

Heartline

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

2023
November / December



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Advent and Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

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

Enjoy Advent traditions such as
lighting the Advent wreath,
the Christmas Pageant on December 10,
and Lessons and Carols on December 17.

Christmas Eve worship is at 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.
Please see page 4 for all the details.



It's a Christmas tradition to adorn the church with poinsettias. Please see the back page for the 2023 Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form.



If there's one cliché that exceeds the cliché of going around the Thanksgiving table to say one thing you are grateful for this year, it's the cliché of rolling one's eyes at this activity. I'm not sure when it became in vogue to scoff at doing something as wholesome and optimistic as sharing gratitude. Maybe we like to be thankful, but not forced to express it. Perhaps it feels like a competition of trying to have the best response. Or maybe we are so unused to saying what we're thankful for, we are flustered at the very thought of doing so. Friends, we can do better!

November is the month of Thanksgiving. December is the month of Advent. You have around 60 days at the end of the year to count your blessings and thank God for them. Please take this time to be in an attitude of thanks. Think about it, pray about it, journal about it (do you still have your gratitude journal from last fall? We have extras, if you need one!). If you're thankful for someone, please tell them. If they're no longer with us, consider how you can express your thanks and/or pass it on. Don't let this be 60 days of thinking oh, that would be a nice idea. Let's put it into practice!

I want to share with you my gratitude for the church staff. One effect of the pandemic is people aren't on campus as much as before (if you want to change that, we are always open to more help in the office, to organize hospitality and events, and a new small group starts with you!). Without being around as much, you may not be as aware before of the ways your staff are hard at work.

In the fall season - from Rally Sunday through Commitment Sunday for stewardship - your staff have gone the extra mile. Here are just a handful of ways they've come through for you:

Linda Schmidt, Communications Coordinator, designed many creative bulletin boards and created two new publications, the Confirmation Yearbook and the Wisdom Sunday booklet, on top of her many other responsibilities and publications.

Kay Bergeland, Parish Nurse, spearheaded the efforts for the Wisdom Sunday celebration, built a solid lineup for the Time for LIFE ministry, and organized our Home Communion teams.

Pat Noonan, Facilities Coordinator, got campus projects underway with our vendors and she

and Tom Boisen, Custodian, have kept the building looking great.

Kathy Gertsema, Business and Administration Coordinator, is doing strong organizational work in a busy season of budgeting, insurance, and stewardship.

Rev. Hope Hutchison, Director of CYF and Outreach Ministries, organized us for Trunk-or-Treat, a middle school field trip, a service project and two donation drives.

Victor Zupanc and Tanner VanderKrabben, our Music Team, collaborated on meaningful music that upholds our traditions and take us in new directions in worship.

Kathy Newbauer, CFC Director, led staff training and is recruiting new staff. Julie Mathisen was promoted to Assistant Director, and CFC staff give quality care to children to grow and learn.

Please give thanks to God for your hard-working church staff and I encourage you to express your gratitude to them.

Our next season as a church is Advent. I'm grateful for a time to prepare for Christmas with you all. You are a great church, and Christmas is always a highlight to be God's church together. If we step into these final days of 2023 with a heart of gratitude - inspired by the God who loves all people - I think the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas will feel manageable. May we finish this year with thanksgiving leading the way. Blessings to you all!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher

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.

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?

Do I Stay Christian?

A GUIDE FOR THE DOUBTERS, THE DISAPPOINTED, AND THE DISILLUSIONED
BRIAN D. McLAREN
Author of *Faith After Doubt*

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>



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:

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

December 6—*Napoleon*
(release date Nov. 22)

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

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: November 5, December 3, January 7

Pub Theology is 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. More information:

<https://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology>



RICHFIELD SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

Sunday, December 3, 4:00 pm

Mark the beginning of the Advent season with an inspired holiday concert from the Richfield Symphonic Band. The concert is open to the public and features a variety of new and traditional holiday favorites for the whole family. A freewill offering is split between the band and church, and there are treats following the show. Richfield Symphonic Band has shared the gift of music since 1979. Learn more at rsband.org.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

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.



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

The season of Advent is when we experience feelings of anticipation. We feel hope, peace, joy, and faith as we prepare for Christmas and the arrival of Jesus - the One who loves all people in all times. Let us worship together in music, prayer, a sermon, and the ancient story that we pass down through the generations. Invite your friends and family to worship with you in-person or online, and merry Christmas to all!

