

Heartline

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

2023
September / October



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RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 10
Worship at 9:30 am

In-person, online at youtube.com/richfieldumc,
or by touchtone phone, 1-888-650-5835.



Callings

A One-Year Worship Series
September 2023 - August 2024

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks, purses, laptop bags
to worship for a blessing.

Children, Youth, & Parents

Rally Day is the official registration
day for the school year.

Look for a table in the Commons Area following worship.

Penn Fest

Sunday, September 17
1:00 to 5:00 pm

You're invited to Penn Fest in Richfield. On this day, all of Penn Avenue in Richfield is closed to cars and open to bikes and pedestrians to come and see all the booths hosted by businesses and organizations, including the Richfield UMC Booth!

The whole church community is encouraged to come out to Penn Fest this year. See you at the Richfield UMC booth!



Each time I sit to write to you all for the *Heartline* newsletter, I think, “What do I want to use this platform to share with everybody?” I’ve written about successful ministries, new opportunities, and getting through the pandemic. I’ve taken note of worship series and the passing seasons. This time, I have one simple thing I want to share with everybody: I’m excited!

This summer, the staff gathered to lay out much of the ministry calendar together. Likewise, we’ve populated most of the cells in our worship design spreadsheet so we are prepared for upcoming worship series and special Sundays. I took a retreat day to develop the next year’s worship series. And I’ve had the chance to read the articles in this *Heartline* issue introducing you to what’s in store for the life of the church this fall. All of these months of ideation and planning leave me with a feeling that I think is best described as “excited.”

I’m excited to have Confirmation Sunday kick off our fall ministry season; our young people are amazing, and this church will rally around them for their special day. I’m excited to see smiling kids as we cheer them on for special milestones like the Blessing of the Backpacks and Bible Sunday. I’m excited we will honor the opposite end of the age spectrum when we celebrate all members who are age 90 and up in October. I’m excited to share more stories from this summer’s youth mission trip to Detroit. I’m excited to have hopeful and prayerful discernment of our financial stewardship of the church.

I’m excited that we’re trying to make our fall food drive bigger than ever by giving bags to our friends and neighbors and inviting them to be part of this collective effort to improve lives in our community. I’m excited that we’re trying something new with a donation drive for refugee welcome kits in a new partnership with the

Minnesota Council of Churches to welcome new neighbors. I’m excited for a new season of music and preaching and prayer and other ways to be in touch with the holy. I’m very excited for all of the conflux candles that are yet to be lit in the months to come.

I’m excited Bible studies are fruitful, and Pub Theology is back for another round. I’m excited to try Film Theology out, and I’m excited to offer a workshop about writing prayer to our church and the entire Annual Conference. I’m excited for new people to step up as liturgists and outreach servant volunteers. I’m excited that the dates for Vacation Bible Camp are already to go for next year (June 24-28, 2024, if you’re ready to commit as a servant volunteer!).

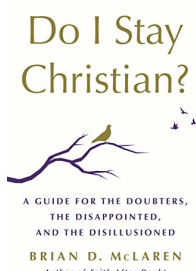
I’m excited to continue chatting with you during Coffee with the Pastor. I’m excited for the guest speaker lineup for Time for LIFE. I’m excited to begin work with you designing physical wellness opportunities (pickleball, anyone?) and community events (cards and board game night, anyone?) and get people active in their church friendships and church building (morning walking club, anyone?).

I admit, every fall season that I’ve been your pastor, I have been excited. Yet there’s something different this year. I am feeling filled with the Holy Spirit! I am grateful for all of you. You show your love for God and neighbor by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness through your church. Some days, it isn’t easy being a pastor. But going into this fall, I am excited to be your pastor, and I hope you’ll join me in getting excited for doing ministry in the name of God who loves all of us and for all of our days. Now that is a theology that excites me. May the Spirit bring excitement to all!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

ONLINE BOOK STUDY

Does the current state of Christianity have you unsettled? Do you struggle balancing the good work of the church with the harm done the church? Do you wonder how you move forward in faith?



Brian McLaren's book: *Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* faces these questions and more.

Join a facilitated online-only conversation of the book Thursdays from 7 - 8:30 pm, October 26 - November 16. All are welcome. Zoom link provided after registration.

