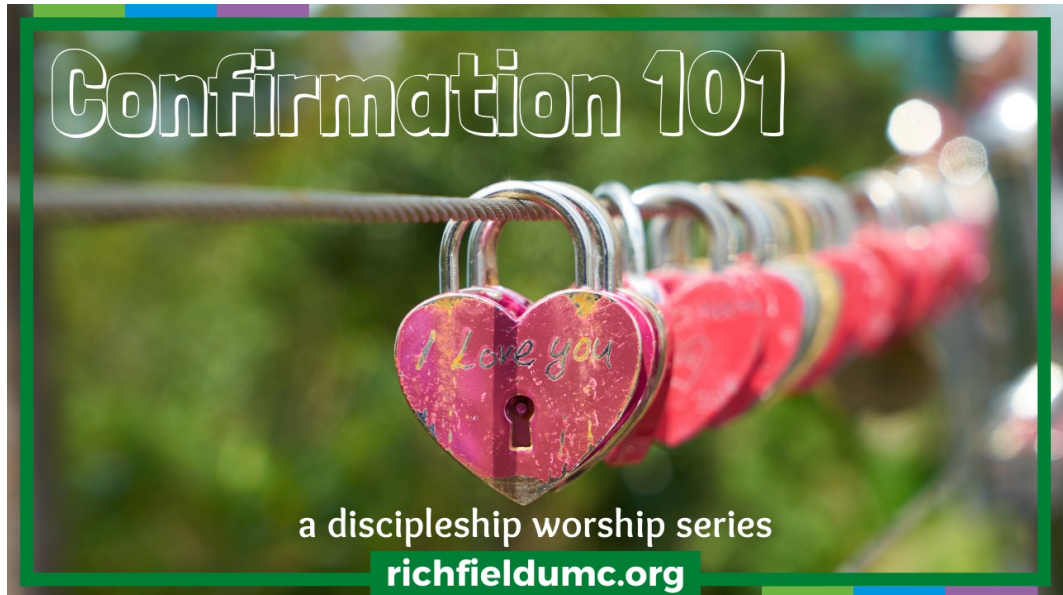




September 10, 2023 at 9:30 am  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Crystal Silence”

by Chick Corea

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\* (Psalm 71)

Rev. Hope Hutchison

Offer God your worship and your praise.

**Before God formed us, God knew us and loved us.**

Offer Jesus your love and your devotion.

**Before we drew our first breath, Jesus consecrated us as his own.**

Offer the Spirit your gratitude.

**Before we heard the call to heal the world, the Spirit sustained us.**

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!**
2. **My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.**
4. **He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.**
5. **He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

**Centering Prayer**

**Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hope all things in your love which never ends. 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****Blessing of the Backpacks**

## 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

"Just As I Am"  
Chancel Choir

by Hal H. Hopson

## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

### Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Three Simple Rules"  
"Confirmation 101" Worship Series 1 of 3

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

## Offertory

"Moonshadow"

by Yusuf/Cat Stevens

# 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\*

Loving God, we are gathered together to listen to your Word and to witness to your truths. We give joyously today and dedicate this offering to your work. We are inspired to share your glorious love with our siblings in Christ. Increase our faith, hope, and love so that your name is exalted with unending praise. Blessed is your name! Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\* “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” UM Hymnal 581  
vs. 1 - 2

1. Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift that you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude

“Have I Told You Lately”

by Van Morrison



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 September 10**

## **Fall Worship Series #1 Begins: “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 Food Drive Continues—Now through September 24**

Food pantries, like our long-time mission partner VEAP, need help to keep their shelves stocked. 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.

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

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

## **Penn Fest, Next 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! Everyone is encouraged to come out to Penn Fest this year. See you at the Richfield UMC booth!

## **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—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: 612.578.5544.

## **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](https://cub.com/kitchenaid).

## **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. **The first date and movie for discussion is October 4—*Oppenheimer* (release date July 21)**

## Ongoing and Open

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

Sept. 11 book (note: 2nd Monday) - Where the River Ends by Charles Martin

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** - Beginning, Sept. 17, following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook. Sunday school is held in the Fellowship Hall or outside (weather-dependent). There is no Sunday School on the 1st Sunday of the month.

**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, Don Morrow, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, and David Butler.

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, September 10, 2023

9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)  
10:45 am Church Bus Meeting  
12:00 pm Confirmation Retreat

### Monday, September 11, 2023

1:30 pm Women Who Read  
5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

### Tuesday, September 12, 2023

*Coffee with the Pastor*

9:00 am CFC Children's Church  
9:30 am Women's Bible Study  
10:00 am 90s Celebration Planning Mtg.  
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

### Wednesday, September 13, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study  
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm Youth Group  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, September 14, 2023

### Friday, September 15, 2023

*Men's KoWaKan Camping Weekend*

### Saturday, September 16, 2023

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

### Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)  
9:45 am Sunday School  
1:00 pm Penn Fest

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation  
Musicians: Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc  
Liturgists: Rev. Nate Melcher  
Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Dale Olson

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 September 10 is Mary Martha Butler.

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### Richfield United Methodist Church

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Worship Livestream and Subscribe: [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://www.youtube.com/richfieldumc)

**Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational**

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at [richfieldumc.org/land](http://richfieldumc.org/land).