



August 18, 2024 at 9:30 am
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“You’ve Got a Friend”
by Carole King

Victor Zupanc

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* (Proverbs 31, Psalm 1)

Happy are those who follow paths of righteousness.

We take delight in the wisdom of God.

Happy are those who reach out to those in need.

We find delight in the love of God.

Happy are those who set aside envy.

We draw delight in the selflessness of God.

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure that art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Centering Prayer

We breathe in and invite you, Spirit of Wisdom, to fill our souls. We breathe out, recalling you, Spirit of Love, and your connection with all of God's children. Erase envy from our minds and bias from our hearts. Fill our lives with the refreshment of your peace. 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 "Songs My Mother Taught Me" by Dvorak
Evan Schuman, violin
Groth Scholarship recipient
Kerri LeJeune, accompanist

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Mark 9:33-37

Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Sermon "Is God a Swiftie?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Rev. Wayne Albertson
Worship Series 8 of 9 Rev. Bill 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 richfielddumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

Sonata No. 5, Mvt. 1
Evan Schuman, violin
Groth Scholarship recipient

by Ysaye

THANKSGIVING

Doxology*

UM Hymnal 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*

O God, we are taught to give as an act of faithfulness. We are reminded that giving is a Christian responsibility. Like Paul taught the early Christians, we are taught to be careful how we live - to live as wise people. Yet, sometimes we are drawn by the insufficient promises of our everyday culture. We end up giving with a begrudging attitude, a hesitant heart, or selfish reluctance. Forgive us! Enable us in this very moment to give "thanks to God the Creator at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“Bread of the World”

UM Hymnal 624

1. Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:
2. Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“I Am A Rock”
by Paul Simon

Victor Zupanc

**Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.**

Welcome Evan Schuman, Groth Scholarship recipient.

Evan Schuman will be a junior at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He will be studying Violin Performance. Evan is a graduate of Mayo High School, Rochester, MN.

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

The Annual Fall Food Drive: Now through Sept. 29

The drive benefits VEAP, our longtime partner who is celebrating 50 years serving the community. Be sure to pick-up the list of most needed items.

Summer Worship Series: “SO MANY QUESTIONS” Continues Hybrid: In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Prelude begins *before* 9:30 am, please arrive early

This year, the “So Many Questions” topics are based on online search results about religion reported by Answer the Public and the latest data research reports on the state of religion in the US from Mission Insight and Springtide Research Institute. We are blessed to be a church where questions are welcome.

August 18 - Is God a Swiftie?

August 25 - Can anything be a spiritual practice?

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, 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!

2024 Is Our Church’s 170th Birthday

This milestone birthday is our chance to celebrate our ministry and outreach in the community since 1854. **In August, we are finalizing our plans for the fall celebration, so we want to hear from you now!** To help your church celebrate 170 years of history and dreams of what’s to come, please contact Pastor Nate at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086.

Sunday, September 1—Online Only Worship 9:30 am, youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835

Summer Holiday Worship Series: “Best Supporting Actor” Online-Only
May 26 (Memorial Day weekend), **July 7** (Independence Day weekend), and **September 1** (Labor Day weekend) During these special online-only worship services, Pastor Nate preaches a 3-part interconnected sermon exploring the relationship between Jesus and Nicodemus in the Gospel of John. Please do not come to campus these Sundays; instead, experience worship online, thanks.

Mark your calendars now

- Sunday, September 8, 9:30 am
Rally Sunday with Sunday School kick-off
- Sunday, September 15, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Penn Fest: Visit the Richfield UMC booth and check out all the action along Penn Avenue from 62nd to 76th Streets which is closed to motorized traffic during the event. Explore the avenue filled with music, dance, sports, games, crafters, artisans, kids activities, Pet Zone, delicious food, small business marketplace, community groups, school groups and more.

Ongoing and Open

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

Please note that in September the meeting will be the second Monday. To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. The book for Sept. 9, 2024 is **The Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley**. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

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 in the Sanctuary:

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment.

Art Cart - Children can fill a bag with items in The Nook to bring with them to worship with their families in the pews.

Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them. Parent/guardians are welcome to join their children 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 seek healing: Paula Milani, Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Lee Weiser and Richard, Jim Vetsch, Robert McCoy, stepson of Curt Stull, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Harvey Ehman, brother of Roxie Hillger, Mitzi Taylor, Don Morrow, Lori Claussen, John Darling, and Michele Wegscheid and family.

We pray for those who seek comfort.

We pray for those who grieve:

The family and friends of RUMC member, Winona Davis, who died on August 9. No service is planned at this time.

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, August 18, 2024

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

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Friday, August 23, 2024

Monday, August 19, 2024

Saturday, August 24, 2024

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

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, August 25, 2024

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

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Kerri LeJeune, Evan Schuman, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Wayne Albertson, Rev. Bill Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher

Tech: Pat Eder, Rev. Bill Johnson, 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 August 18 is Pat Norton.

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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.