

Heartline

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

2023
July / August



OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYS

Mark your calendar for two remaining outdoor worship services this summer. These services are in-person only and will not be livestreamed or recorded for rebroadcast (an alternative online worship experience will be available online and by phone on these days). You are invited to these unique, live in-person only worship gatherings with your church. See more information on page 4.

July 9 at 10:00 am, Lake Harriet Bandshell
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 at 9:30 am, Richfield Bandshell
[636 East 66th Street](#) Richfield (free parking at Ice Arena)

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As I set out to create a slide deck for the June 4 church conference, I was sure our meeting would be a brief 15 minutes and then we'd get right to the potluck lunch. How naïve I was! First, a few of you made a good call - let's eat during the meeting. That turned out to be

an excellent decision, because as I made slides, I realized this meeting will be longer than 15 minutes? Why? Because there are so many amazing things this church has accomplished and is setting up in the future. Reviewing the year and looking ahead takes time - and we should take time to thank the God who leads us every step of the way. It was a long meeting, but we had lots of good food, thankfully.

We were a busy church in those first 5 months of 2023. It was a pleasure to let you know our average worship attendance is up this year in-person and relatively steady online. I loved reminding you of our all-church book study of *Half Truths* by Rev. Adam Hamilton; that was tied to a worship series that got tremendous feedback. We smiled about hosting Prof. Amy-Jill Levine for 2 Zoom Q&A sessions, and she said she'd love to come back! We got to express gratitude for ongoing ministries like Time for LIFE, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group, and the pastoral care network. We saw the return of Children First Sunday with a choir and puppet show, too!

What an amazing year it has been for special giving, too. When you learn the story of causes this church lifts up, you have answered the call. It was a delight to witness Rev. Hope unveil that you gave nearly \$7,000 and 1,000 lbs. of food to social justice special offerings in just 5 months, wow! You are feeding your neighbors, advocating for those who are homeless, welcoming new neighbors who are refugees, educating seminary students, giving relief in the face of natural disaster, and strengthening mental health systems across Minnesota. You are a generous church - not only should you be proud, you should invite a friend to join in these causes by your side!

I'm excited to walk a few more steps with you this summer as we quickly approach the fall season. Rev. Hope and I are leading the youth mission trip to Detroit; please keep us in your prayers. We're organizing our first Refugee Welcome Kit Drive and creating a taskforce to develop a Mission Trip Hub on campus. We're in contact with the county and neighborhood board about the latest housing developments at the

former Metro Inn and Aqua City properties. And we are preparing for an amazing Confirmation Sunday on September 24 - our first since 2019. Great things are in store for this church - be part of the "faith in action" movement!

On June 30, I started what's now my 5th year as your pastor. Truly, where did the time go? Well, I have a few ideas. Some time went into meet and greets, Bible studies, service projects, and field trips where we got to know each other in the church building and community. Other time went into worship innovation and technology developments to broaden our connection. Still more time went into funerals and memorials celebrating our beloved saints. A bit of time went into investing in the campus and new ministries. More time than I'd like got sucked down the blur that was the Covid hole, and a little too much time brushed itself into my life as a little gray in my beard and at my temples. Overall, the time went into being the church together, thanks be to God!

As always, I am proud to be your pastor. You have been a good church for my family and for me at this time in our lives. I'm grateful we get to worship God together, serve as the hands and feet of Jesus together, and be there for one another as an embodiment of God's Holy Spirit. Here's to our journey so far and the journey to come. It hasn't always been easy, but it's always been worth it. I am blessed to step into tomorrow with you. May God bless you, Church!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher

*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.

SECOND QUARTER FINANCE REPORT

The church received a finance status update at the June 4 church conference from the outgoing Finance Team chair, Sue Restemayer. Revenues are strong year-to-date, with 55% of total year commitments received, compared to 42% of commitments received at this time last year, and some households have given their commitments in full. Thank you for your generosity!

We are paying our apportionments in full and the bills are being paid. We are able to rely on restricted funds for specific uses and the operations checking account hovers around \$200,000. However, like in many of our own households, expenses are running slightly higher than projected. We continue to project a gap in the end-of-year revenue-to-expenses, though this is smaller now thanks to two special gifts beyond committed giving totaling \$21,000. Staff continue to pay attention to expenditures as we enter the budgeting and stewardship seasons this fall. If you are a grant writer, we want to work with you, too.

