard? |
| July 16 - What is prayer for? | August 27 - Why are Christians hypocrites? |
| July 23 - How do I put faith into action? | |



ONLINE-ONLY SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES: "HEARTS ON FIRE!"

Online-Only, 9:30 am, youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

During these special online-only worship services, Pastor Nate will preach a 3-part interconnected sermon exploring Acts of the Apostles chapter 2 and the birth of the church at Pentecost:

- May 28, 2023 (Memorial Day weekend) - "How is it that we hear?"
- July 2, 2023 (Independence Day weekend) - "What does this mean?"
- September 3, 2023 (Labor Day weekend) - "What should we do?"

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 three holiday weekends this spring and summer. 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.



OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES: "I AM: GOD, SIMON, AND GARFUNKEL"

In-Person Only, various times and locations

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 led by Victor Zupanc. Services are in-person only. We return to Summer Second Sundays outdoors:

- June 11 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am
[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield (free parking at Ice Arena)
- July 9 - Lake Harriet Bandshell at 10:00 am
Please note the special start time for the Lake Harriet Bandshell. [4135 W Lake Harriet Pkwy, Minneapolis](#) (parking in paid lots or free on the street)
- August 13 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am
[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield (free parking at Ice Arena)



Summer Worship Continued on next page

REBROADCAST SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES: "SUMMER AT THE MOVIES"

Online-Only, 9:30 am, youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

While the outdoor summer worship series happens at the bandshell, online and phone worshipers will experience a hand-selected trio of worship service rebroadcasts.

June 11 - Rebroadcast of August 2, 2020, featuring "Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse"
Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse is available to rent or own on DVD, Blu-ray and streams on DirecTV. The sequel, Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, opens in theaters on June 2, 2023.

July 9 - Rebroadcast of July 11, 2021, featuring "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
Raiders of the Lost Ark is available to rent or own on DVD, Blu-ray and streams on Paramount+. A fourth sequel, Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, opens in theaters on June 30, 2023.

August 13 - Rebroadcast of July 19, 2020, featuring "The Princess and the Frog"
The Princess and the Frog is available to rent or own on DVD, Blu-ray and streams on Disney+.

FIRST QUARTER FINANCE REPORT

In January we committed to providing updates on our financial status. Our 1st Quarter results are in and giving is above projections, which is great news. However, our 1st Quarter expenses are also higher than our Budgeted projections. Overall, the gap between Revenue and Expenses is holding close to the level projected in the Budget. Unfortunately, we are not currently seeing results to reduce the gap.

Below are some key points for the first quarter.

- 26.8% of Pledged commitments received, a total of \$79,978 slightly ahead of planned
- 25.9% of Total year Budgeted Revenues received, slightly greater than planned for 1st quarter, for a total of \$413,963 received
- 27.8% of Total year Budgeted Expense incurred, more than projected for 1st quarter, for a total of \$460,770 expenses incurred
- Key unplanned expenses in 1st quarter
 - ~\$3,000 more in snow removal costs than this time period last year
 - \$3,189 Drinking fountain replacement, main level
 - \$1,795 Repair of leaking water pipe
 - \$1,214 Garbage disposal/dishwasher repairs
 - \$1,100 Repair/Overhaul to CFC Security door
 - \$995 Boiler repairs

The staff is keenly aware of the need to manage costs, and they are. However, like with our own households the costs of basics continue to remain high. Thank you for your continued support and giving.

-Sue Restemayer, Finance Team Chair

MCCI SIGNATURE MINISTRY UPDATE

Thank you for taking the recent church surveys! The January survey gave the church strong data to narrow focus to three potential signature ministries. Pastor Nate and Rev. Hope visited these three ministries twice apiece in Lenten sermons, setting us up to take the new survey that dove into each in-depth. Thank you for taking that survey, as well! We will review data at the June 4 semi-annual meeting and determine the next steps as a church. Please continue to pray for God to break through in the life of your church!



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, 2023 (Memorial Day weekend)
- July 2, 2023 (Independence Day weekend)
- September 3, 2023 (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.