Schedule:

October 26—Gathering and overview

Nov. 2—Introduction and Part 1: NO

Nov. 9—Part 2: YES

Nov. 16—Part 3: HOW and additional material
Led by Rexi Warner and Gail Johnson

Do I Stay Christian? Book Study

Event Link: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/eventdetail/17541785>

Registration Link: <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/DolStayChristian>



NEW THIS FALL: FILM THEOLOGY

First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799

Go watch the latest hit movies in the theater, then come together to discuss them over a bowl of popcorn! Pastor Nate will lean on his Film Studies BA to guide our discussion. Here is the lineup:

October 4—*Oppenheimer*
(release date July 21)

November 1—*Killers of the Flower Moon*
(release date Oct. 20)

December 12—*Napoleon*
(release date Nov. 22)

January 3—*Migration*
(release date Dec. 22)

WORKSHOP: WRITING AND LEADING PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

7:00 pm-8:00 pm

October 3 and 10 (online-only by Zoom),
October 17 (in-person only)

[Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 | Passcode: 5835

Be part of our roster of worship liturgists. This workshop will help you learn about various kinds of prayers, craft the Prayers of the People, and practice public speaking together. Pastor Nate is leading this workshop for both our church and any interested church members of the Minnesota Annual Conference. Sign up by contacting Pastor Nate or use the Annual Conference registration portal:

Writing and Leading Prayers for Worship:

Event link: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/eventdetail/17541779>

Registration Link: <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/WritingandLeadingPrayersforWorship>



MEET AND GREET “POT LUCK” STYLE

4:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sunday, September 24

Dan and Luzia's Home, 4853 Sky View Court, Eagan, MN 55122

Spend an afternoon with church members for good conversation, ping pong, pool, pinochle, cards, and board games. Bring a dish or drink to share, if you can; sloppy joes provided. This is an indoor and outdoor event, weather permitting (bring a lawn chair). RSVP to Dan Bur: 612.578.5544.

FALL WORSHIP 2023

CALLINGS: A One-Year Worship Series, September 2023 - August 2024

In 2023-2024, Richfield United Methodist Church begins a one-year worship series: **CALLINGS**.

Faith isn't just an hour a week on Sundays. It's an everyday way of life. Faith is core to who we are. We are called to live boldly on the journey with the God who has faith in us every step of the way. **Wherever life takes us, let us jump in with a commitment to life in faith, justice, and joy.**

The **CALLINGS** worship series is made of 8 miniseries that honor the seasons of the church such as Advent and Lent while exploring several themes in the overture of our lives. The series explores how we as individuals and as the church are capable to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Spiritual practices, events, and media will help bring your weekend worship experience into your weekday living with prayer, journaling, daily devotionals, book studies, and video series to watch at your own pace with [Amplify Media](#).

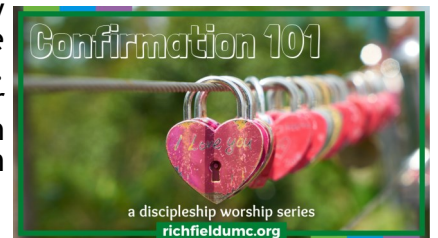
Confirmation 101
A Great Way
Leap of Faith
Light of the World
Intro to Jesus
Notable Narratives
Grammar of God
Summer Splash

Explore some of the faith practices that make a United Methodist.
Celebrate all the ways God invites us to share in a great love.
See true courage and friendship in the Old Testament story of Ruth.
Feel hope in your life as we anticipate the arrival of Jesus.
Get to know Jesus with a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark.
Experience a variety of personal stories of faith and write your own.
God speaks to us in a variety of ways - are we listening?
Rejoice in a season of special music, outdoor worship, and more!

Each worship experience features a wide variety of Spirit-filled music, inclusive and justice-centered liturgy, meaningful interactive moments, and preaching that connects scripture with everyday living. Worship together on Sundays at 9:30 am, in-person, online at youtube.com/richfieldumc, or by touch tone phone at 888.650.5835. For the latest updates on worship and the life of the church, visit richfieldumc.org. Let us worship the God who loves all people. All are welcome, and all means all.

FALL WORSHIP SERIES #1: "CONFIRMATION 101" | September 10-24, 2023

Being a United Methodist means putting faith into action. Learn key spiritual practices that help us confirm our faith in God. See how we read scripture through the lenses of reason, tradition, and experience. Consider how three simple rules can build a life of serving God. Discover the value of mustard seed-sized faith. The series concludes with celebrating young people becoming church members on Confirmation Sunday.



