

Heartline

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

2025
March / April



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ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00pm (in-person only)

Begin the season of Lent with this interactive worship service of music, prayer, and spiritual practices, including the imposition of ashes.

There will also be ashes offered informally by Pastor Chris after Time for LIFE & in the late afternoon, 4:30-6:00 pm.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AS RICHFIELD UMC

You are invited to this sacred time in the life of the church. We will focus on the final week of the life of Jesus through special worship services filled with music, prayer, scripture, ritual, and sacrament. With hearts stirred by the Spirit, let us come together for a sacred journey with Jesus to the cross and celebrate the triumph of resurrection!

April 13 | Palm Sunday, 9:30 am

Arrive early to receive a palm branch to wave during the gathering hymn processional. This service carries us through the rejoicing of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and turns us toward the passion of the week ahead.



April 17 | Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm In-Person Only

Experience the tranquil beauty of special music and participate in contemplative spiritual practices as we remember when Jesus, the teacher, washed the feet of his students, the disciples. We will meet in the Heritage Room and sit around tables for foot (and hand) washing and the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper.



April 18 | Good Friday, 7:00 pm In-Person Only

Journey to the foot of the cross. Face the stark brokenness of that fateful day. We meet in the chapel for this Tenebrae service, a service of descending darkness. We remember the story through scripture and music as the silence grows and the light fades.



April 20 | Easter Sunday, 9:30 am

He is risen, indeed! Come and worship with joy and hope to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in our lives! Amazing music, Time with Children, and inspired preaching await you!



Help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!
Easter flower donation form on page 12.

NOTES FROM THE PASTORS



I write to you in the midst of chilly January with the hope that this new year has started as holistically healthy and healing as possible. My hunch is between the time I write this and when you read this, each of us will have experienced a bit of goodness to celebrate, a touch of tough news to deal with, and a few good people to share the journey with us. Thankfully, God is with us the whole way.

On my end of the timeline, I just wrapped editing the *Everything Good About God Is True* book study video series. With each chapter I read, a bit of scripture entered my mind and I put them in the videos. For chapter 14, I included these wonderful words from Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 11:28-30. Here it is two ways:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” - NRSVUE

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - *The Message*

Long have I heard these words, but seldom do I heed them. That is one of the blessings of my current leave, in that it compels me to revisit these words and heed them. My hope for all of us who have burnout in our own ways, who need rest in our own ways, embrace these words from Jesus. It is a testament to our faith to trust in his love, and his love is truly a gift.

Blessings to you all, and you are in my prayer life.

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher



Beloved Community,

I follow Pastor Nate’s note enveloped in a profound sense of gratitude. I am grateful for this time away for his sake, certainly, and also for my own. I have never been more conscious of the great privilege it is to embed in a sacred community, to work with excellent folk, to lead worship each week, to speak my mind, to pray in community, to sing and sing and sing; to gather with you in the name of the Ever-Creating Creator! This is a rare opportunity, and I cherish it. Thank you, all.

As you read this, we enter the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 5. Lent is a complicated season. Didn’t we just finish the “waiting season” of Advent? Weren’t we just singing the songs of Jesus’ birth? Yes we did, and yes we were. How can it be that so soon we are being asked to pilgrimage through his last days and toward his death - AND his glorious re-birth in resurrection?! It seems that birth and death and re-birth is exactly the calendar of our lives.

Minnesota is a great place to be in this season; the natural world parallels the story we are remembering. Every journey is fraught with possible difficulty in a northern winter. Likewise, Lent is a journey through difficult and threatening territory. Jesus walks toward Jerusalem open-eyed, knowing the extreme antipathy that awaits. Yet, Lent is also a journey that spirals upward, literally up the hill of Golgotha toward the earthly end of it. And here all around us in Minnesota, beneath the ice and snow and permafrost and such, seeds are opening and sending out roots and shoots that will break through, upward from the soil, just about the time we need to hide our Easter eggs.

Ah, life. So brief. So beautiful. So brutal. So baffling. And here we are together, Beloveds, making the journey; walking toward resurrection. Best of all, in Christ’s name, companioned by the Holy Spirit, God is with us.

Wild Blessings,
Pastor Chris



WANT TO RIDE THE BUS?

As we get closer to spring, we are in the process of re-evaluating the bus ministry at RUMC. If you would like to be part of that conversation, please reach out to Kay Bergeland, Parish Nurse, for more information, kbergeland@richfieldumc.org, 612-861-6086.



