



RICHFIELD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 18, 2024 at 9:30 am  
First Sunday in Lent



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Enter My House”

by Victor Zupanc

Welcome

Rev. Kent Johnson

Call to Worship\*

Rev. Hope Hutchison

When life is too crowded,

**God knows how to make room.**

When we cannot carry it all even one more step,

**Jesus knows how to ease our burdens.**

When we think we’ve let everyone down,

**The Holy Spirit knows how to forgive.**

Gathering Hymn\* “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”    UM Hymnal 269  
vs. 1, 3, and 4

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins  
and close by thee to stay.
  
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy word.
  
4. And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy passiontide,  
yea, evermore in life and death,  
Jesus, with us abide.

Centering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, the crowds yearn for your healing touch and your gentle presence. You center us with peace, you bring us to new understanding. When we would feel defeated, you remind us there is another way. Your Way is the Son. Bring us to Jesus, bring us with cheer, bring us with joy. May we dig into our faith and see Jesus at work in the world. 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

“How Beautiful”  
Chancel Choir

by Tom Fettke

## Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

# PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

## Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading

Mark 2:1-5

Fern Albertson

When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Throw Me a Line”  
“Notable Narratives” Worship Series 1 of 6

Rev. Kent Johnson

## 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

“Lord of the Years”  
Tanner VanderKrabben, soloist

by Ernest Charles

## THANKSGIVING

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\*

God of the ages past and present, you are timeless and eternal. You offer us today the covenant relationship that you first established long ago. May we openly receive your powerful and timeless love. Pour out your blessing on this offering so that people throughout the generations respond to you with a resounding, “Thank you, Lord!” Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*      “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”      TFWS Hymnal 2237

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God’s delight.
3. As a green bud in the springtime is the sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness ’mid earth’s peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance of God’s new and glorious dawn.

Benediction\*

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

Postlude      Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 559      by J. S. Bach  
Sonja Gustafson, organ

**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, February 18

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**Sunday School** - Following the Time with Children, meet teachers in the Nook.

## **“Notable Narratives” A Lent Daily Devotional is Available**

The 2024 Lent daily devotional is available in print on campus and online at <https://richfieldumc.org/devo>. During Lent, a devotion will be posted daily on Facebook. This year we have a daily devotional for Lent, with a twist. In many daily devos, we read what others have written about, giving thanks for what they have shared with the world. This time, the writer is you, and this devotional is about what you have to share with the people in your lives. It is time to write your “Notable Narrative.”

## **Winter Movie Nights: Tuesdays in February at 5:00 pm**

This February, we are watching movies together on Tuesday evenings. Movies start at 5pm, and there will be tables set up for families to eat during the movie. Snacks will be available too. All ages are welcome to enjoy these family friendly films. The remaining two films are: **February 20: Babe** and **February 27: Kung Fu Panda**

## **Next Sunday, February 25**

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**Girl Scout Cookies**—Richfield UMC girls involved in Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after worship again this year on February 25, March 3, and March 10. Stop by the table in the Commons Area.

**Support Affordable Housing**—We are joining our mission partner, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, in a postcard campaign in support of safe, affordable housing. Join members of your Church & Society Team following worship on February 25, March 3, and March 10 to send postcards to your state legislators, telling them why housing is important to you.

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

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

Next Gatherings: March 3, April 14 (note 2nd Sunday in April)

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>

## **Film Theology**

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First Wednesdays at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm—Hybrid: Grace Room & 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. Next film to see and discuss: *March 6—Bob Marley: One Love* (Release Date: Feb. 14, 2024)

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

**Sign up:** [calendly.com/natemelcher](https://calendly.com/natemelcher) Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to check-in, connect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link or call the office. Meet at Starbucks (54th and Lyndale). Your drink is on Pastor Nate!

## Ongoing and Open

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

March 4, 2024 - Matrix by Lauren Goff

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** - 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, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, Ann Johnson, Mitzi Taylor, Nancy Zwickey, sister of Susan (SK) Johnson, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Helen, daughter of Herb Doty, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Elizabeth Lambert Warling, and Pat Robertson.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Jane Parry.

We pray for those who grieve:

The family and friends of Cynthia Knutson, especially her mother, Sally Knutson. A funeral service was held on Friday, February 9.

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, February 18, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School

### Monday, February 19, 2024

### Tuesday, February 20, 2024

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Winter Movie Night

### Wednesday, February 21, 2024

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 22, 2024

### Friday, February 23, 2024

### Saturday, February 24, 2024

- 8:30 am Men's Group
- 10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

### Sunday, February 25, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Girl Scout Cookie Sale
- 10:30 am Beacon: Support Affordable Housing Postcard Campaign

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Sonja Gustafson, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc, Chancel Choir

Liturgists: Fern Albertson, Rev. Hope Hutchison, Rev. Kent Johnson

Tech: Pat Eder, Rev. Bill Johnson, Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

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 February 18 is Mary Martha Butler.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

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