FALL WORSHIP SERIES #2: "A GREAT WAY" | October 1-29, 2023

We serve a great God! Through the teachings of Jesus, we have a great Way to love God and neighbor as the church. In this financial stewardship-focused series, we'll explore the great teachings of Jesus, celebrate the church's accomplishments and look ahead to our 170th anniversary next year. Come and experience milestones together such as the annual fall food drive, Bible Sunday, and honoring our church members ages 90+.



FALL WORSHIP SERIES #3: "LEAP OF FAITH" | November 5-26, 2023

The Old Testament book of Ruth is a beautiful story of courage, friendship, and faithfulness. In a 4-part series that covers all 4 chapters, we will read the inspirational redemption and delightful humor of this uplifting story. Witness the power of "found family." Rejoice in the welcoming of refugees. And let the friendship of Ruth and Naomi move you to strengthen your own relationships.



PLANNING AHEAD ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent Devotional Submissions Due November 12
Advent begins December 3 and the devotional theme is "Light of the World." How has God brightened the shadow around you? What has been an epiphany that shed new light and gave fresh perspective? Who is the light of God in your life? Start thinking and praying about where this theme can take your writing. The deadline for your original submission of 250 words or less is November 12.

Advent Worship Series: "LIGHT OF THE WORLD" December 3-24, 2023

There is something magical about the season of Advent. We search for hope. We yearn for peace. We welcome joy. And we share love. As we count down the days leading to Christmas, we will seek out the presence of Jesus, the light of the world, everywhere we go. Enjoy Advent traditions such as lighting the Advent wreath, the Christmas Pageant, and Lessons and Carols. Christmas Eve worship is at 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Christmas Eve Worship Services Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:30am Christmas Eve worship with piano and a Time with Children

4:00pm Christmas Eve worship with organ, choir, and strings

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and we are trying something new. Participation in the evening service has continued to decline, including pre-pandemic, while participation has remained steady for the afternoon service. This year, we will celebrate Christmas Eve in the morning and afternoon! Both services feature the same sermon, some shared liturgy, and a variety of music.

BACK FOR ANOTHER ROUND: PUB THEOLOGY

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

Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking)

Next Gatherings: October 1, November 5, December 3

Pub Theology returns for a new season of drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Be part of the informal atmosphere and talk with people of many generations about faith questions big and small. 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>



REMINDER: PRELUDE CONTINUES TO BEGIN BEFORE 9:30 AM

This summer, we returned to our pre-pandemic tradition of the Prelude music starting before worship. You're encouraged to show up in-person or go online a few minutes early to experience amazing music from our church music staff, lay member musicians, and scholar musical guests. Prelude lengths can vary, and you're encouraged to arrive by 9:20 am. The livestream begins with the Prelude at youtube.com/richfieldumc.

SEE YOU AT OPEN STREETS MINNEAPOLIS!

October 8, 11:00 am-5:00 pm
Lyndale Ave. S. from W. 22nd St. to W. 42nd St. in Minneapolis

Everyone is invited to Open Streets Minneapolis! Part of Lyndale Avenue will be closed to cars and open for fun, including food, music, games, biking, and crafts on the street. Stop by the Richfield UMC booth (our first year!) and get out to meet your neighbors.



ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

youtube.com/richfieldumc or
888.650.5835

Holiday weekends in the life of the church historically see low worship attendance, yet we've proven we know how to have meaningful worship experiences online. On December 31, 2023 (New Year's Eve), we will give our hard-working servant volunteers time to be with their families and you are invited to worship online and by touch tone phone. Please do not come to campus, thank you.

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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

Vacation Bible Camp with Lake Harriet UMC

This past June, we celebrated Vacation Bible Camp together with Lake Harriet UMC with the theme of Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God! We had so much fun with all of our heroes: our campers, our youth helpers, and adult helpers. Together we made crafts, played games, learned science lessons, ate snacks, participated in mission activities, and learned music and stories. Thank you to everyone who made this week such a fun time for all of our heroes!



Sunday School

As we head into fall, I'm excited to start another program year! Outdoor Sunday School has been so much fun that we will continue to meet outside as the weather allows this fall. Stay tuned to Rev. Hope's weekly email updates for more information! When Sunday School is inside, we will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Rally Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, September 10, we will celebrate Rally Sunday and a Blessing of the Backpacks! During worship, be sure to bring your backpack, purse, or any bag you use daily for a special blessing. Then, immediately after worship, there will be sign-ups for Sunday School, and all sorts of programming for the fall!