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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



Sunday School

There is so much to celebrate and look forward to in the last month of our Sunday School program year! Our last Sunday School gathering will be on Sunday, May 21. Every week from now until then, we will spend time in Sunday School preparing for Children First Worship on Sunday, June 4. We will learn how to use our puppets to tell a Bible story, as well as a special song to sing in worship on that day.

Easter Egg Hunt

The weather certainly made this a memorable year for the Easter Egg Hunt! But, in spite of 8 inches of messy snow the night before, 30 servant volunteers from your church came out to spread some Easter joy in our community. This year, we served over 200 people from our neighborhood at our Egg Hunt, and many people were glad for a reason to get out of the house for a family activity. Thank you so much for your generosity as a church that makes this happen every year.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES

Summer Movie Nights

Wednesdays in July, starting at 5pm

(July 5, 12, 19, 26) Movies start at 5pm, bring your dinner and eat during the movie. We'll have snacks too! Great family fun!



July 5
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
2022 PG 1 hour, 42 minutes
Universal Pictures



July 12
An American Tail
1986 G 1 hour, 20 minutes
Universal Pictures



July 19
The Bad Guys
2022 PG 1 hour, 40 minutes
Universal Pictures



July 26
Honey, I Shrunk the Kids
1989 PG 1 hour, 33 minutes
Disney

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

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. For this week, we will 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 currently discerning the future of this program, while finding other providers to house families. Please join us in prayer for these families during this week.

Thank You for Your Extravagant Generosity

Over the first four months of 2023, your Church & Society Team has held several special offerings and drives. In January and February, we held our annual SOUPer Bowl Drive, benefitting VEAP. In March we contributed to the statewide MN FoodShare. Together those two drives collected **over \$1,400** for food security here in the Twin Cities Metro, and around the state. Additionally, we were able to donate **over 500 pounds of food** to VEAP as a part of that SOUPer Bowl Drive.



In April, we began our annual Easter Offering, benefitting the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, and the Immigration Law and Justice Network. Both organizations help to settle those new to the United States, and help them navigate the complicated process of the United States legal system. Thanks to your generosity, we collected **over \$3,700** that will go towards helping new refugees and immigrants in the United States. Thank you so much!

Thank you from TC Food Justice

The Board Chair of Twin Cities Food Justice, one of the recipients of our Christmas Offering, recently got in touch to express their gratitude for our generosity. Here were some of the sentiments shared:

"Wow, this is incredibly generous and thank you so much to your congregation for the support!...Your contribution is enabling us to continue our mission to reduce food waste and hunger in the Twin Cities. We couldn't do that without the generosity of people like you."

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Youth

In-Person Youth Group

Wednesday, May 3, 10, & 17, 7:30-8:30pm

Join Rev. Hope, Pastor Nate and your fellow youth and servant volunteers for an evening of fun! Activities range from games and puzzles, to videos and guest speakers. So come check in with us, and build community together.

Confirmation Wraps Up

Sunday, May 7 & 21 at 10:40am

As our confirmation-age youth prepare to join Richfield UMC, they are meeting twice more in the month of May. Immediately following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, our youth will meet in-person with hybrid options available upon request. Over the summer, the youth will meet with their mentors and your clergy team to prepare for Confirmation Sunday this fall.

Graduation Sunday

Come join us as we honor our 2023 Graduates! On Sunday, June 11, at our Outdoor service at the Richfield Bandshell, we will honor our 2023 Graduates in worship.

Mission Trip

July 15-22, 2023

This year, the youth group and your clergy team will travel to Detroit to 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. If you would like to help us raise money towards the costs associated with Motown Mission, you can contribute here: <https://tinyurl.com/rumcmmission2023>. Thank you all so much for helping our youth learn to love their neighbors in new ways.

Save the Date:

End of Summer Bonfire

Wednesday, August 23 at 7pm

The tradition of a summer bonfire for the youth is returning! Join Rev. Hope at her house to celebrate the end of summer with a bonfire, s'mores, and some other campfire snacks. All youth entering 7th grade-2023 high school graduates are welcome to attend, and may bring a friend. Please RSVP to Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

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.

WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

Now is the time to check CDC guidelines for your eligibility for a COVID-19 booster shot and schedule an appointment. As the area transitions to endemic living, remember we must all do our part. That means vaccines, boosters, and good hygiene habits. We continue to monitor the public health landscape. Early data from the spring church survey shows there is interest in bringing back intinction for the sacrament of Holy Communion (receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup to consume the elements together). We will shift to having both available: intinction and single-serve cups that contain both leaven bread and juice together.

SPRING CLEANING

Friday, June 16, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Saturday, June 17, 10:00 am-3:00pm

Drop-in, contribute as much time as you can.

Help your church clean, organize, and de-clutter. From touch-up painting to gardening, from supply closet organizing to clearing out Christmas pageant costumes past their prime, there's something for everyone to make our amazing church campus shine bright and be ready for new ministries.

Show up any time during these shifts. Many hands make for light work, and lunch is on us!

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

Summer Worship Prelude Music Is Before 9:30 am - Show Up Early!

Before the pandemic, the Prelude music started before the worship service. This summer, every worship service in the Sanctuary will return to this timing. You're encouraged to show up in-person or go online a few minutes early. Experience amazing music from our church music staff, lay member musicians, and Groth scholar musical guests. Prelude lengths can vary, and you're encouraged to arrive by 9:20 am. The livestream will begin at the Prelude at youtube.com/richfieldumc.



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!

CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

The children have enjoyed indoor play during these cold months. Now that the weather is getting warmer, they're looking forward to playing on the playground and observing the new life that springtime brings.

Kathy Newbauer, Director



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 303 to 310 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 585 to 600 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 324 to 330 subscribers.



NEW BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS ARE HERE

We've seen new improvements around campus recently. After 20+ years, our drinking fountain finally gave out. We installed a new unit that includes a motion-activated water dispenser perfect for filling water bottles. The kitchen garbage disposal, which also served us well for decades, bid us a fond farewell and we have a replacement. Downstairs in the Caring for Children area, a new pocket door was installed to separate the Muscle Room (known to many as the Holy Cow Room generations ago) to help some classes play games in one area while other students learn or nap in another. Building improvements like this - whether expected or unexpected - get funded by your financial generosity. Thank you for supporting the life of your church with your committed giving.



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.

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. **New: music archives from 2023 also indicate if they're sung together, from the choir, band, solos, and more!**



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.



Don't trash it – Fix-It!



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: hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/fix-it-clinics to learn more.

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

Let me give you a word of encouragement about books for young people this month. Most of the ones for our youngest family members are in a rolling cart on the west side of the library. They are down low, just perfect for these early readers and ones to whom we read with affection. This cart is placed in such a way that the titles can be seen from both above and from its sides. There are also children's books on display individually on the top of the west shelving and a few on a glass-top table closest to the office area.

I encourage children and those who find themselves in the company of children, to look at these areas, talk about the books they see, and what interests them.

Then, spend some time reading to them or have them read to you. There are chairs in the area and you may also use the floor if you wish. And, if you don't finish the book at this time, check it out and take it home. And (again), I shall be happy to hear your stories of what pleased your children.

-Rev. Wayne Albertson



AMPLIFY MEDIA THIS SUMMER

This summer while at the cabin, on the beach, or camping, use Amplify Media to put your faith development into your own hands and explore videos at your own pace.

Our church has a subscription to Amplify Media, a multimedia streaming platform. Think of it as "Netflix for Churches," only instead of you getting your own subscription, the church has one for you!

Amplify Media features thousands of videos and audiobooks you can use for daily devotional and reflection, Bible studies, worship, and inspiration. There's content for adults as well as children.

To create your Amplify account and access thousands of videos, follow these simple steps:

- Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurchmi> (The "mi" at the end is from the first two letters in "Minnesota," so yes, that is supposed to be there.)
- Enter our church's unique access code: **HTMZFL**
- Create your own user profile with your name, email, and your own private password. (You will *not* be charged a fee. Richfield UMC already has the paid subscription that is for all members.)