IT'S BACK: ALL-CHURCH MARCH MADNESS BRACKET

The NCAA College Basketball tournament is also known as “March Madness,” and we are getting into the fun! Soon, we will send out a link to a free online bracket where you submit your picks for the winners. The top three winners will select a nonprofit organization to receive a donation on behalf of the church, courtesy of the Church & Society Team. There is no gambling involved, and you don’t have to know anything about basketball to participate! More information is on the way.

PRIME THE PUMP FOR THE “SO MANY QUESTIONS” WORSHIP SERIES

This summer, Pastor Nate will once again preach sermons based on your questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life. Please take this season to submit a question. You can write a question and place it in the Question Box in the Commons Area, or email him while he’s away, and thank you.

ENHANCING CONNECTIONS

The Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community at RUMC continues to meet, hoping to find ways to enrich a sense of belonging and connection at church. Our initial work was in planning and organizing (with much help) “In-Person October.” It was a joy to experience our catered breakfast, spirituality class, heritage Sunday, and Ice Cream Social birthday party together.

In this, phase two of our committee, we are working to find ongoing ways, both big and small, to enhance a sense of community at RUMC. For example, we are encouraging all worship attendees to wear their nametags every week. We are establishing greeters for after worship, not just before. We are planning a simple “Cookies and Conversation” time on March 2nd after worship. And, we are hoping to find ways to get congregational feedback about our sense as a group of what enhances community at RUMC and what might get in the way.

To that end, we are going to ask that you fill out a very brief survey that will have three questions.

1. What aspects of RUMC make you feel most connected to the church, its mission, and/or the people?
2. Is there anything that gets in the way of that sense of connection at RUMC?
3. Anything else you’d like to share?

We will have the survey available in paper form at our March 2nd “Cookies and Conversation” time (hoping we will all fill it out at that time and put it in the available basket) and will continue to make it available after church in March. We will also make it available on-line through the e-heartline. Committee members (and Pastor Chris) will read your responses and use them to inform the committee’s work.

Committee members are always available to answer questions or receive feedback. Members are: Kay Bergeland (staff liaison), Brad Gardner, Kent Johnson, Kay Kurtz, Bryan Nelson-Phelan, Christie Neuger, Sandra Overland, and Barb Rogers.

FESTIVAL: A ONE-YEAR WORSHIP SERIES SEPTEMBER 2024 - MAY 2025



The **FESTIVAL** worship series is made of 8 miniseries that honor the seasons of the church such as Advent and Lent while exploring several themes in the overture of our lives. Together, we will reflect on how we as people and as the church are called to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. All are invited to experience God's festival of love for the world through music and preaching, prayer and other spiritual practices, media and book studies, and gatherings big and small with friends new and old. God's festival is for you.

Lent Worship Series: "Ashes to Alleluia" March 9-April 20, 2025

Lent is a season of prayerful listening and faithful action. We listen for the message of Jesus and we seek to live it out any way we can. As disciples, our faith has always been in our hands, and this is our season to do something with it. This is a powerful season, as we reflect on powerful stories from the ministry of Jesus and move from the shadows of Ash Wednesday to the miracle of Easter Sunday.



Eastertide Worship Series: "Lift Every Voice" April 27-May 25, 2025

Spring arrives with Easter cheer and celebration. We revel in stories surrounding resurrection. We rejoice in music that moves our souls. And we remember how the hope of tomorrow can bring a smile to our face. Beloved children of God, all are welcome here, and all means all. Come for a season of stories, special music, and of course, Church Hat Sunday (May 4).



SAVE THE DATES: SPECIAL UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- March 5 Ash Wednesday
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Maundy Thursday
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- May 4 Church Hat Sunday & Pastor Chris's last solo Sunday
- May 11 Music Splash, Pastor Nate's first Sunday back, and Pastor Chris and Dave Nyberg's last Sunday
- May 18 Graduation Sunday

"Church Hat Sunday" is May 4

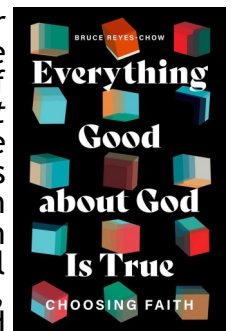
Spring arrives with a fun twist in worship. Celebrate God with style on May 4, the day after the Kentucky Derby with all of its fashion and fascinators, wearing your favorite hat. Whether it's fancy, well-worn, or a family heirloom, we want to see you and your hat in worship that day.