CFC enrollment is at 69 students with a growing waitlist. We continue to need more staffing so that our great staff have more breathing room and we have more capacity for students. This is one of our greatest challenges for revenue right now. If you know qualified preschool teachers, please put them in contact with the church.

Thank you for your continued support and giving.

MCCI SIGNATURE MINISTRY UPDATE

At the June 4 church conference, we went over the latest survey and gave you updates on our next steps (you can read the survey results at richfieldumc.org/statements or take a printout on campus). For refugee relief, we are planning our first Welcome Kit drive for this fall and we will work to include our immediate neighborhood. For Mission Trip Hub, Pastor Nate is forming a taskforce this summer to do next steps exploring how to organize us. And for Community Support, we will use the fall season to plan for community gatherings on campus in the winter such as game nights, indoor rec, and/or support groups. Want to help get thing organized? Contact Gail Johnson (Lay Leader) or Pastor Nate.



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!

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.



GET YOUR RICHFIELD UMC SWAG!

Share your church’s mission with pride in your neighborhood. Check out the 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.

PUB THEOLOGY

Thank you for a fun and inviting premiere season of Pub Theology. Our gatherings saw people from a variety of generations gather to talk God and life over a tasty beverage on the first of the month for 9 months and your support helped make it happen. We are slated to resume in the fall, thank you. More information: <https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>



SUMMER WORSHIP 2023

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES: "SO MANY QUESTIONS!"

Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online

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

This popular series based on your submitted questions concludes this summer. Sundays feature a Groth Scholar musician, as well. The remaining "So Many Questions" topics are:

- July 16 What is prayer for?
- July 23 How do I put faith into action?
- July 30 What does the Bible say about heaven?
- August 6 What does the Bible say about hell?
- August 20 Why is forgiveness hard?
- August 27 Why are Christians hypocrites?



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 Pentecost and the birth of the church. The remaining dates are:

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 Sundays, 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. The remaining dates are:

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)



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 hand-selected worship service rebroadcasts. The remaining dates are:

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+.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Special Offering Updates

At Richfield UMC we are a generous church, and that generosity goes beyond the giving that supports our daily operations. Your Church & Society team is responsible for designating, organizing, and promoting the special offerings and giving opportunities throughout the year. So far in 2023, we have been very busy doing just that! We started the year with our annual SOUPer Bowl drive, where we collected cans of soup for VEAP, our local food shelf. In March, we participated in MN FoodShare month, the statewide campaign to stock every food shelf full of food. In April, we had our annual Easter Offering, which was split between your church, the Immigration Law & Justice Network, and the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services. Just after Easter, we celebrated Native American Ministries Sunday with a special offering that supports those ministries in the Minnesota Annual Conference. Then to wrap up the first half of 2023, we participated in the Love Offering. This special offering is designated by the Minnesota Annual Conference, and this year it is supporting mental health resources around the state. Throughout all of those offerings and drives, together you raised \$7,231.76 and 1,321 pounds of food. You are truly a church that demonstrates extravagant generosity, thanks be to God!

Families Moving Forward

Our mission partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, has made the decision to focus more on building more affordable housing, and their policy work to sustain more affordable housing in the future. In order to do this, they have made the difficult decision that they need to hand off their shelter program, Families Moving Forward, to a new service provider on July 1, 2023. In this time of transition, your Church & Society team has decided that we will also stop hosting and providing meals for Families Moving Forward. While this was a difficult decision, your elected leaders on the Church and Society team decided together that while we will continue to support Families Moving Forward with our prayers, it was time for our relationship to shift. If you have any stories or memories that you would like to share to celebrate our longtime ministry with Families Moving Forward, please email Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

Though our partnership with Families Moving Forward is coming to a close, we will continue to partner with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative on many initiatives in the coming years, so stay tuned for more ministry opportunities soon!

Bring it Home MN

Speaking of Beacon, they have been involved in the Bring it Home MN campaign for four years. This campaign is a statewide campaign of many different housing organizations, that advocates for sustainable funding that would provide housing vouchers for all low-income Minnesotans. This past January, Richfield UMC sent postcards to our legislators letting them know how important this legislation was for all of us. And finally, in May 2023, the bill passed! Thanks to support from Richfield UMC, and congregations across the state, 5,000-6,000 households across Minnesota will now have access to rent vouchers, giving them increased access to sustainable housing.