When you worship on Christmas Eve, pick up an olive tree Christmas ornament from Bethlehem and a copy of *The Gospel of Mark* by Amy-Jill Levine - our Christmas gift to you. Enjoy the book for an all-church book study in January. *Limit 1 ornament and 1 book per household, while supplies last.*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

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.

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 live online or by phone. Please do not come to campus, thank you.

ADVENT AND DEVOTIONAL

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? Pray on where this theme can take your writing and photography. The deadline for your original photo or written submission of 250 words or less is November 12. Send submission to Pastor Nate at melcher@richfieldumc.org.



SHARE YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS THIS CHRISTMAS

HELP WANTED: MANY VOLUNTEERS MAKE WORSHIP HAPPEN!

Greeters are the first point of contact for new guests and longtime members when they arrive on campus. To help your church be a welcoming community, contact Mick and Marlys Hudson.

Ushers assist people in the Sanctuary worship space with bulletins, listening devices, and other hospitality items. To help your church be an organized community, contact Wayne Johnson.

Liturgists read the scripture text of the day and write and deliver Prayers of the People to lift the world to God. To help your church be a prayerful community, contact Rev. Nate Melcher.

Tech Crew make worship accessible with slide decks, streaming cameras, and audio programming. To help your church be an accessible community, contact Rev. Bill Johnson.

MUSICIANS WANTED FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS: CHOIR & BELL CHOIR

The Advent season is here and it is the right time to make music with others. New voices are needed in Chancel Choir and new ringers are needed for Chancel Bells. Join for the season of Advent as we prepare for the Christmas Pageant, Lessons & Carols, and Christmas Eve. Rehearsal is Wednesdays (6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir, 7:30 pm Chancel Choir). Contact Tanner VanderKrabben for more information:

tvanderkrabben@richfieldumc.org.

MUSICIANS WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE ALL-CHURCH BAND

The 9:30 am morning Christmas Eve worship service will feature a band of all church members who want to be part of the fun! The band will play two Christmas-inspired pieces for the Prelude and we need instrumentalists of all ages and skill levels. Participants are asked to attend at least one rehearsal after worship on December 10 or 17. Contact Victor Zupanc for more information: vzupanc@richfieldumc.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Advent and Christmas Music

November and December will include a rich mixture of music from our choir and the bell choir both led by Tanner VanderKrabben. These months will also include music by Victor Zupanc and Living Waters musicians. We continue to search for a full time organist to take over the position held by long time organist Nancy Dierauer who has retired. In the meantime we will welcome several guests to fill our spirits with music. On Sunday December 24 at the 9:30am service we will be serenaded by Victor Zupanc on piano and accordion who will be joined by world renowned piper Dick Hensold. This promises to be a wonderful morning of music perfect for Christmas. At 4:00pm there will be our Christmas Eve service with our wonderful choir led by Tanner VanderKrabben.

Update: Organist Search

At the time of this writing, the Organist Search Committee is actively searching for a new organist. Due to a shortage of organists, the search has taken longer than expected, but the committee continues to follow up on leads and explore avenues to find candidates. The position is posted on the websites of the American Guild of Organists, the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and other online sites. Additionally, we have received suggestions and recommendations from organists in the community and made phone calls to individuals on a published list of substitutes.

This fall, we have guest organists leading us in worship, including Sonja Gustafson (Oct. 15,) and Tom Bostyancic (Nov. 12). Please take the time to welcome and thank guest organists for sharing their gifts.

RUMC has a long history of a commitment to fine music. We want to continue that history by finding a competent and fine organist to lead us in worship. We sincerely appreciate Victor Zupanc for continuing to share his gifts at the piano and Tanner VanderKrabben for his talents as Chancel Choir Director.

If you have any questions or comments, you may reach out to me or the other committee members.

Jan Kirchner-Organist Search Committee Chair
Brad Gardner, Gretta Thorson, Pat Norton,
Tanner VanderKrabben, and Rev. Nate Melcher

Children

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE



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

It has been a wonderful start to our program year! After a few Sundays outside enjoying the wonderful fall weather, Sunday School moved inside. We have had lots of fun exploring the stories of Jesus' ministry, and playing lots of fun games together. In worship, we have blessed all of our school bags, we have gone over how all of our rules help us to love God, love our neighbors, and to love ourselves. We also celebrated Bible Sunday, where we gave Bibles to our 3 year old, and our 3rd graders. It was wonderful to see our children's curiosity with their new Bibles, and start exploring God's word.