Penn Fest

On Sunday, September 17, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, RUMC children and families are invited to come to Penn Fest! We're encouraging the whole church community to come out to Penn Fest this year, but we really want to see our children and families there! Come join Pastor Nate and Rev. Hope to have some fun in our community.

Bible Sunday

On Sunday, October 1, we will celebrate Bible Sunday! We will bless the Bibles that we give out to children of all ages! We'll celebrate 3-year-old Bibles, and 3rd grade Bibles. Please join us in celebrating these milestones!

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is on **Saturday, Oct. 28 from 2-4pm** in our parking lot! Let's help bring some Halloween joy into our neighborhood!! This event will be outdoors, weather pending, so be sure to watch Facebook for details! If the weather does not allow for an outdoor event, we will do our best to shift indoors. We need lots of volunteers to help make this event fun and safe for our neighborhood families! If you are willing to help with any of these things:

- Help set-up
- Run carnival games
- Decorate their trunks and hand out candy

Please contact Rev. Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org, or go to this link to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/RumcTrunkorTreat2023>

Please take a moment to **mark these dates on your calendars:**

Sunday, September 10: Rally Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 17: Sunday School Starts
Penn Fest

Sunday, October 1: No Sunday School
Bible Sunday

Saturday, October 28: Trunk or Treat

Sunday, November 5: No Sunday School

Youth

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Mission Trip

This past July, four youth and your clergy team traveled to Detroit to participate in Motown Mission's service learning for a week. Motown Mission is a UMC service learning program that sends teams out into Detroit to participate in economic disaster recovery projects. On our way there, we traveled through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and crossed the Mackinac Bridge. During our time there, the RUMC team helped out at Oakland Ave Farm on the North End of Detroit. We helped out with many projects on the farm including harvesting collards and chard, weeding, and planting their new pollinator garden. We also helped clean up some of the houses on the farm, making their porches usable again.

Though this trip included many pivots and unexpected twists and turns, our youth group persevered to make a huge difference in the lives of Detroiters, and all with a positive attitude. Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible!



Youth Group

I'm so excited to get back into our program year! We have so many things happening. Youth Group starts up again on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30pm in the Grace Room. Come join Rev. Hope and Pastor Nate to catch up on our summers and play some fun games together.

Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday is coming up! There is a required Confirmation Retreat from Friday, September 22- Saturday, September 23. This will be an overnight retreat in our church building, and will involve service activities, and some time reflecting on our membership vows. Then, Sunday, September 24 during worship we will celebrate our confirmands!

Penn Fest

On Sunday, September 17, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, RUMC children and families are invited to come to Penn Fest! We're encouraging the whole church community to come out to Penn Fest this year, but we really want to see our children, youth, and families there! Come join Pastor Nate and Rev. Hope to have some fun in our community.

Youth Lock-in

This fall we will also gather for a lock-in! Starting on Friday, October 13, we will gather at church, then travel offsite for a service project, then return for fun and games in the church building. If you need to arrive late, let us know, and you can join us at the church later. Pick up is at 8am the next morning. Contact Rev. Hope for more details.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

- **Sunday, September 10:** Rally Sunday
- **Wednesday, September 13:**
Youth Group Begins, 7:30pm
- **Sunday, September 17:** Penn Fest
- **Friday, Sept. 22—Saturday, Sept. 23:**
Confirmation Retreat
- **Sunday, Sept. 24:** Confirmation Sunday
- **Sunday, Oct. 1:** 6th-7th grader field trip to Minnesota's Largest Candy Store
- **Friday, Oct. 13—Saturday, Oct. 14:**
Youth Lock-in
- **Saturday, Oct. 28:** Trunk or Treat, 2-4pm

PILL BOTTLE COLLECTION CONTINUES

Thanks to all of you who are bringing your clean pill bottles to the recycle station by the entrance of RUMC. A ministry in Ohio called **Matthew 25** sends the bottles to counties that need help to dispense pills in a secure way. Please:

- donate only amber pill bottles of various sizes with caps.
- wash, dry and re-cap the bottles.

Thank you again for recycling and helping others at the same time.



AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CLIMBS THANKS TO YOU!

2022 average worship attendance (AWA) was: 64 in-person, 85 online, and 5-10 by phone. In the first half of 2023, our AWA shifted: 80 in-person, 81 online, and 5-10 by phone.

As a church, you are showing that your comfort with large-group gatherings continues to grow. Likewise, you are coming together to be in community and fellowship with other church members and welcoming new guests. While everyone is welcome to worship online, and we are glad to continue creating this opportunity, we celebrate this momentum of regathering together as a church!