CHESTER E. AND MARION D. GROTH SCHOLARSHIP

The Chester E. and Marion D. Groth Scholarship Fund was established under the auspices of Richfield United Methodist Church Foundation to provide an opportunity to youth interested in music to develop their talents. The purpose of this Fund is to award annual post-secondary scholarships for qualified students desiring to matriculate and pursue careers in music education, music performance, or music therapy.

During the summer we welcome these talented students as they share their gifts in worship.

Recipients for 2023-2024



Kalina Lee

Kalina Lee will be a freshman at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, OH. She will be studying oboe performance. Kalina is a graduate of United Christian Academy, Bloomington, MN.



Leo Dvorsky

Leo Dvorsky will be a junior at the University of Minnesota. He will be studying vocal performance. Leo is a graduate of St. Louis Park High School.



Grace Weitzel

Grace Weitzel will be a freshman at the University of Indiana in the Jacobs School of Music. She will be studying violin performance. Grace is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School, MN.



Penelope Corbett

Penelope Corbett will be a junior at the University of Minnesota. She will be studying violin performance and is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School.



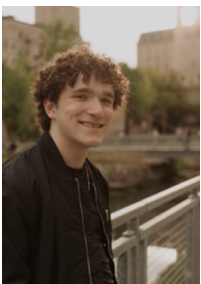
Evan Shuman

Evan Shuman will be a sophomore at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He will be studying violin performance. Evan is a graduate of Mayo High School, Rochester, MN.



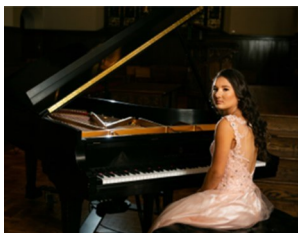
Catherine Carson

Catherine Carson will be a senior at Eastman Conservatory of Music in Rochester, New York. She will be studying violin performance. Catherine is a graduate of Shattuck St. Mary's and Northfield High School.



Matthew Bennet

Matthew Bennet will be a sophomore at Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA. Matthew will study piano performance and is a graduate of Mahtomedi High School, MN.



Emma Taggart

Emma Taggart will be a senior at Mannes School of Music - The New School in New York City, NY. She will be studying piano performance and is a graduate of St. Agnes High School in St. Paul.

Congratulations to all the recipients.

BLESSINGS

On April 23, 2023, we celebrated the baptism of Celia Jane, child of Amanda Keck-Bodger and Steve Bodger. Sponsors are Dave Bodger and Cameron Keck.



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.

WELCOME

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!

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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

May Program:

The Creative Process: A Glimpse Into the Fascinating Creation of Music for Live Theater with speaker, Victor Zupanc, our gifted Living Waters Band Leader

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

Music has always been an integral part of theater and helps unlock the emotions of a story. This interesting session with composer, Victor Zupanc, will focus on how he comes up with a musical score for a play. With over 300 plays in some of the most prestigious theaters in America and abroad, Victor has done it all. He will share stories from his career and explain where these ideas come from and why they do or do not work.

We are blessed to have Victor here at church as our Living Waters Band Leader. Victor has worked on over 300 plays in countless theaters across America. He also composes music for orchestras and choirs and films. His theme music has been featured on NPR. His music has been heard in China, Japan, South America, Africa, Canada, Australia and all over Europe. Since 1989, Victor has been the resident music director/composer at Tony Award winning Children's Theatre Company and has also created music for dozens of productions at The Guthrie and The Mixed Blood Theatre, winning many awards and honors along the way.

Date/Time: Thursday, May 11th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

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

Cost: \$5.00. This fee is for in-person attendees only. Please pay the day of the event.

RSVP by Sunday, May 7th. 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, May 7th, if you would like to ride the church bus.



Time for LIFE

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

Thursday, June 8th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
(both in-person and online offerings)

(Note: This program was originally scheduled for March but needed to be postponed due to weather).

Join us for a delightful hour as we take a closer look at fresh spring rolls, one of the most recognized dishes of Vietnamese cuisine. Today, these delectable rolls have travelled to the plates of people far and wide! 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.