As we continue to have Sunday School indoors in the Fellowship Hall, we will begin preparing for the Christmas Pageant! This year's pageant will be in person, on Sunday, December 10 in worship. There will be many opportunities for children, their families, and even puppets to be involved in this pageant! Then, on Sunday, December 17 the Sunday School Christmas Party will return with fun and games to celebrate Jesus' birth. Finally, on Sunday, December 24, there will be Christmas Eve worship! We will gather at our normal worship time of 9:30am for a family friendly service, then a traditional service with carols will happen at 4pm. The following Sunday, December 31 will be an online only service.

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 22-November 26: Refugee Services Drive

Sunday, Nov. 5: No Sunday School

Sunday, Nov. 26: No Sunday School
(Thanksgiving Break)

Sunday, Dec. 3: Service Project Following
Worship: Packing kits for Refugee Services

Sunday, Dec. 10: Christmas Pageant
No Sunday School

Sun., Dec. 17: Sunday School Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at
9:30 am (Family Friendly) and
4:00 pm (Traditional)

Sunday, Dec. 31: Online Only Worship

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It's that time of year again! Once again, Richfield UMC will be telling the story of Christmas with our children, youth, and families during worship, and there may even be some puppets! This year, our Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 10 during worship. If you are interested in helping with the pageant, with costumes, or sets please contact Hope at hhutchison@richfieldumc.org.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Richfield UMC's Early Learning Center

The children have been having fun learning about and experiencing autumn.

We've learned about apples and made our own applesauce, played with pumpkins and gourds, and showed off some Halloween costumes.

We played with rhythm sticks in music class, kicked around the ball in soccer shots, and had a ton of fun with the big parachute.

Kathy Newbauer
Director



Preschool having fun with a parachute.



The Pre-K peeling apples to help make applesauce.



Infants exploring pumpkins.

Youth

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

It has been a busy fall for our youth ministry! Our senior high youth gathered for an end of summer party at Rev. Hope's house. Instead of a bonfire with s'mores we had ice cream sundaes inside because of the heat and had lots of fun catching up with each other.

Confirmation Sunday was Sept. 24. Four youth were confirmed as new members. To prepare, we held a Confirmation retreat on Sept. 10. We spent time reflecting on the membership vows, and what those meant to each of our confirmands.



In October, our middle school youth gathered for a field trip to Minnesota's largest candy store in Jordan. We had fun playing mad libs on the drive down there, then spent some time wandering the rooms to look at all of the cool

displays and different kinds of candy. It was a great day where our youth got to know each other and have fun.

Beginning in November, we will no longer be gathering for weekly youth group on Wednesdays. As the year has started, we have learned that Wednesday night is no longer a good time for most of our youth, so for now we will transition to youth activities on Sunday afternoons.

In December, there are several fun Christmas activities planned! On Sun., Dec. 10, the Christmas pageant will happen during worship. There are many opportunities for youth and their families to be involved, both in the pageant and behind the scenes. On Sun., Dec. 17 there will be a Youth Christmas Party following worship, starting at 11am. Come catch up with friends, play some games, and celebrate the birth of Christ together!

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 22-Nov. 26: Refugee Services Drive

Sunday, December 3: Service Project Following Worship: Packing kits for Refugee Services

Sunday, December 10: Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17: Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 9:30am (Family Friendly) and 4pm (Traditional)

Sunday, December 31: Online Only Worship

THE CHESTER E. AND MARION D. GROTH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of this Fund is to award annual post-secondary scholarships for qualified students to matriculate and pursue careers in performance, music education or music therapy.

Scholarships will be awarded for tuition for the 2024-2025 school year. Previous recipients are eligible to reapply for the scholarship for up to three additional years or until a Bachelor's Degree is earned, whichever occurs first.

To be eligible to receive this scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior from a Minnesota high school
- Be entering college as a freshman

Applications must be received in the church office no later than Noon, Thursday, February 22, 2024. Applicants will be notified if invited to a finalist audition on March 16, 2024.

These scholarships are made possible by the generous gift of Marion Groth on behalf of her husband, Chester.

For more information and an application form, contact the church office, 612-861-6086 or visit the church website richfielddumc.org/events/scholarships





MCCI UPDATE

Missional Church Consultation Initiative

On Sunday, November 21, 2021, Richfield United Methodist Church voted to accept our MCCI Report by a margin of 80-2, or a 97.5% majority. It is a blessing to have a strong affirmation of this report moving forward, thanks be to God!