Rapid Response Funds

Every year, your Church and Society team designates \$1,000 for Rapid Response Relief. These funds are set aside with the idea that they would give the Church and Society team flexibility to send funds when natural disasters, tragedies, or other significant events occur. We usually send these gifts out in increments of \$250, giving us four opportunities to do this throughout the year. This past February, the Church & Society team voted to send \$250 in support of earthquake relief in Syria and Turkey. We still have \$750 to spend this year on Rapid Response Relief, and we want your help in deciding where these funds should go. If you would like your church to respond to a disaster in the world, you can start this process by emailing Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

Fall Food Drive

As we start to think about fall, Richfield UMC will be preparing for another Fall Food Drive. As rising costs affect more and more of us, food pantries, like our long-time mission partner VEAP, are struggling to keep their shelves stocked with high quality food. This fall, we're going to do our best to support VEAP, and get them the supplies they need. Starting at our August bandshell worship on August 13, and running through Confirmation Sunday on September 24, RUMC will be collecting food and funds for VEAP. To donate items, please pick up a bag & flyer from the church building. To donate funds, please note VEAP on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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



It was such a joy to celebrate our first **Children First worship** together since 2019 on Sunday, June 4. This is the worship service where our children lead us in worship, showing everyone that they are the leaders not only of the future, but of the present as well. The children spent time in Sunday School making puppets, and practicing to get ready to lead us in worship. In addition to trying new leadership roles, the children also led us in a song, and prepared a skit with their puppets to teach us about how we can live out God's love in this world.

Though **Sunday School** is on a break throughout the summer, there are still many opportunities for children and their families! In June we had **Vacation Bible Camp**: Hero Hotline at Lake Harriet UMC. For five days, children from across the Twin Cities came together to learn that Heroes are called to follow Jesus. There will also be opportunities to connect at our upcoming **Summer Movie Nights** on Wednesdays in July.

Children are welcome in our worship services both in person and online. Throughout the summer, the Art Cart and the Nook will remain available for children to wiggle and play during the worship service. There are also children's worship materials available to print at home for children to work on while attending worship online. These are available by contacting Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

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



CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

Congratulations to our Pre-K graduates, Aurora, Elin, Frankie, George, Harry, Hazel, Hazel, Lila, Linnea, Olivia, Russell, Wesley, and William. We are so proud of you and know you will do great in Kindergarten!

-Kathy Newbauer, Director



HELP WANTED: CFC STAFF

Our staff in the Caring for Children (CFC) 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 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 qualified teachers!

Youth

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

This spring, there have been lots of impromptu field trips for our youth group. We went geo-caching in Richfield, we journeyed over to St Paul for some ice cream, and we got bubble tea nearby as well! It has been fun spending time together, and as we take a break for the summer, there will still be opportunities to connect at worship, and other church events.



Mission Trip

After a three year break, our youth mission trip is happening again! Please keep your church's youth and clergy in your prayers July 15-22 as we journey to Detroit and back. We will be working with Motown Mission, helping with economic disaster relief in that area, primarily greening, feeding, and rebuilding. There will be lots of stories and conflux moments shared from that trip in worship on July 23! If you would like to read more about Motown Mission, you can read more here: <https://motownmission.org/overview>

Summer Bonfire

At the end of the summer, the youth group will gather for a bonfire at Rev. Hope's house on Wednesday, August 23 at 7pm. There, we will catch up and tell each other about our summers over s'mores and other campfire snacks.

Confirmation

Our confirmands are hard at work preparing for Confirmation Sunday soon! While confirmation classes are on break for the summer, our youth are meeting with their mentors and their clergy to prepare. We will have an overnight retreat with our confirmands September 22-23, and then we will celebrate Confirmation Sunday on September 24.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ALL THOSE PILL BOTTLES?

Thanks to all of you who are bringing your clean pill bottles to the recycle station by the entrance of RUMC. Here is the story of what is happening to them. There is a ministry in Ohio called **Matthew 25** that recycles medical equipment, sending it to the third world in large shipping containers. Small open spaces in the containers are filled with zip lock bags of pill bottles that will be used to give medications to patients. Many poor counties use paper envelopes to dispense pills that would be more secure and dry in a bottle.