WEEKLY VIDEO SERIES ON THE BOOK: "EVERYTHING GOOD ABOUT GOD IS TRUE"

7:00 pm on Thursdays

youtube.com/richfieldumc, facebook.com/richfieldunitedmethodistchurch

Each video explores a chapter of Pastor Nate's favorite Christian spirituality book of 2024, *Everything Good About God Is True*. Author Bruce Reyes-Chow helps readers consider why we choose faith and how to create a "faith montage" through personal stories, generous theology, reflection questions, and prayer. Pick up your free copy at the church. Read and watch at your pace: chapters average 6-7 pages and videos premiere on our YouTube channel and Facebook page.



Youth & Children

Becca Whitaker
CYF Ministries Coordinator
bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org



Children's Ministry Update:

Sunday School is off to a new year and a wonderful start! We have learned more about God and all the wonderful things He does for us. We have also been reading some of Jesus' parables and learning how to take what we learn in Sunday School and apply it to our everyday lives. We will continue meeting every 2nd and 4th Sundays.

We'll continue to have Sunday School indoors in the Fellowship Hall, and we are beginning to learn about Lent. We have some more crafts to make in the upcoming months, so much fun for your kids to look forward to. As always, if you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday School leader, please contact Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org

Youth Ministry Update:

Youth group has had a great start to the new year with more pizza reviews, devotions and games. The youth have continued to bring insightful and engaging conversations to each session. We even had a visit from Pastor Chris! We will continue to meet for youth group on the first Wednesday night of each month and the third Sunday after worship.

In March, the youth will have to opportunity to participate in Ash Wednesday alongside Pastor Chris, learning how to be worship leaders. Please let Becca know if your child will be participating in this service. In April, the youth will be learning a craft with some wonderful congregation members during their Wednesday night meeting. Please reach out to Becca if your youth is interested in attending so we can account for supplies. If you are interested in volunteering to teach the youth a craft this night, please let Becca know, the more teachers the merrier. The last thing for the youth to know is a field trip to the Minnesota History Museum, we are still working on a headcount and will email the possible dates to interested youth members at the end of March, please let Becca know if your child would like to attend and if you would like further details.

The Easter Egg Hunt is on April 12th from 10 am to noon! Come to the church to make some Easter themed crafts, hunt some eggs and have fun playing games. Volunteers are needed to host games, run the egg hunt and greet families. Please contact Becca to volunteer.



Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday March 5: Youth Group/Ash Wednesday service
- Sunday March 16: Youth Group
- Wednesday April 2: Youth Group craft night
- Sunday April 13: Youth Group
- Sunday April 20: Easter Sunday

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday March 2: Toddler Sunday School
- Sunday March 9: Sunday School
- Sunday March 23: Sunday School
- Sunday April 6: Toddler Sunday School
- Saturday April 12: Easter Egg Hunt 10am-12pm
- Sunday April 13: Sunday School
- Sunday April 20: Easter Sunday
- Sunday April 27: Sunday School


OPEN POSITION AT RICHFIELD UMC

Now Hiring: Caring For Children Infant Teacher

Please pray for our Childcare Center staff in our search for additional staff.

Pray for our candidates and send any leads to Kathy Newbauer, CFC Director, at director@cfcumc.org. Please share the position listed on the website: richfieldumc.org/positions

GROW THE REACH OF YOUR CHURCH

Sign-up/resubscribe to the church email List (richfieldumc.org/email)  Get weekly updates on worship, news and events, photos and videos, funeral and memorials, and more.

Engage the church on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Follow, like, comment, and share when your church posts photos, videos, news, and events.



Engage the church on our [YouTube channel](#) Subscribe, like, and share videos with your friends so they learn more about worship services.



CHURCH SAFETY ONLINE

Don't be fooled by online scammers! Richfield UMC staff *never* solicits money, gift cards, or similar "help" from you. Staff emails *always* come from richfieldumc.org. If you get a scam email, don't reply. Don't be baited by online harassers! If someone makes inflammatory remarks, inappropriate comments, or tries to provoke a response, ignore them. Never give out personal information about staff or church members to someone you don't know. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHURCH SAFETY ON CAMPUS

The main front doors are nearly always locked for the safety and security of those inside. Please use the Aiphone intercom system to gain entry during regular business hours. If someone wants 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." Let's collectively promise not to take offense if this happens to us. We need to work together to keep the building secure and everyone inside safe, thank you.