Our prescriptions are listed below. Read the full prescriptions on the church website:

richfieldumc.org/welcome/mcci/

1. Our Campus: Welcoming to All People.
2. Hospitality Strategy Refresh—for Newcomer Connections That Last.
3. We Love Children and Their Families.
4. Dreaming Forward: New Signature Ministry.

Progress has been made on several of our prescriptions for the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI).

Our new Signature Ministry of refugee relief kicked off with a new welcome kit drive. We are exploring community events for the winter, too, potentially including game nights, movie nights, pickleball, and walking clubs. For Facilities Repurpose and Utilization, the church did a prayer walk in the upstairs classrooms to consider how they could be used for a mission trip hub. We also did a prayer walk and tour of CFC as a church and held teacher appreciation in May, as part of our CFC Connections prescription. For Guest Connections, we have created a new Sunday greeter signup system and training. Finally, the Flames prescription - named after another church's "Flames" ministry and which we now more commonly refer to as a focus on neurodiversity inclusion - has seen an upgrade to the Nook area and new practices in Sunday School. Please continue to pray and support your church as we take next steps in our life cycle!

FINANCE UPDATE: THIRD QUARTER

The church's financial picture is a mixture of healthy movement and lingering challenges. Giving remains on pace for anticipated annual giving commitments received for the year. Your generosity is felt in the day-to-day operations of your church, thank you. We are also still projecting a budget deficit gap, unfortunately, as we reach the end of the year. We continue to recruit CFC staff, look for grant opportunities, and review vendors and contracts to increase revenues and find ways to save. Please pray for your church and consider how your sustained and special giving can be part of ending the year strong and launching us well into our 170th birthday year in 2024, thank you.



FINANCE UPDATE: STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Thank you for a memorable stewardship season this fall. We are following the Great Way of Jesus as a church and your giving stewards all of the ministry we are able to do together. Participation in worship and community events was high, and it was a joy to come together often. We learned lessons from this summer's youth mission trip, gave out Bibles to our 3rd Graders and 3-year-olds, did a prayer walk in CFC and the upstairs classrooms, and honored our members ages 90+ with a reception. We did a hands-on service project and started a new MCCI signature ministry to welcome neighbors who are refugees. On Commitment Sunday, we enjoyed each other's company at the pie and cider social. You can experience the special moments of worship and bonus ministry videos anytime at youtube.com/richfieldumc. If you haven't returned your Annual Giving Commitment yet and have questions, please contact Pastor Nate or Kathy Gertsema. Thank you for your generosity.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Fall Food Drive Success

Thank you so much for helping to make our Fall Food Drive a success! This food drive started as a response to the increased need of VEAP in the past few years, and every time we have done this you all have stepped up to meet that need. This year, we raised \$633 and collected 580 pounds of food. That means that over the first nine months of 2023, your church has raised \$1630 for VEAP, and has donated 1900 pounds of food. Thank you all so much for your generosity for all of our neighbors!

Rapid Response Relief

This fall the Church and Society team also donated \$1000 to natural disaster relief. In 2023, this team committed to spending \$1500 on this Rapid Response Relief, and as of September we have spent all of that. This year, we have donated in response to Turkey/Syria earthquake relief in January, and the flooding in the Northeastern US in July. In September, we committed to donating towards four different disaster relief efforts: the Maui wildfires, Hurricane Idalia, the Morocco earthquake, and the flooding in Libya. All of these funds have been given through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which works with local organizations on the ground to help respond to disasters and rebuild for years after them.

Hands-On Welcome Kit PACKING - Dec. 3

The Church and Society Team is also working to welcome new neighbors in our immediate neighborhood in two different ways this fall: welcome kits for the new residents of the Metro Inn site, and bathroom kits for Refugee Services. Just a few weeks ago, we gathered to pack welcome kits for our new neighbors who will live just a few blocks away from our church building. This was just the first step of what we hope will be a wonderful partnership with the residents of this building. That same day, we began collecting supplies for the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services to make bathroom kits for people new to Minnesota. We will be collecting these supplies until November 26, and we will meet again to pack those into kits after worship on Sunday, December 3.