WOMEN'S RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

Some of you may have noticed that the women's restroom on the main level of the church is being renovated. This work is being done by volunteers who are working gradually but diligently to complete this task. Thank you volunteers and thank you all for your patience and understanding as this renovation is completed.

GET A NEW RICHFIELD UMC T-SHIRT

Richfield UMC t-shirts in children and adult sizes are ready for you! Wear these trendy-looking heather gray shirts at community events like Trunk-or-Treat. Pick one up in the office area.

UPDATE: MUSIC TEAM AND ORGANIST SEARCH

We extended a loving farewell to Nancy Dierauer when she retired after 20 years as our music director and organist on July 30. A search committee began work this month to seek out a new permanent organist. We have guest organists lined up for several Sundays this fall, and Victor Zupanc will accompany the Chancel Choir for their September rehearsals and worship music. We are committed to finding the right person to join our music team for our church's mission, inclusive culture, and love of moving music and quality musicianship. While our strongest hope is to have the right person in place as soon as possible, this will take time. Thank you for your prayers and grace as we move forward.

Victor, along with Choir Director Tanner VanderKrabben, are taking on new organizational responsibilities for our music ministries, and Tanner will also conduct the Chancel Bell Choir. We are grateful to Ann Johnson who capably directed bells for 19 years with Richfield UMC! You are invited to come and be part of the music of Richfield UMC: Chancel Bell Choir rehearsal is at 6:30 pm and Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.

THANK YOU: REGATHERING TASKFORCE

There has been little to no change in overall recommendations and protocols related to COVID-19 for some time and this will be the final update regarding the work of the Regathering Taskforce. There are news reports of COVID-19 spikes here and there, as well as potentially a new booster down the road; please stay informed. If there are any major changes, this group will reconvene. Thank you for everyone on this team who worked for 3 years to help this church stay healthy and gather safely: Nick Dewey, Gail Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher, Pat Noonan, Steve Restemayer, and Jerry Schilling.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Fall Drive Update

Richfield UMC is in the midst of our 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. This drive started at our August bandshell worship on August 13, and will continue through Confirmation Sunday on September 24. RUMC will be collecting food and funds for VEAP during this time. To donate items, please pick up a bag & flyer from the church building, and drop them on Sunday morning, or during our regular office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 8am-4pm). To donate funds, please note VEAP on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Refugee Services Drive

As a part of our Signature Ministry, this fall we are launching our first Refugee Services Drive which will benefit the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services. This organization helps settle refugees in Minnesota, and they have several kits that they give to all their refugees as they make new homes here. This fall, from October 22 to November 26, we will be collecting items for those kits. To donate items, please collect a flyer from the church building and consult it for a list of needed items. You can drop off your items on Sunday morning, or during our regular office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 8am-4pm). To donate funds, please note Refugee Services on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Stock Refugee Family Kitchens With Cub Foods Saver Stamps

When you shop at Cub Foods through November 12, ask your cashier for your Saver Stamps. Earn 1 for every \$10 you spend. Bring them to campus on Sundays and we will put them all together and earn free KitchenAid cookware to donate to the Minnesota Council of Churches refugee families. There is no cost to us - earn free cookware for neighbors during your regular grocery shopping. For more information, contact your clergy team or go to cub.com/kitchenaid.



Penn Fest

On Sunday, September 17, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, your church will have a booth out at Penn Fest! On this day, all of Penn Ave in Richfield is closed to cars and open to bikes and pedestrians to come and see all the vendors. We're encouraging the whole church community to come out to Penn Fest this year, and we would love to see you! In addition to our fun prizes and games, we will also be handing out flyers for our Fall Food Drive there, so come join Pastor Nate and Rev. Hope to have some fun in our community.



THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH INVITE YOU

UWF Craft and Vendor Fair Saturday November 4 10am to 2pm

Come get your holiday shopping done early and support local crafters and businesses. If you are interested in having a table please contact: Rhonda Olson: rhonda.s.olson@gmail.com or Toni Locke: 612-840-9797 or toni@ggrreegg.com

UWF Bake Sale

Sunday December 10 after the worship service
Get your holiday baking done the easy way. Choose from an assortment of cookies, breads, bars and other delicious treats. Cookies 50 cents each and other items priced as marked. If you are interested in donated cookies or other items please contact Toni Locke at 612-840-9797 or email toni@ggrreegg.com

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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

Program: Look In the Mirror: Are you a "Mary" or a "Martha?"

