



August 20, 2023 at 9:30 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Songs of Gladness Will I Sing Thee" by Antonín Dvořák
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Wherever there is love, there is the presence of God.
Love is intimate and personal but also collective.
Love is communal resistance to practices of evil.
Under systems that destroy, holy is the uprising of the faithful.

The love of God is not passive; neither is it neutral.
Love despises abuse of power.
Love practices solidarity with the suffering.
The healing of the world depends on love.
Courageous love. Fierce love. Tender love.

Let us worship together that we may learn the ways of love.

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Centering Prayer

Spirit of Christ, our hearts are restless for you. We ache for a touch of compassion. We long for healing within and around. We yearn for collective liberation from all that deadens and destroys. In these urgent desires of ours, turn us from impulses to seek change through control. Lead us away from the punitive and guide us in practices of transformation rooted in love and imagination. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer...

Breakthrough Prayer

Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through to each of us.
Unite us in your vision, equip us for your work.
Transform us by your song, create our harmony.
May we embrace your future, and be your loving church. Amen.

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

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a mutual sign of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

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

Celebration Music

"I Am Willing"

by Holly Near

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-22

Gail Johnson

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Why is forgiveness hard?"
"So Many Questions!" Worship Series 8 of 9

Rev. Nate Melcher

The Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The LORD's Prayer

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

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sharing Our Gifts

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

Offertory

“Forgiveness”

by Susan Werner

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*

Holy One, you are the God of mercy and the God of encouragement.
Where we gather in twos and threes, you are there. When we extend
the olive branch, you are there. Multiply these gifts for ministry so that
this church serves your dream to heal this beautiful, broken world. We
pray in the name of the Great Teacher and our brother, Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”
vs. 1, 2, and 4

UM Hymnal 383

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“The Lord Is My Light”
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by Oley Speaks



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

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

RICHFIELD UMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday, August 20, 2023

Fall Food Drive

Now through September 24

Richfield UMC is holding a 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. Now through September 24, RUMC is 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.

Summer Worship Series: “So Many Questions!” Continues

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

August 20 - Why is forgiveness hard?

August 27 - Why are Christians hypocrites?

Sunday, September 3—Online-Only Worship

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

As announced in February, the Administrative Board affirmed holding online-only worship with no in-person option on Sunday, September 3, 2023 (Labor Day weekend)

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

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 Starbucks (54th and Lyndale Avenue South). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

September 10, Rally Sunday

Whether you have spent the summer working hard, or at the lake hardly working, on Rally Day the church - all of us of every age - are called to gather with renewed energy to live in faith, justice, and joy. Let’s make exciting new memories and celebrate our history together as we reunite.

Blessing of the backpacks, purses, laptop bags, and more!

Whatever kind of bag you use on a regular basis, bring it to worship on **Sept. 10** for a blessing.

Ongoing and Open

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

Sept. 11 (note: 2nd Monday due to holiday) - *Where the River Ends* by Charles Martin

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

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

This group is taking a break for the month of August. Sessions resume in September.

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

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

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

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

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

Families with Young Children are always welcome in worship!

Here are some options to help your family have a good experience when worshipping.

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment in a sensory friendly environment.

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

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

Sunday School - 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 and gratitude: We are thankful for the gift of long life for Herb Doty and celebrate his 103rd birthday with gratitude on August 21.

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, 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.

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, August 20, 2023

Women's Trip to KoWakan through 8/25

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

Monday, August 21, 2023

5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

10:00 am 90s Celebration Planning
Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 pm Youth Bonfire at Rev. Hope's

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Friday, August 25, 2023

Saturday, August 26, 2023

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

Sunday, August 27, 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: Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Gail Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Ann Johnson, Rev. Bill Johnson, 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 August 20 is Jerry Schilling.

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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.