Christmas Offering Recipients

As we head into Advent, it is time to begin considering our annual Christmas Offering. As your Church and Society Team reflected on the past year of ministry, there were two organizations that we had partnered with earlier in 2023 that the Holy Spirit prompted us to consider further partnership through our Christmas Offering: **Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services** and the **Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund**. As we continue to reflect on the experiences of refugees throughout this fall, Refugee Services seemed an ideal partner for this offering as we reflect on Jesus's own experience as a refugee. The Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund helps to fund land and infrastructure purchases in the city of Detroit and is a partner and funding organization for all of the farms that our Youth Mission Trip worked with this summer. After hearing about the impact of this organization in worship throughout October, the Church and Society team wanted to give back to this organization that helped our youth so much this summer. More information about both organizations will be coming soon.

SOUPer Bowl

Looking forward to January, we will continue our giving to VEAP as we participate in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring, starting on Sunday, January 14. This Food Drive focuses on shelf stable, hearty, canned soups for the winter, stocking as many food pantries full of these important items as possible during the heart of winter. Please keep this drive in your prayers as you consider your donations at the start of the new year.

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.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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



NOVEMBER

Program: Wrap it Up!! The Craft of Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls, with chef Terry John Zila

Thursday, November 9th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (both in-person and online offerings)

Join us for a delightful hour as we take a closer look at fresh spring rolls, one of the most recognized dishes of Vietnamese cuisine. Today, these delectable rolls have travelled to the plates of people far and wide! What makes these rolls so popular is how versatile they are, as they can be an appetizer or main course and you can roll just about anything you want into them. The balance of herbs and flavors appeal to many, and important for most (certainly this parish nurse!), they are very healthy and refreshing.

Not only will we see an entertaining demonstration of how to make a fresh Vietnamese spring roll, we will do so while being able to enjoy one of these tasty, vegetarian rolls! My mouth is watering as I write this!



I am excited to welcome back entertaining chef, baker, and caterer, Terry John Zila, to Time for LIFE. Terry has been experimenting in the kitchen his entire life. Twenty years in the restaurant industry has exposed him to a wide variety of cooking styles. Terry also appears regularly as a Food and Entertaining Contributor for KSTP's Twin Cities Live, the WCCO Morning News, KARE 11 News, and the Matt McNeil Show on AM 950 KTNF Radio. Over the past year, Terry has opened Hepcat Coffee and the Alley Cat Lounge in St. Paul.

Date and Time: Thurs., Nov. 9, 1:00–2:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00. This fee is to help offset rising food costs and is for in-person participants only. Please pay the day of the event.
Please RSVP by Sun., November 5th.

DECEMBER

Holiday Lunch and Program, *Count Your Blessings*, with the GraceNotes Trio
Wednesday, December 6th (note new day), from 12 Noon - 2:00 pm
Both in-person and online (see information below)

We are excited to welcome the GraceNotes Trio back to RUMC with their popular holiday program, *Count Your Blessings*! We will hear some sacred Christmas classics along with other heartwarming carols written in new and jazzy arrangements.

The GraceNotes Trio -- Diane, Pat, and Connie -- loves to sing old favorites with an Andrews Sisters-Big Band sound. They have been together for over 20 years and have produced four recordings. Several of their CD's will be available for purchase (cash or check only). They sing all over the metro area and continue to have "the time of their lives!"



This Time for LIFE event will be even more festive as we return to hosting a delicious lunch made by our talented Caring For Children chef, Kelsey Mjor.

Please join us for this delightful afternoon as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas with one another!

Date: New day, Wednesday, December 6th
Time: 12 Noon - Holiday Lunch; 1:00 pm - Program Time
Cost: \$15.00, for both the lunch and program. \$5.00, for the program only. Please pay the day of the event.
Please RSVP by Sunday, December 3rd.

Time for LIFE

RSVP: Sign up in the Commons, call the church office (612-861-6086), or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org.

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 813-2660-1056 Passcode: 5835 OR Call-In: 312-626-6799, then enter Meeting ID and Passcode (standard rates may apply)

NEURODIVERSITY AT RUMC

In the fall of 2021, when Richfield UMC received the MCCI prescription to focus on families with neurodiversity, this was not a surprise as many of the children who had already been attending regularly were neurodiverse. It was clear that Richfield UMC was an inherently welcoming congregation that made these families with young, neurodiverse children feel safe and loved, but it was not clear if this was an intentional focus, or not. So, a team of members with a combination of passion, experience, and curiosity about this focus came together to make this an intentional part of our Children's Ministry in particular, and to better connect it with all of our ministries.

