



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 23, 2023 at 9:30 am  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

\* Rise in body or spirit

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Adagio”  
Pat Norton, cello

by G. Albinoni

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\*

The God of the Exploited disrupts the lie that anyone is self-made or can pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

**God knows such bootstraps don't exist; that they never did.**

The God of the Oppressed dreams of webs of mutual aid, of free and accessible healthcare, of communities of care, **of sharing the labors of living so we can take turns resting.**

God is not impressed by trickle-down philanthropy,

They imagine a life of collective, ground-up flourishing.

**Come, let us worship our God of Solidarity.**

1. Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

#### Centering Prayer

God, the suffering of the world can be overwhelming. The way of empire makes refugees of your beloveds and wreaks havoc on the ecosystems of Earth. When we are in pain, may we find comfort in knowing that you are with us; you weep with us, you work alongside us, and you love us. 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

Rev. Hope Hutchison

*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 "Sonata Op. 31, No. 3, Mvt. II, Scherzo"

Emma Taggart, piano by L. van Beethoven  
Groth Scholarship recipient

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

James 2:14-26

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and by works faith was brought to completion. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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

Sermon

"How do I put faith into action?" Rev. Hope Hutchison  
"So Many Questions!" Worship Series 5 of 9 Youth Group

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](http://richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.*

*Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“Concert Etude, No. 2, S. 144”

by F. Liszt

[“La Leggerezza”]

Emma Taggart, piano

Groth Scholarship recipient

## 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\*

God of Salvation, we seek to be children of your heavenly kingdom. Yet, our self-deceiving ways cause us to believe that we will be more generous givers once we have satisfied our own personal, material desires. Change our thinking. Help us to be faithful disciples who recognize that everything we have in life is a gift from you. Inspire us to share our resources as a response to your unconditional love. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”  
vs. 1 and 2

UM Hymnal 664

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude

“Trumpet Tune”

by J. Mouret



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

Welcome Groth Scholarship recipient Emma Taggart! Emma 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.

**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, July 23, 2023

The church's youth and clergy have just returned from a mission trip to Detroit. They worked with Motown Mission, helping with economic disaster relief in that area, primarily greening, feeding, and rebuilding. Today in worship they share stories and conflux moments from the trip.

Summer Movie Nights—Conclude this Wednesday

**Wednesdays in July, Movies start at 5pm**, bring your dinner and eat during the movie. We'll have snacks too! Great family fun!

**July 26**

**Honey, I Shrank the Kids**

1989 PG 1 hour, 33 minutes

Disney

Summer Worship Series: “So Many Questions!”

**Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online**

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. This year's remaining “So Many Questions” topics are:

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?

Coffee with the Pastor—9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Tuesdays this summer

**Sign up:** [calendly.com/natemelcher](https://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!

Outdoor Summer Worship Series: “I AM: God, Simon, and Garfunkel”

**In-Person Only**, an alternate online service will be available

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. The remaining Summer Second Sundays outdoors is:

**August 13 - Richfield Bandshell at 9:30 am**

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

Fall Food Drive

**August 13 - September 24**

RUMC is collecting food and funds for VEAP.

Beginning 8/13, pick up a bag & flyer to donate food or to donate funds, note VEAP on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you.

## Ongoing and Open

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

August 14 (note 2nd Monday) - The Paris Showroom by Juliet Blackwell

Contact Fern Albertson, [wfalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:wfalbertson@gmail.com), to get connected.

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

Contact Molly Reko, [mollyreko@comcast.net](mailto:mollyreko@comcast.net), to get connected.

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

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto:kentjmn@gmail.com), to get connected.

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

Contact Kent Johnson, [kentjmn@gmail.com](mailto: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** - September -May

**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.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who are ill: Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Agnes Danzl, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, SuzAnn Tarvin, Terry and Tim Bumgarner, Don Morrow, Barb and Dave Rogers, and Sara, niece of Bev Crandall.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve: Sarah Callahan and her youngest children, Daniella and Denver, on the passing of her ex-husband and their father.

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, July 23, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 10:45 am Administrative Board meeting

### Monday, July 24, 2023

- 5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

### Tuesday, July 25, 2023

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, July 26, 2023

- 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Summer Movie Night  
*Honey I Shrunk the Kids*

### Thursday, July 27, 2023

### Friday, July 28, 2023

### Saturday, July 29, 2023

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

### Sunday, July 30, 2023

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Nancy Dierauer, Pat Norton, Emma Taggart

Liturgists: Rev. Hope Hutchison, Calvin Koskey, Rev. Nate Melcher, Luca Olson,  
London Owens, Mitchell Wilson

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 July 23 is Kate Currie.

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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](http://richfieldumc.org/land).