HOW TO HELP SOMEONE ASKING FOR MONEY AT THE CHURCH

Richfield UMC doesn't offer immediate direct financial assistance. If on the rare occasion a person asks for money or other assistance on campus, please politely decline. It's okay to tell them we cannot do that and it isn't appropriate to ask others. Inform an usher or staff if you need help. Your church works with vetted partners to help people. You can also point people to a list of immediate assistance resources for meals, housing, and mental health services: richfieldumc.org/help.

Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

⇒ In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary

⇒ Online Worship <http://youtube.com/richfieldumc>

⇒ By touch tone phone at 1.888.650.5835

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.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Early Learning Center

This winter, the children have enjoyed Valentine's Day projects and catching snow on their tongues. As we transition from winter to spring, the children and teachers look forward to experiencing the renewal and growth that happens in nature this time of year. Thank you for your continued prayers for the families and the babies and toddlers who are cared for each weekday by CFC staff.



Kathy Newbauer
Caring for Children Director

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.
- The babies and toddlers who are cared for each weekday by CFC (Caring For Children, the early learning ministry at the church) and their families.

We pray in celebration.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who grieve:

- For the family and friends of Barb Larson who died on January 15.
- Lauren Hauter and her son Jack in the death of Lauren’s mother, Phyllis.
- John Darling in the death of his brother, Robert.
- The family and friends of Becky Yarlott, former RUMC Director of Music for many years in the 80’s. Becky died on February 7th

FROM THE LARSONS

RUMC Family,
Words cannot express how much we have appreciated your prayers and kind words. Mom’s death was a shock to all, but she is happy being with Jesus...and at peace

-The Larson Family

RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

I have not counted the number, but the first top row of shelving on the office side is filled with nothing but Bibles. You may think that a Bible is a Bible and one is just like any other. There are, however, a multitude of translations. There are abridged editions; translations that seek to emphasize a certain theological point of view; ones that seek the highest level of linguistic accuracy in translation (a criterion that changes with time); ones for children; ones for certain cultures; and ones that like to add lots of background notes all through each of the Bible’s books. Seeing different translations can help us keep our minds alert to those quick assumptions we make in reading Scripture. I encourage you to look up your favorite Bible verses or stories in two or more of the Bibles on that shelf either by checking out the Bibles, or simply by putting them on your lap in one of the library’s comfy chairs and comparing them. You may also wish to take one of the Bibles from the shelf up to the sanctuary to follow the text as the morning’s Scripture is read in worship, and then return it when you get your coffee. There are also a number of additional books to help explain and interpret the books and passages of the Bible on the surrounding shelves. Help yourselves.

Also, let me make two comments: One is to enjoy the library’s puzzles during this winter season. And, at the beginning of this year, I encourage you to check your shelves, end tables, and desks at home for any books that may have come from our library and to return them so that others might also enjoy them. A library is a community endeavor. Thank you.

Rev. Wayne Albertson



2025 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Time spent at United Methodist Camps provides children, youth, adults, and families with life-changing and faith-building opportunities to experience Christ, Creation, and Community. Christ is shared in song, word, worship, and by example as campers practice principles of Christian community and are challenged to live a Christ-like life.

Campers engage in activities to learn new skills, spend time in nature, and care for creation; all in a carefully supervised environment. Time at camp leads to new friendships, increased confidence, and leadership development as well as an essential faith foundation.

All are welcome at your Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodist Camps, where campers are loved, accepted, celebrated, and encouraged to be and grow into the people God has created them to be. Please find a 2025 camp brochure in the Commons Area at church, or visit www.campminnesota.org

MINNESOTA RECONCILING CONGREGATIONS GATHERING AT EDEN PRAIRIE UMC ON APRIL 5

"We're Not Done Yet!"

All are invited to attend the MN Reconciling Congregations' Annual Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 5th from 11:30-2:30 at Eden Prairie UMC, 15050 Scenic Heights Rd, Eden Prairie, MN. This is an opportunity to gather with other Reconciling United Methodists to share lunch (bring a dish to share) and hear a program presented by Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Becky Boland. They will provide information about Regionalization and other Constitutional Amendments coming before the Annual Conference in June and about next steps to take toward inclusiveness. Questions? Contact Rev. Wayne Albertson, wfalbertson@gmail.com.

ECO-PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY



Richfield UMC will once again have Eco-palms on Palm Sunday. Eco-palms promote environmental stewardship and fair trade.