Not only will we see an entertaining demonstration of how to make a fresh Vietnamese spring roll, we will do so while being able to enjoy one of these tasty, vegetarian rolls! My mouth is watering as I write this!

I am excited to welcome back entertaining chef, baker, and caterer, Terry John Zila, to Time for LIFE. Terry has been experimenting in the kitchen his entire life. Twenty years in the restaurant industry has exposed him to a wide variety of cooking styles. Terry also appears regularly as a Food and Entertaining Contributor for KSTP's Twin Cities Live, the WCCO Morning News, KARE 11 News, and the Matt McNeil Show on AM 950 KTNF Radio. Over the past year, Terry has opened Hepcat Coffee and the Alley Cat Lounge in St. Paul.

Date/Time: Thursday, June 8th, 1:00-2:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00. This fee is for in-person attendees only. Please pay the day of the event.

RSVP by Sunday, June 4th. 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, June 4th, 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

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

Take a "Love Your Neighbor" postcard,
and send in a photo!

Wherever you go this summer, take a "Love Your Neighbor" postcard. Keep your postcard handy and when you go somewhere interesting, take a selfie photo with it, then send in your photo to rumc@richfieldumc.org. By the end of the summer, we hope to have a huge collection of photos from you from all across Minnesota and beyond! Postcards are available in the Commons area on campus.

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:

- Michelle (CFC Staff) in the death of her mother, Cheryl
- The family and friends of Bonnie Stemme.

HAPPY MAY AND JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May

Allan Reko (Yana)	02	Pat Schilling	16
Alicia Owens	04	Caleb White	16
Anna Restemayer	06	Jerene Jex	17
Amanda Currie	09	Cole Dewey	17
Luca Olson	10	Michele Wegscheid	21
Nora Freeman	10	Pam Currie	22
Pat Doncavage	11	Laura Pratt	22
Reine Whitaker	12	Susan Johnson (SK)	25
Lee Weiser	13	Harold Teachout	27
Marge Osterdyk	16		

June

David Butler	01	Carol Oliver	14
Agnes Danzl	03	Lisa Keith	15
Mark Dierauer	04	Lynne Clarke	17
Sara Watne	05	Sarah Currie	18
Denver Callahan	05	London Owens	19
Susan Johnson (Kent)	06	Margaret Haines	21
Fern Albertson	07	Toni Locke	22
Fletcher Loge	07	June Berglund	23
John Darling	08	Mark Bosch	23
Roxanne Hillger	09	Ann Krause	25
Calvin Koskey	09	Tiffany Holt	25
Joe Warling	11	David Doty	26
Ruth Phelps	12	Kathy Bodger	26
Oscar Reichenberger	13	Brent Pavia	26

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.



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)

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.

MAY IS STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Your SPRC Team has designated May as Staff Appreciation Month at Richfield UMC. This also coincides with Teacher Appreciation Month as we celebrate our Caring for Children early learning center staff. Each one of our church staff has been working hard for you! Whether up front leading worship or organizing things behind the scenes, we get more done for our mission because of our excellent paid staff. We have staff who work in communications, business, facilities, pastoral care, music, and child care - and to each we say **thank you!** All members are encouraged to express your appreciation to the staff and SPRC will have several organized ways for you to show your appreciation, as well.

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. Upcoming books:
May - Where the River Ends by Charles Martin
June - The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway
July - The Lost Apothecary by Sara Kenner

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.

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

Read and discuss scripture for upcoming sermons. Meet in-person and get a cup of coffee or come online. For the latest updates, contact Pastor Nate to be on the email list for frequent participants.



LOVE OFFERING

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. We will take this offering May 7-21 and at worship on Sunday, May 21, a special offering envelope will be available.

Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God's extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

For 2023:

Sixty percent of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support Minnesota UMC churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.

Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, and Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health.

Finally, 10 percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

Learn more about all of these recipients at minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering

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. Please hold the staff in your prayers as we continue seeking great people to join our amazing team. 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@cfcrumc.org.



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www.richfieldumc.org

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Heartline

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

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

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

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