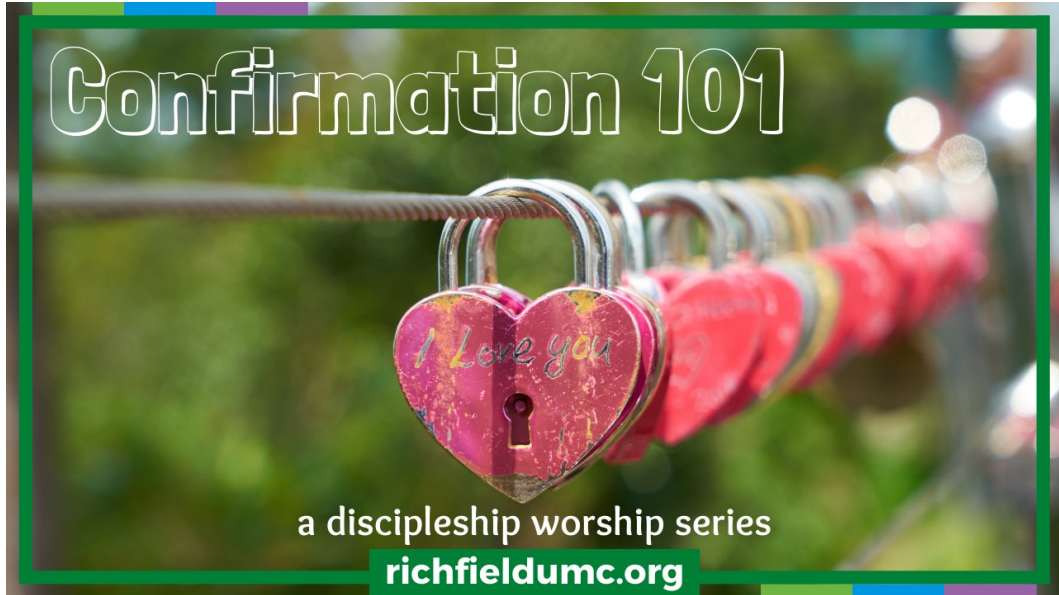




RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 24, 2023 at 9:30 am  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



# Confirmation 101

a discipleship worship series

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

Bold = in unison

\* Rise in body or spirit

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Evensong”

by Liza Lehmann

Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\* (Psalm 105, Romans 8)

Nick Olson

Sing God’s praise.

**Give thanks to the Lord above.**

Seek the Lord and trust God’s strength.

**Proclaim God’s wonderful works.**

Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

**Give thanks for Christ’s marvelous love.**

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Centering Prayer (Romans 8, Matthew 13)

Mitchell Wilson

Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. Set our hearts and minds on you, Great Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. 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

“Show Me Thy Ways”  
Chancel Choir

by Walter L. Pelz

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

Calvin Koskey

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

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

Sermon

“One Mustard Seed-Sized Faith”  
“Confirmation 101” Worship Series 3 of 3

Rev. Nate Melcher

Stories from the Confirmation Class

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

“Song of Devotion”  
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by John Ness Beck

## 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\*

London Owens

Heavenly Creator, you have offered us such abundance. We are so very blessed. Yet, we often think that we have so little. Some of us may even feel as though our gift is too small. Thank you for reminding us that even our mustard seed-sized gift may grow beyond our individual possibility. So, today we place before you all amounts of gifts - great and small - knowing that you transform our scarcity into your abundance. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Ritual of Confirmation

Calvin Koskey	Parents: Kate & Dan Koskey	Mentor: Terry Bumgarner
Nick Olson	Parents: Andi & John Olson	Mentor: Brad Gardner
London Owens	Parents: Alicia & Peyton Owens	Mentor: Sue Johnson
Mitchell Wilson	Parents: Kristy & Jerry Wilson	Mentor: Wayne Johnson

## Confirmation and Membership Vows

### Congregational Response

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

## Prayer for Confirmation Students

**The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

...Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**We give thanks to Almighty God, loving and active in our lives. As members of the body of Christ and Richfield United Methodist Church, we reaffirm our commitment to participate in God's mission by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. May all be glorified through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

# SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*

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

“I Can See Clearly Now”  
Victor Zupanc, soloist

by Johnny Nash

**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 24

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Following worship, please join in celebrating our confirmation students at a reception in the Commons Area.

**Sunday School** - Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in worship. Meet teachers in the back of the Sanctuary.

**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 time 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.

**Fall Food Drive Concludes Today**—Thank you to all who have donated food and funds. It’s not too late, to donate funds, please note VEAP on your check, or give through our [online giving portal](#). Thank you for your generosity.

## Next Sunday, October 1

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**Pub Theology: First Sundays at 7:00 pm-8:00pm (in-person only)**  
Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield (ramp parking)

**Next Gathering: October 1** Pub Theology returns for a new season of drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. 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>

**Fall Worship Series #2 Begins: “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 and celebrate the church’s accomplishments.

## New this Fall: Film Theology—First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

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

## See You at Open Streets Minneapolis! Sunday, October 8, 11:00 am-5:00 pm

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Lyndale Ave. S. from W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. to W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. in Minneapolis

You’re 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.

## Workshop: Writing and Leading Prayers for Worship

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**7:00 pm-8:00 pm, Oct. 10 and 17** (online-only by Zoom), **Oct. 24** (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. Sign up by contacting Pastor Nate or use the Annual Conference registration portal: <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/WritingandLeadingPrayersforWorship>

## Ongoing and Open

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

October 9 (note: 2nd Monday) - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
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, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, Becca Whitaker, Pat Norton, and Pat Noonan.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Joanne Green.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, who died recently.

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 24, 2023

Confirmation Sunday

Fall Food Drive Concludes

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

9:45 am Sunday School

4:00 pm Meet and Greet Pot Luck

### Monday, September 25, 2023

### Tuesday, September 26, 2023

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

### Wednesday, September 27, 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 28, 2023

### Friday, September 29, 2023

### Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:30 am Men's Group

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

### Sunday, October 01, 2023

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

11:30 am Middle School Trip to MN's Largest  
Candy Store

7:00 pm Pub Theology

### 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. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: TY Moore, Dale Olson, Rhonda 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 24 is Merry Rendahl.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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### Richfield United Methodist Church

5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419

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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).