The biggest accomplishment that we have had so far is the remodeling of the Nook. The Nook has long been a space that made young families feel welcomed into our worship space, but we took steps to further the inclusivity and accessibility of that space by making some changes with neurodiverse children in mind. Here is a small sample of the changes that have been made: a wider array of seating options for differing movement needs during worship, a coloring wall to allow for different expressions and responses to worship, and toys on the Art Cart specifically designed for neurodiverse children. Recently, we have even committed to adding noise canceling headphones for children to this space so that a wider array of sensory needs can be met. Those should be available for use during the Advent season.



However, the changes have not been exclusive to worship spaces; all of our Children's programming has been changed to be more accessible and inclusive. Sunday School now follows a set routine every week, so that our children know what to expect when they walk into that space, which helps to decrease anxiety. Additionally, we came up with clear guidelines and rules for our Sunday School time that are easily remembered as an acrostic:

- L- listen
- O- open minded
- V- very friendly
- E- eyes on me
- S- stay safe

These rules help our children know what the expectations are in our Sunday School space. The clearer this is, the more accessible it is for neurodiverse children to participate, and the easier it is to talk through what adaptations we can make for children when they need them.

Additionally, we have been using puppets more and more with our children's ministry. This was a suggestion from our MCCI coach early on, and it was a craft that our children absolutely loved. The children's enthusiasm for their puppets is what led to the re-establishment of Children First worship, and it is why you will see puppets in the Christmas Pageant this year.



We have made so much progress on fully including our neurodiverse members into our church family, but much like other inclusion efforts, we can always continue to grow in love. There will continue to be changes in the Nook, in Sunday School, and in all of our programming. Your church staff will continue to listen to parents, youth, and children about what their needs are, and how we can meet them. And there are many ways that you, as a church family, can meet those needs too, but the most important is simple: just listen. When a child tells you what they need to feel loved, listen.

-Rev. Hope Hutchison

What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. The word neurodiversity refers to the diversity of all people, but it is often used in the context of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as other neurological or developmental conditions such as ADHD or learning disabilities. The neurodiversity movement emerged during the 1990s, aiming to increase acceptance and inclusion of all people while embracing neurological differences. From [health.harvard.edu](https://www.health.harvard.edu).

REVISIT FAVORITE SERMONS, SONGS, AND WORSHIP MOMENTS

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 perhaps consider if this church is a good fit for them, too.



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Tuesdays.

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher

Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you 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!

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

November 05 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

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

With cooler temperatures and winter approaching please remember we have a wonderful resource on the church campus to help us pass the time, the church library.

The library has much to explore. Come and browse the shelves when the church is open or go to the church's webpage (richfieldumc.org) and proceed to the library link under Ministry. The library's books have been catalogued electronically in a program called LibraryThing. You can check a title, author, or topic of interest for yourself.

Children are very welcome in the library. Most of the books for our youngest family members are in a rolling cart on the west side of the library. They are downlow, just perfect for these early readers and ones to whom we read with affection.

As many of us learned in the past few years, jigsaw puzzles are a great way to pass time spent inside. The library has jigsaw puzzles that may be checked out to enjoy.



As the days shorten, consider a visit to the church library to enjoy this wonderful resource.

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

We had fun receiving and posting your "Love Your Neighbor" postcards from your summer and fall 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.

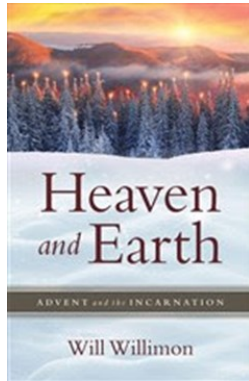
The Winter season theme is photos from your favorite places of Peace.



ADVENT STUDY WITH THE BISHOP

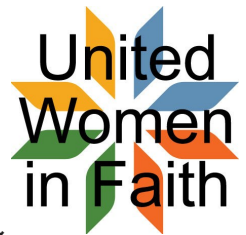
Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck for a study based on Will Willimon's 'Heaven and Earth'

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck for a four-session Advent study! United Methodists across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area are invited to read "Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation" by Will Willimon and to join her for conversation via Zoom on Tuesday evenings, Nov. 28-Dec. 19. Now is a great time to purchase books, register, and make a plan to participate!