Speaker: RUMC member, Agnes Danzl, PhD

Thursday, October 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Both in-person in the Heritage Room and via online/phone offerings



Many folks would agree, that with the exception of Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary and Martha are probably the most famous female characters in the Bible. Mary and Martha are sisters and also dear friends of Jesus. In the Gospels of Luke and John, we read the story of when Mary and Martha opened their home to Jesus and his disciples. These scriptures provide some thought-provoking accounts of two powerful women of faith and their very different personalities and focuses. Have you ever decided whether you are a Mary or a Martha? Agnes Danzl, active member of RUMC since 1967, will share with us the meaningful lessons of this story. She might even suggest that there is a little bit of Mary and Martha in each one of us!

Agnes has served as president of UMW, lay leader of the Stephen's Ministers, church historian, member of the choir, Wesleyan Circle, and Women's Bible Study, and she sat on the first committee that established our Caring For Children Center. Agnes holds a PhD in secondary administration, and her professional career included positions as a high school math teacher, a Richfield High School counselor, and one of the principals at Burnsville High School

for 11 years. It is safe to say that throughout her career, Agnes found the resolve and the courage to break the glass ceiling over and over again.

Agnes has always loved her church and church community! Join us for this delightful program!

Date and Time: Thursday, October 12th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (program time)

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, payable on the day of the event, for in-person participants to help offset rising food costs

RSVP: For in-person participation, please RSVP by Sunday, October 8th, by signing up in the Commons, emailing kbergeland@richfieldumc.org, or calling the church office (612-861-6086)

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)

Save the Dates: Time for LIFE programs

Thursday, November 9th,
from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
The Craft of Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls
with Chef Terry John Zila

Wednesday, December 5th,
from 12 Noon - 2:00 pm (**Note: new day of Wednesday this month only**)
A festive luncheon and holiday program with the Grace Notes Trio

Blood Pressure Matters

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a major health concern, affecting one in every three adult Americans. What high blood pressure can do is make your heart work too hard and lose strength. Many people do not realize they have high blood pressure because it rarely causes symptoms, even as it causes serious damage to important organs, including the heart, kidneys, brain, and eyes. The good news is that high blood pressure can be controlled in most people. The first step is to have your blood pressure checked regularly. If you are told you have hypertension or prehypertension, then you can work with your doctor and learn how to best control your blood pressure through lifestyle changes and/or medication.

Did you know that you can check your blood pressure at church? Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, would love the opportunity to partner with you on your health journey. On Sunday mornings, ask to meet with her in the privacy of her office, and she can check your blood pressure and keep a record of each reading. If requested, Kay can copy this record so you can bring it with you to your medical appointments. You can also learn from her the latest information on blood pressure guidelines and helpful suggestions of how you might change a few of your daily habits to lower your risk of developing high blood pressure.

Source: National Institute on Aging

Wisdom Sunday: Honoring and Celebrating Our 90+ Year Old's!

Did you know Richfield United Methodist Church is blessed with 25 members and friends in their 10th decade (or more)?! On Sunday, October 15, at the 9:30 am worship service, we will celebrate the lives of some wise and beautiful souls who are 90 years of age or older as of June 30, 2024. There will be a lovely reception for all after worship that morning. Honorees will receive an invitation in

the coming weeks. Please join us in recognizing these treasured members in our church community.

RIDE THE CHURCH BUS!

Do you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings? We are blessed to have a wonderful bus and team of dedicated drivers at RUMC! This ministry enables folks, who otherwise would not be able to be here, to worship in the sanctuary along with their fellow congregants. That matters to us all! Be aware that passengers must be able to safely walk up and down the 3 bus steps as there is no lift on the bus. Please call the church office or talk to Parish Nurse, Kay, to learn more information.

*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.

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.

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.



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 this fall 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 (5351 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

LEARN HOW TO RUN SLIDE SHOWS FOR WORSHIP

Help make worship accessible to everyone by running slides. You'll make sure people can pray, sing, and fully participate in worship. Several people rotate in this critical role and training is at your pace. Contact Pastor Nate to learn more and help your church, thank you!

