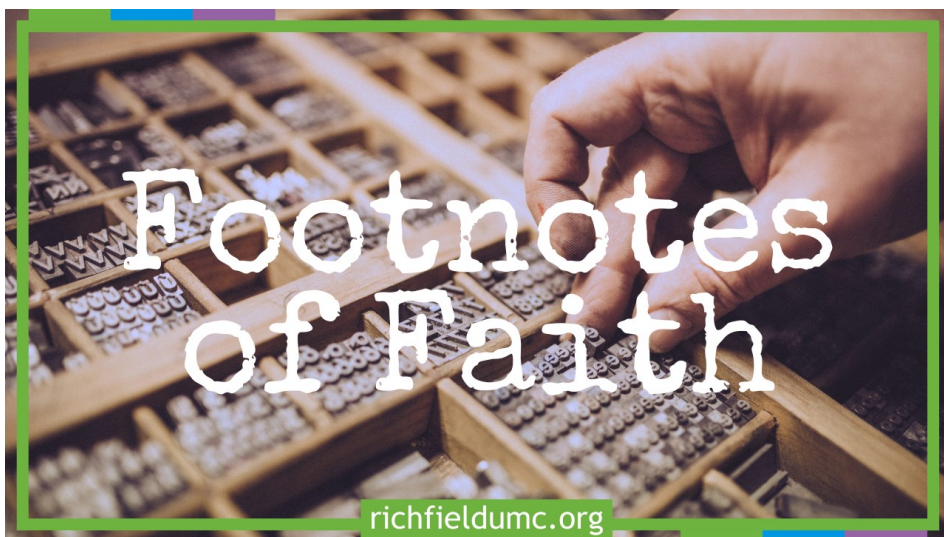




September 29, 2024 at 9:30 am
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Bold = in unison

*** Rise in body or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
arr. David Hegarty

Sonja Gustafson

Welcome

Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Jerry Schilling

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. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Savior's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Centering Prayer

Holy One, we breathe in and invite your Spirit of Wisdom to fill our souls. We breathe out, recalling your Spirit of Love that connects us with all of your children. 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.

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

“Shepherd Me, O God”
by Marty Haugen

Chancel Choir

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading

James 3:13-4:3

Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-3

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled.

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

Sermon

“God Encourages Humility”
“Footnotes of Faith” Worship Series 4 of 4

Rev. Nate Melcher

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
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory

“Why Shouldn’t We”
by Mary Chapin Carpenter

Chancel Choir
Victor Zupanc

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*

Jesus said: “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” Precious Lord, your love for us is amazing. You have blessed us in so many ways. The children of this congregation are an extraordinary example of your blessing. We are thankful for the numerous ministries of this church that reach out to children and families. May a portion of this money continue to support those ministries that welcome children in our midst. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn*

“O Christ, the Healer”

UM Hymnal 265

1. O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?
2. From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

Benediction*

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

Postlude

“I Am Willing”
by Holly Near

Victor Zupanc

**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

The Annual Fall Food Drive: Concludes today, September 29

The drive benefits VEAP, our longtime partner who is celebrating 50 years serving the community. There's still time to donate online at richfieldumc.org/give

Pizza with the Pastor / New Member Class, September 29 after worship.

Interested in Learning more about Richfield UMC or becoming a member? Come have lunch, meet people, and explore how to be involved in the life of the church and/or become a member (New Member Sunday is October 13). **Meet Pastor Nate in the Fellowship Hall after worship.**

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

Begins Sept. 29 after worship (10:40-11:00 am) Children and their matched adults will connect for around 20 mins with a guided check-in, a moment to pray, and a snack. **Adults and children please meet in the Heritage Room after worship.**

Youth Group (Grades 7-12) 6:15 pm-7:30 pm, 1st Wednesdays of the Month

2024 dates: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4—We'll have pizza, check-in and an activity such as a card game, Pub Theology with root beer floats, service projects, and more.

Next Sunday

In-Person October: Kick-off Breakfast, All are welcome for scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit and pastries. Sign up in the commons or by calling the church office (612) 861-6086). If you forget to sign up, come anyway!!

Pub Theology, First Sundays, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm, Dates: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1
Location: Davanni's Pizza and Hoagies (6345 Penn Ave S, Richfield) Pub Theology is a drop-in, informal discussion on faith, God, and life. Arrive early to order a beverage and/or dinner, then stay for conversation led by Pastor Nate.

Toddler Sunday School (Infants - Preschool) 9:30-10:20 am: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1
Parents/Guardians bring your toddler and preschool-age children to Toddler Sunday School for a Bible story, a snack, and free play on the **1st Sundays of the month**. All children are welcome to return to the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion with their families, too. RSVP to bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org.

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

Amazing Hummingbirds! With Stan Tekiela, naturalist and photographer
New day: Tuesday, October 8th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm; social dessert time to follow
Cost: \$5.00 for in-person participants; payable the day of the event
RSVP: **No later than Sunday, October 6th.** Sign up in the Commons, call the church office (612-861-6086), or email kbergeland@richfieldumc.org
The church bus is available: Please call the church office (612-861-6086) by Wednesday, Oct. 2nd, if you would like to ride the church bus.

UWF Craft Fair: Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Get your holiday shopping done early and support local crafters and businesses. **If you or someone you know is interested in having a table please contact Rhonda Olson, rhonda.s.olson@gmail.com or Toni Locke at toni@ggrreegg.com or [612-840-9797](tel:612-840-9797).**

Coffee with the Pastor, New Day: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, most Thursdays

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher, Meet Pastor Nate 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). Your drink is on Pastor Nate.

Ongoing and Open

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

To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. The book for October 7, 2024 is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. 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 - (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):** 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, Michele Wegscheid and family, Ann Johnson, Phil Williams, and Lori Claussen and her brother Bill.

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 29, 2024

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:40 am Prayer Partners
10:45 am Pizza with the Pastor/New
Member Class

Monday, September 30, 2024

Tuesday, October 01, 2024

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 02, 2024

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

Thursday, October 03, 2024

Friday, October 04, 2024

Saturday, October 05, 2024

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

Sunday, October 06, 2024

9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:45 am Toddler Sunday School
10:30 am In-Person October
Kick-off Breakfast
7:00 pm Pub Theology

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, Jerry Schilling, Becca Whitaker

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, 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 29 is Gretta Thorson.

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- 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.
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Richfield United Methodist Church

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

Email List: richfieldumc.org/email | Give: richfieldumc.org/give

Worship Livestream and Subscribe: youtube.com/richfieldumc

Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.