To learn more or register to participate, go to: minnesotaumc.org/2023-advent-study-heaven-and-earth

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

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:

November 6 - The Maid by Nita Brose

December 4 - Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting by Clare Pooley

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: "God In America" and "Forgiveness" Video Series
Wednesdays at 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.



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:

- David and Mary Martha Butler in the death of their niece, Ann E. Butler.
- The family and friends of RUMC member Joanne Green who died on September 23.
- Dave Berner and family in the death of Dave’s father, Will.

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.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AS THE CHURCH

In the cold and flu season, please do your part for public safety. Wash your hands, get your COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot, and please stay home if you’re sick. Anyone is welcome to wear a face mask on campus. Thank you for looking out for your health and the health of others.

WISDOM SUNDAY CELEBRATION AND THANK YOU

On October 15th, we celebrated and honored our treasured church members and friends who are 90 years of age or older as of June 30, 2024: Dolores Anderson, Jane Barton, June Berglund, Roger Boyce, David Butler, Mary Martha Butler, Norma Christenson, Agnes Danzl, Winona Davis, Dorothy DeFreese, Herb Doty, Lois Etken, Jack Exline, Inez Gustafson, Orlean Kovach, Ann Krause, Wesley Mellgren, Phyllis Olson, Jane Parry, Mary Kay Petersen, Allan Reko, SuzAnn Tarvin, Marie Taylor, Harold Teachout, and Joyce Walls. It was a beautiful worship service as we sang and heard beloved and ageless hymns and scripture. Blessings and prayers were shared as we gave thanks for the faith and inspiration of these wise and wonderful 90 year olds who are in our midst.

A special thank you to the Celebration Committee who gave of their time and energy to make this such a lovely morning for us all: Sharon Gardner (point person), Linda and Mark Blomsness, Sue Burmeister, Kate Currie, Marilyn Dodge, Pat Doncavage, Marlys and Mick Hudson, Susan and Wayne Johnson, Kay Kurtz, and Clarice Lien.



GROW THE REACH OF YOUR CHURCH!

Sign Up For - 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 300 to 305 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 602 followers to 605 and more!



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 333 to 335 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!**

THANK YOU, SERVANT VOLUNTEERS!

September and October were very busy months in the life of the church. It took many people coming together to not only accomplish what we often do in this season, but to do it with excellence. Not only that, we had a few new and unexpected items come up along the way and servant volunteers like you made ministry happen.

Special thanks to many people: the Penn Fest crew who engaged hundreds of our neighbors, the tech crew who keeps us all connected for worship, the hospitality crew for greeters and memorials who welcomed new guest in our midst, the Wisdom Sunday team and volunteers for the pie and cider social to build a sense of community, the Women's Restroom painting crew (Wayne and Susan, Mick and Marlys) for a great facelift, and the Trunk-or-Treat team who made hundreds of neighborhood children smile.



HAPPY NOV. & DEC. BIRTHDAYS

November

John Sells	02	Grover Dodds	15
Todd Doncavage	03	Kate Koskey	17
Marj Wittenborg	05	Paula Wendt	21
Mitchell Wilson	06	Peyton Owens	28
Buerkley Owens	06	Sandra Overland	29
Kim Knuttila	07		

December

Lauren Gunderson	01	Brenna Nelson-Phelan	22
Sally Knutson	03	Merry Rendahl	24
Knox Gaertner	04	Rhonda Olson	24
Caroline Riley	06	Nick Dewey	25
Suzann Tarvin	08	Brennan Currie	26
Noah Dewey	10	Mary Kay Petersen	27
John Meeker	11	Steve Klosinski	28
Luzia Tavares	12	Orlean Kovach	29
Andi Olson	12	Marilyn Dodge	30
Curt Stull	18	Marissa Moore	31
Brantley Gaertner	19	Ryder Whitaker	31



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www.richfieldumc.org



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

2023 Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form

The Christmas tradition to adorn the church with poinsettias is made possible by generous donations from the RUMC community. You are invited to honor your loved ones by giving towards the flowers that will beautify the church for this year's Christmas celebration. As in previous years, the practice of having the loved ones you are honoring listed in the bulletin will continue. At the conclusion of the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing.

The suggested donation is \$17.00, but a donation of any amount will be accepted to defray the cost of the flowers. Please make checks payable to Richfield United Methodist Church with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo.

Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, December 10, 2023 to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Please mark and print dedication: ☐memory of ☐honor of ☐celebration of

Your Name:_____ Phone:_____