



October 29, 2023 at 9:30 am
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

* Rise in body or spirit

ENTRANCE

Prelude "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" by Delores Dufner

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* Rev. Hope Hutchison

From the beginning, all life has been connected.

There is a holy thread that weaves our lives together.

At times, we hide from this truth. Other times it is hidden from us.

It gets buried deep down beneath greed and isolation. It is forgotten when fear comes close.

But there is a place where we find ourselves in each other.

A place where every living is valued.

We come to it on occasion. In brief and fleeting moments.

It is our home in the life of God. Our place of origin and return.

Let us go there together. Love has shown us the way.

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!
2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Centering Prayer

Beloved One, in times of uncertainty, you are the ground that steadies us. When nothing feels stable or secure, the knowledge of your abiding presence is our strength and our comfort. Remind us, O God, that we need not look far for you. As close as our breath, our neighbor, and every creaturely thing - you reach for us. Thanks be to you. 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

"One Voice"
Chancel Choir

by The Wailin' Jennys

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

Alicia Owens

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Creator's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Creator except through me.

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

Sermon

"The Great Way"
"A Great Way" Worship Series 5 of 5

Rev. Nate Melcher

THANKSGIVING

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 and Returning Our Annual Giving Commitments

*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

“Heavenly Grass”
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by Paul Bowles

Doxology*

UM Hymnal 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*

Lord, you have entrusted us with the awe-inspiring task of sharing the message of the Gospel. We acknowledge that we cannot simply give money and expect your message to be spread. We must consistently give ourselves by offering our time, talents, gifts, and service. Stir within us the courage to be Christian stewards throughout our daily living. Accept these gifts as a symbol of our love and commitment to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

UM Hymnal 399

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“Breathe”

by Marie Barnett

**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 October 29

Pie & Cider Social—After worship, join others for a slice of fall-inspired fellowship!

Help Welcome Refugees Donation Drive Now through Nov. 26

Richfield UMC is collecting items for the Bathroom Pack portion of refugee welcome kits. **The items we are collecting are:** - shower curtain & plastic liner - shower hooks - toilet paper - laundry detergent - laundry basket - bath towel - hand towel - washcloths. Drop off your items on Sunday morning, or during our regular office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 8am-4pm). Monetary donations are also welcome. To donate money, please note “Refugee Services” on your check, or give through our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Online Book Study: *Do I Stay Christian* by Brian McLaren

Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, October 26 - November 16. All are welcome.

Zoom link provided after registration. Led by Rexi Warner and Gail Johnson.

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

Or visit www.minnesotaumc.org and look under the events calendar.

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 guides our discussion. **The next date & movie is November 1—*Killers of the Flower Moon*** (release date Oct. 20)

Next Sunday, November 5

Daylight Saving Time Ends—Remember to “fall back” next Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. Most devices these days will adjust automatically to the time change, but don’t forget to set any traditional clocks back by one hour.

All Saints Sunday is next week. As a part of the worship service that day, we remember all the members of our congregation who have died this past year.

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

Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Ave. S., (ramp parking)

Next Gatherings: November 5, December 3 Be part of this informal atmosphere to talk about faith questions big and small. Conversation led by Pastor Nate.

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@ggreegg.com

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? The deadline for your original submission of 250 words or less is November 12. Send your submissions to Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

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. Bring them to campus and we will put them all together and earn free cookware to donate to the Minnesota Council of Churches refugee families.

There will be a charge conference at the Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 pm to approve clergy compensation for 2024. All worshipers and members may attend. Ad Board members may vote.

Ongoing and Open

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, to get connected.

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

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 - 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, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Sara, niece of Bev Crandall, Becca Whitaker, Clarice Lien, and Serra Vickery, daughter of Bill and Ann Johnson, and Ann Johnson.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve:

Dave Berner and family in the death of Dave's father, Will.

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, October 29, 2023

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:35 am Pie and Cider Social

Monday, October 30, 2023

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
9:30 am CFC Trick or Treat

Wednesday, November 01, 2023

9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study
6:00 pm Film Theology
6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 02, 2023

7:00 pm Online Study: Do I Stay Christian

Friday, November 03, 2023

Saturday, November 04, 2023

8:30 am Men's Group
10:00 am UWF Craft and Vendor Fair
and Walker Jewelry Sale
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, November 05, 2023

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Homebound Communion

8:30 am Walker Jewelry Sale
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Sunday School
10:35 am Speaker: Refugee Services
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, Alicia Owens

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Pat Eder, Dale Olson, Steve Warner

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 October 29 is Gretta Thorson.

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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.