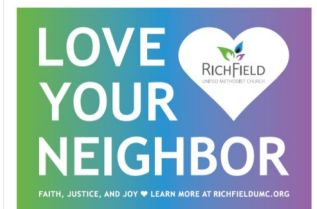
RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

In the last church I served in Ohio, we had several visitors as it was a college town. One Sunday was unique. A new-to-me middle-aged woman came for worship and stayed for coffee. I introduced myself. She told me her name, and then with no intervening comment, immediately asked me, "Who is your favorite theologian?" This is not your average visitor encounter, but it is a revealing one, and an opener to deeper conversation and relationship. As I was choosing books for the theme table, I returned to this memory. If one asks about a favorite theologian in a sanctuary setting, what is the equivalent question in a library setting? As you see someone, new or known, you might ask as to a favorite author, with perhaps even more focus if you are in the fiction, culture, religious, or children's section of our church library. It is a way to learn a bit more about each other, and deepen the trust we have for each other and for the books in our library as they undergird and serve our church's purposes and mission. Oh, and the woman I met, we are still in contact. By coincidence, she had come from Albany, NY, the city where I was born and we had a number of persons we knew in common. Thank you.

-Rev. Wayne Albertson

SEND IN YOUR "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" POSTCARD PHOTOS WITH A NEW FALL THEME

We had fun receiving and posting your "Love Your Neighbor" postcards from your summer travels. Let's keep it up with a new seasonal theme rotation.



Take a photo of you and your "Love Your Neighbor" postcard, then send it to rumc@richfieldumc.org.

Postcards are available in the Commons area on campus.

The Fall season theme is photos with fall colors from your favorite places in nature, your backyard, or right outside your window. Let's see you with those fall colors!

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

September 3	Online-Only Worship
September 10	Rally Sunday
	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 24	Confirmation Sunday
October 1	World Communion Sunday, Bible Sunday
October 15	Wisdom Sunday: Celebrating Our Age 90+ Members
October 29	Commitment Sunday
November 5	All Saints Sunday
December 10	Christmas Pageant
December 10	Hope & Healing (in-person only)
December 17	Lessons & Carols
December 24	9:30am Christmas Eve (piano, Time with Children)
December 24	4:00pm Christmas Eve (organ, choir, strings)
December 31	Online-Only Worship

THIRD QUARTER FINANCE UPDATE

Your financial generosity as a church has remained strong over the summer. Your giving fueled ministries like Vacation Bible Camp, Summer Movie Nights, and the Youth Mission Trip. The Trustees team tackled renovations and repairs including roofs, leaks, and storage areas. We are proudly paying our apportionments in full because we are better together as the United Methodist Church. We are on track with 68.68% of total year commitments received, which is slightly ahead of this time last year. Though we are still facing rising costs and a CFC staffing shortage, our projected deficit gap in the end-of-year revenue-to-expenses is shrinking thanks to applying for grants, Foundation disbursements, steady CFC enrollment, and your giving. Thank you for your continued support and giving.

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:

September 11 - Where the River Ends by Charles Martin

October 2 - A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

November 6 - The Maid by Nita Brose

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—10:00 am

Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835
or call: (312) 626-6799

Contact Pastor Nate to be on the frequent participant email list for the latest updates.

Video Series: *God in America* (September 6-November 8)

This co-production of PBS Frontline and American Experience gives fresh insight into the history of religion in North America. On Nov. 8, we'll watch the video, then go off-site for lunch to discuss it.

Video Series: *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go* (November 22-December 13)

This video series from Rev. Adam Hamilton of UM Church of the Resurrection dives deep into scripture to find examples and wisdom of forgiveness so we can discover forgiveness in our own lives.



WELCOME

WELCOME NEW GUESTS ON SUNDAYS

Anyone can make new people feel welcome in the life of the church. **Show up** for worship on campus so new people get excited to be with others. **Show up early** to say “hello” to newcomers while you get a cup of coffee. **Show your welcome** with a friendly attitude that makes people feel at home. Thank you for your inclusive attitude as we build a culture of a friendly church atmosphere.

ONLINE SAFETY AND YOUR CHURCH

Scammers send fake emails from bogus email accounts pretending to be church staff or clergy in a “phishing scam” to trick good people like you into sending them gift cards or bank information. Richfield UMC clergy and staff will *never* solicit money, gift cards, or other “assistance” like this. Staff emails *always* come from richfieldumc.org. If you get a scam email, please do not reply in any way. Block the sender and delete the original email. Watch out for online “trolls,” or people who harass others online. If someone makes inflammatory remarks, inappropriate comments, or tries to provoke the church into a response, do not respond. Never give out any personal information about staff or members to someone you don’t know. If someone needs to “talk to the pastor,” send the message to the clergy instead. Thank you for your cooperation.