Matthew 25 uses hard-to-find volunteers to prepare the pill bottles, so they are requesting that we sort by color and prepare the zip lock bags before we send them in. Here are our new recycle rules:

- We will collect only amber pill bottles of various sizes with caps.
- They need to be washed, dried and capped.
- We will sort them by size before shipping them.



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 consider if this church is a good fit for them, too.

WORSHIP REGATHERING UPDATE

As our 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. We have returned to intinction as an option for the sacrament of Holy Communion and are adjusting other policies accordingly. Thank you for your continued support.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

Before the pandemic, the Prelude music started before the worship services and we've returned to this timing in the Sanctuary. Show up in-person or go online a few minutes early to experience amazing music from our church music staff, lay member musicians, and Groth scholar musical guests.

SLIDE SHOW RUNNERS NEEDED

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.

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

I write this time not about our church library specifically. I write to tell our members that there is a Twin Cities Area Church Library Association. It began originally as a national Lutheran organization that, over time, dissolved and settled into a small ecumenical organization in the Twin Cities area. RUMC is one of its members and I participate in its meetings and workshops. The membership is primarily of those churches whose librarians take an active and intentional role in shaping the content and usage of the library to support the ministry values of their churches. Conversations and workshops are held to help us discern better how to select, obtain, or eliminate books; how to publicize the library's resources; how to designate appropriate categories of subject matter; and more. Two large meetings are held per year and may offer programs of interest to those beyond its members. (Author, William Kent Krueger was a recent speaker.) You may google TCACLA or ask me about it. And, I will try to let folks know of programs of interest. A local church library is worthy of support beyond its own local and interested members.

-Rev. Wayne Albertson

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.

THANK YOU: CHURCH CONFERENCE AND ELECTED LEADERS

The church is grateful to the servant volunteers whose term ended on various elected leader teams at the June 4 church conference. Likewise, thank you to all of the new leaders who stepped aboard teams, those who renewed their terms, and those in the midst of their terms. You help make the church function well and stay organized to do good ministry. Thank you to everyone who participated in the church conference and wow, what an excellent pot luck lunch!

2023-2024 ELECTED LEADER TEAMS

Teams were voted in at the June 4, 2023, church conference. Bold=newly elected

Ad Board

Nick Dewey, Chair
Wayne Johnson, SPRC Chair
Win Neuger, Finance Chair
Jerry Schilling, Trustees Chair
Gail Johnson Lay Leader
Becca Whitaker, Lay Delegate
Mick Hudson, Secretary
Marilyn Dodge, UWF
Alicia Owens, Children's Council
Dan Bur, Church & Society Chair

Nominations

Rev. Kent Johnson
Kate Currie
Phyllis Killam
Toni Locke
Noelle Olson
Curt Stull

Church & Society

Dan Bur Chair
Sharon Hall
Sarah Musgrave
Rhonda Olson
Jen Pacyga
Rexi Warner

SPRC

Wayne Johnson Chair
Rev. Ruth Phelps
Merry Rendahl
Barb Rogers
Sandy Nelson
John Wittenborg

Memorials

Kate Currie
Pat Doncavage
Sharon Gardner
Phyllis Killam
Kay Kurtz
Christie Neuger, Chair
Linda Novak

Finance

Win Neuger, Chair
Nick Dewey Ad Board Chair
Wayne Johnson SPRC Chair
Pat Robertson Trustees Chair
Jerry Schilling Trustees Chair
Marj Wittenborg

Foundation

Steve Kirchner
Pat Doncavage
Mick Hudson
Susan Johnson (Wayne)
Clarice Lien
John Wittenborg

Trustees

Jerry Schilling, Chair
Susan (SK) Johnson
Greg Locke
Dale Olson
Steve Warner

THANK YOU TO ALL SERVANT LEADERS ROLLING OFF THEIR TEAMS THIS YEAR!

SPRC, Greta Thorson
Lay Delegate, Lisa Oster
Ad Board, Sara Watne
Trustees, Jerry Wilson
Finance, Clarice Lien
Finance, Sue Restemayer
Memorials, Beth Gieske

CONTINUING OPEN GROUPS

Women Who Read (WWR) - 1st Mondays of the Month, 1:30-3:00 pm, online by Zoom

Please note that in July and September the meeting will be the second Monday due to holidays.

