



September 8, 2024 at 9:30 am  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**Bold = in unison**

**\* Rise in body or spirit**

## ENTRANCE

Prelude

“Faith to Be Strong”  
by Andrew Peterson

Victor Zupanc

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship\* (Psalm 125, James 2)

Bryan Nelson-Phelan

God is good

**All the time.**

And all the time,

**God is good.**

In God’s goodness, we touch goodness.

**In God’s love, we receive love.**

In God’s grace and mercy,

**we find fellowship with God’s people.**

Gathering Hymn\*      “How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”      TFWs Hymnal 2042

1. How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us with in its walls to rest.
2. In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.
3. A sun and shield forever are you, O God most high;  
you shower us with blessings no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers of blessings overflow.

Centering Prayer

Creator God, you create all people in your image. When favoritism and prejudice blind us, and when we exclude and demean others, focus us on your inclusive love, a love that welcomes us and calls us to welcome others. Live in us and through us, that our lives and our actions may reflect your image in all that we say and in all that we do. 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

Becca Whitaker

Blessing of the Backpacks

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

“Come, Let Us Sing”  
by Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

James 2:8-10, 14-17

You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself*. But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker. Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it.

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, “Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!”? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 4:7-8

Tychicus, our dearly loved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will inform you about everything that has happened to me. This is why I sent him to you, so that you'll know all about us and so he can encourage your hearts.

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

Sermon

“God Builds Bridges”  
“Footnotes of Faith” Worship Series 1 of 4

Rev. Nate Melcher

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



## SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn\*

“I Love to Tell the Story”

UM Hymnal 156

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. [Refrain]
3. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]
4. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

Benediction\*

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

Postlude

“Toccata”  
by David H. Hegarty

Sonja Gustafson

**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

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Kick-Off

**Registration, Lunch, and Wood Lake Nature Trail Walk**

**Today, Sunday, September 8 at 10:45 am**

**All families with children and youth, Infants - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Families with students of all ages are invited to a CYF Kick-Off event. After worship, come to the Fellowship Hall and fill out registration materials, meet Sunday School teachers and youth group volunteers, and hear about the program year. There will be activities and a pizza lunch! If the weather is nice families are encouraged to walk the trail at nearby Wood Lake together, featuring the floating boardwalk (avg. walking time: 30 min.).

## 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.

## 2024 Is Our Church's 170<sup>th</sup> Birthday

We are celebrating our church's 170<sup>th</sup> birthday all October long. Please stay tuned for special events and displays, ways to share your memories, celebratory moments in worship, and more. We are planning a birthday celebration for after worship on Sunday, October 27. Anyone who wants to help make this happen, please contact Pastor Nate today at [nmelcher@richfieldumc.org](mailto:nmelcher@richfieldumc.org).

## Prayer Partners Returns (Adults matched with children Grades K-12)

**Begins September 29 after worship (10:40-11:00 am)**

The stats are in: children and teens who connect with caring adults often deepen in faith and strengthen their support network. After worship, children and their matched adults will connect for around 20 minutes with a guided check-in, a moment to pray, and of course, a snack. Adults, if you'd like to pair up this year contact Becca Whitaker at [bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org](mailto:bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org).

## Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

**6:15 pm-7:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays of the Month**

**September 11 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), October 2, November 6, December 4**

Youth Group returns at an earlier time. On 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, come for a pizza, then we'll check-in and have an activity such as a card game, Jackbox games, Pub Theology with root beer floats, service projects, and more. Join Becca, Pastor Nate, and other adult leaders for this monthly community gathering.

## Penn Fest: Sunday, September 15, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

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.

## Coffee with the Pastor

**New Day: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Thursdays, Sign up: [calendly.com/natemelcher](https://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.

## 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](mailto: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](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 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 - (Grades K-6)** After Time with Children in worship, the Sunday School teachers lead children to the classroom for a Bible story, a snack, and an activity. **2024 Sunday School (9:40 am-10:30 am):** September 15, September 22, October 13, October 27, November 10, November 17, December 8, December 22.

**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: 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, John Darling, and Michele Wegscheid and family.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani.

We pray for those who grieve.

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 08, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 10:45 am Children, Youth, and Families  
Registration Party followed  
by a Walk at Wood Lake

### Monday, September 09, 2024

- 1:30 pm Women Who Read
- 7:00 pm Church and Society

### Tuesday, September 10, 2024

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Finance Committee
- 7:00 pm Board of Trustees

### Wednesday, September 11, 2024

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:15 pm Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, September 12, 2024

### Friday, September 13, 2024

### Saturday, September 14, 2024

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

### Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 9:30 am Worship Service  
(+Live streamed & archived)
- 9:40 am Children's Sunday School
- 1:00 pm Penn Fest

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

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc

Liturgists: Rev. Nate Melcher, Bryan Nelson-Phelan Becca Whitaker

Tech: Pat Eder, Rev. Bill Johnson, 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 September 8 is Jerry Schilling.

### Permissions and Acknowledgements:

- Copyright and license agreements can impact our ability to always present expansive language for God and inclusive language for humankind. All are invited to sing or pray the words on their heart. For more, visit [richfieldumc.org/worship](http://richfieldumc.org/worship).
- "Call to Worship" and "Centering Prayer" by Mary Scifres. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*. © 2023 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 184-185.
- "Prayer of Gratitude" © 2024 David S. Bell; reprinted with permission from [davidsbell.org](http://davidsbell.org).
- Scripture quotations from the COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE. © Copyright 2011 COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ([www.CommonEnglishBible.com](http://www.CommonEnglishBible.com)).
- Lyrics published by special permission, public domain, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A704105, or CCS WORSHIPcast License #8155.

### Richfield United Methodist Church

5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419

612-861-6086 | [richfieldumc.org](http://richfieldumc.org) | [Facebook](#)

Email List: [richfieldumc.org/email](mailto:richfieldumc.org/email) | Give: [richfieldumc.org/give](http://richfieldumc.org/give)

Worship Livestream and Subscribe: [youtube.com/richfieldumc](https://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).