HELP KEEP THE BUILDING SAFE - Be Mindful With How You Enter

The main front doors are nearly always locked for the safety and security of those inside. When you visit campus during business hours, please use the Aiphone intercom system to gain entry. If someone tries to enter with you and you don’t know them, it’s okay to say, “Sorry, I don’t know you. Please use the intercom.” Please do not “piggyback” and enter with someone you don’t know and please don’t take offense if they tell you no. It takes all of us working together to keep the children of CFC safe, the staff and members safe, and the overall building secure. Thank you for your cooperation.

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:

- Sarah Callahan and her youngest children, Daniella and Denver, on the passing of her ex-husband and their father.
- The SK and Susan Johnson family in the death of SK’s father, Kermit Johnson.
- The family and friends of RUMC member Roger Dammer who died earlier this year.

A WARM THANK YOU

The family of Bill Hillger would like to thank those who reached out with kind words during Bill’s time of illness, also those who sent the well appreciated condolences after his passing. One last thank you to those who volunteered during his celebration of life. Your kind hearts are greatly valued, and we felt an immense amount of love and support.

“THANK YOU!” FOR A CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Hello, my name is Bea and I’d like to thank you for the scholarship to go to Mini Horse Camp this summer. I loved Camp Koronis! I had lots of fun doing arts and crafts, swimming and going on the Wibit (a big inflatable obstacle course on the lake), and even taking a boat to a nearby island. My favorite part was riding a horse named Snickers. I learned how to put on the saddle and how to brush a horse. The rides were fun and a little scary at the same time. I really hope to go back, thank you!



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 307 to 315 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 599 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 327 to 330 subscribers.



CAMPUS IS CLOSED DECEMBER 25-29, 2023

Caring for Children and Richfield United Methodist Church will be closed December 25-29, 2023. Your church and CFC staff have shown tremendous dedication, flexibility, and teamwork this year. In recognition of their hard work, the elected leaders of SPRC and the Finance Team affirmed 3 additional days off for that week beyond the regular Christmas paid holidays. With January 1, 2024 as a scheduled paid holiday, the campus reopens on January 2, 2024. **Please tell a staff person “thank you” for their hard work for the mission of your church!**

DEAR CONGREGATION OF RUMC

I am excited about future endeavors that await me in retirement. It is with many happy memories that I say farewell to you. I want to thank you for the generous gift certificate of Minnesota Orchestra tickets. It will be fun to attend concerts that are musically exciting. I will cherish and remember the many friends I have at RUMC. I'm very grateful to have worked with the music staffs through the years and currently with Victor Zupanc, and Tanner VanderKrabben. I have enjoyed playing the fine pipe organ at church. Thank you for your kindness.

Blessings to you,
Nancy Dierauer

CARING FOR CHILDREN (CFC)

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

The teachers and staff of CFC held their Professional Development Week during the week before Labor Day. The staff and teachers completed training and prepared their classrooms and lesson plans for the new school year.

Please keep the children, parents, teachers, and staff in your prayers for the start of the school year.

-Kathy Newbauer, Director

HAPPY SEPT. & OCT. BIRTHDAYS

September

Roger Dammer	1	Marna Labelle	17
Kira Locke	2	Vada Klint	18
Jill Williamson	3	Susan Westerdahl	19
Gertie Melcher	4	Amy Reichenberger	19
Dewitt Killam	9	Jim Vetsch	20
Cameron Currie	10	Chloe Novak	22
Jane Barton	11	Mitzi Taylor	24
Nancy Dierauer	12	Yana Reko	24
Marlene Davis	13	Pat Robertson	27
Al Reko	14		

October

Cori Williamson	3	Jason Teal	19
Elliot Novak	3	Sharon Hall	20
Scott Ellich	4	Dale Olson	20
Jack Exline	5	Phil Williams	22
Barb Larson	5	Deanna Wichman	22
Sandy Nelson	6	Tanner Nelson	22
Elizabeth Wittenborg	8	SK Johnson	27
Celia Bodger	9	Tari Tanhoff	27
Evie Gilmore	10	Sue Burmeister	28
Pat Norton	12		
Susan Johnson (Wayne)	16		



5835 Lyndale Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-861-6086 office
rumc@richfieldumc.org
www.richfieldumc.org

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Heartline

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

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

Website: richfieldumc.org **email:** rumc@richfieldumc.org **Phone:** (612) 861-6086
Facebook: facebook.com/RichfieldUnitedMethodistChurch **Twitter:** twitter.com/RichfieldUMC