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:

July 10—The Lost Apothecary by Sara Kenner

August 7—A Tree Grow in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

September 11—The Maid by Nita Brose

Women's Bible Study—Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, Online by Zoom or phone

Note: this study will not meet during the month of August. Sessions will resume in September.

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 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.

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 grieve:

- * The family and friends of Connie Gillespie who died June 11, especially daughters, Caroline and Susan.
- * Tom Mueller and family in the death of Tom’s brother, Dave.

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.

NEW BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

We’ve seen new improvements around campus recently. The Fellowship Hall has new curtains to match its new carpet and fresh paint. A new roof went over the “cold storage” hallway off the Fellowship Hall, too. New fascia and soffit work went up around the exterior of much of the building, giving it more long-term structural integrity. This last project was funded by the Richfield UMC Foundation. Overall building improvements - whether expected or unexpected - get funded by your financial generosity. Thank you for supporting the life of your church with your committed giving.

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 bring 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

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Skin Care Safety Tips

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Most cases of skin cancer are caused by overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun, tanning beds, or sunlamps. UV rays can damage skin cells. In the short term, this damage can cause a sunburn. Over time, UV damage adds up, leading to changes in skin texture, premature skin aging, and sometimes skin cancer. UV rays also have been linked to eye conditions such as cataracts.

Anyone can get skin cancer, but people with certain characteristics are at greater risk—

- A lighter natural skin color.
- Skin that burns, freckles, reddens easily, or becomes painful in the sun.
- Blue or green eyes.
- Blond or red hair.
- Certain types and a large number of moles.
- A family history of skin cancer.
- A personal history of skin cancer.
- Older age

A change in your skin is the most common sign of skin cancer. This could be a new growth, a sore that doesn't heal, or a change in a [mole](#). Not all skin cancers look the same.

For melanoma specifically, a simple way to remember the warning signs is to remember the A-B-C-D-Es of melanoma—

- Asymmetrical:** Does the mole or spot have an irregular shape with two parts that look very different?
- Border:** Is the border irregular or jagged?
- Color:** Is the color uneven?
- Diameter:** Is the mole or spot larger than the size of a pea?
- Evolving:** Has the mole or spot changed during the past few weeks or months?

Talk to your doctor if you notice changes in your skin such as a new growth, a sore that doesn't heal, a change in an old growth, or any of the A-B-C-D-Es of melanoma.

Protection from UV rays is important all year, not just during the summer. UV rays can reach you on cloudy and cool days, and they reflect off of surfaces like water, cement, sand, and snow. In the continental United States, UV rays are strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The [UV Index](#) forecasts the strength of UV rays each day. If the UV index is 3 or higher in your area, protect your skin from too much exposure to the sun. CDC recommends several ways to protect your skin when the UV index is 3 or higher—

- Stay in the shade.
- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block both UVA and UVB rays.
- Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher.

Reapply sunscreen if you stay out in the sun for more than 2 hours and after you swim or do things that make you sweat.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

HAPPY JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

July

Winona Davis	01	Gayle Whitney	13
Linda Novak	01	Brad Gardner	13
Jerad Whitaker	01	Rev. Nate Melcher	13
Marilyn Boyce	02	Curtis Pratt	17
Alex Gunderson	02	Shelley White	18
Sharon Keen	03	Barb Rogers	19
Noelle Olson	03	Whitney Moore	21
Michael Watne	08	David Couillard	22
Paul Watne	08	Dayle Couillard	29
Helen Moore	11	Kat Davis	29
Joyce Walls	13		

August

Chuck Bodger	05	Millie Vetsch	20
Becca Whitaker	06	Lauren Koskey	20
Kay Kurtz	07	Herb Doty	21
Elizabeth Lambert	07	Jan Kirchner	22
Gretta Thorson	09	Clarice Lien	24
Mary Lynn Schmidt	11	Nancy Geisinger	24
John Olson	11	Evie Doncavage	24
Taylor Clarke	11	Lia Saenz	25
Grace Cogan	12	Mick Hudson	27
Norma Christenson	14	Jodi Young	27
Tim Bumgarner	17	Steven Bodger	27
Greg Locke	17	John Dierauer	30
David Rogers	19	Shelby Clarke	30



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

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

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
September 9	Rally Sunday
September 24	Confirmation Sunday

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

Richfield United Methodist Church

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