Promote Social Justice

- Harvesting palms is an important source of income for gatherers.
- Gatherers receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.
- Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

- To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Did You Know?

- At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2-to-4-month period.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

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



MARCH

Program: Fit at Any Age!

Speaker: Marcus Watson, owner and head trainer of 57FIT

Wednesday, March 5th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (in-person only)

RSVP: please sign up by Sunday, March 2nd

\$5.00 for the program and a delicious dessert

After the program and dessert time, Pastor Chris will be available for the imposition of ashes, if you are not able to attend the Ash Wednesday evening worship service.

Join us as we learn new and valuable ways to improve our health and well-being! Marcus will talk to us about healthy nutrition habits and demonstrate basic exercises to keep us moving better, feeling better, and increasing our overall quality of life. During this program, we'll delve into different movements and nutrition tips with the goal of sustainability and longevity.



Marcus is a certified personal trainer and fitness nutrition coach. He stands on the beliefs that strength training, nutrition, and movements are vital keys to a prolonged healthy lifestyle. Marcus has received a Bachelor of Applied Science in Physical Education degree, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree, and a handful of specialized fitness and nutrition certifications.

APRIL

Program: Statue of Liberty: Two Decades of Effort, Almost Impossible Odds

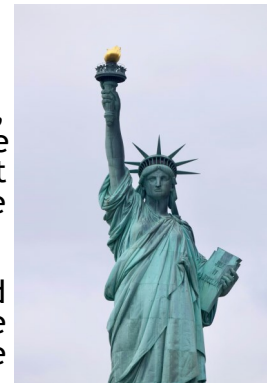
Speaker: David Jones, a well-known historical speaker throughout Minnesota

Tuesday, April 1st, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (in-person only)

RSVP: please sign up by Sunday, March 30th

\$5.00 for the program and a delicious dessert

The Statue of Liberty is an icon, a national treasure, and an emblem of freedom, inspiration, and hope. She stands proudly in New York Harbor, but how did the Statue come to be? What does she symbolize? Join us for a compelling look at the idea, the construction, and the meaning behind one of the most recognizable symbols in the world.



David Jones has been described as "experienced, enlightening, and engaging!" Since 1996, he has made over 2,000 presentations to more than 50,000 people. Come and learn from this enjoyable presentation as we welcome David to RUMC!

TIME FOR LIFE - SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, May 6th, Time for LIFE, Spring Luncheon and Program, 12 Noon - 2pm

Our keynote speaker for this special Time for LIFE event is Minnesota's well-known climatologist, **Dr. Mark Seeley**. Many of you have listened to Dr. Seeley over the years as he has served as a weekly commentator on Minnesota Public Radio's "Morning Edition (with Cathy Wurzer)" news program and written the weekly newsletter (blog) "Minnesota WeatherTalk" since 1992. Dr. Seeley has helped Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) produce award-winning documentaries on Minnesota's most memorable historical weather events. Since his retirement from the University of Minnesota in 2018, he has continued to provide presentations to communities throughout Minnesota and beyond on climate change and its effects on our natural resources and societal infrastructure. Mark your calendars now and help us welcome Dr. Seeley to RUMC!

ONGOING OPEN GROUPS

Women Who Read (WWR)

1st Mondays of the Month

1:30-3:00 pm, online by Zoom

To join by Zoom, email Fern at wfalbertson@gmail.com.

If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read. The books to read and discuss for the next three months are:

March The Whole Town's Talking
by Fannie Flagg

April The Women by Kristin Hannah

May The American Daughters: A Novel
by Maurice Carlos Ruffin

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am

Online by Zoom or phone

Please contact our Zoom Coordinator, Molly, at mollyreko@comcast.net or 612-270-4700, or leader, Rev. Ruth Phelps at 952-929-1595. There is plenty of food for thought in scripture, for as old as the scriptures are, they are alive with truth for these days.

Men's Bible Study

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

Read and discuss scripture for upcoming sermons. Meet in-person and get a cup of coffee or come online. For the latest updates, contact Kent Johnson at kentjmn@gmail.com to be on the email list for frequent participants.

Lay Caregiving Teams

There are three primary care teams [Care Ministers who visit people who can't get to church; Parish Ministers who visit people who are in the hospital or recently home; and Parish Companions who visit with a person in a transitional time (experiencing a family death, a recent divorce, a new diagnosis, etc.) - a relationship which might last up to a year]. All care team groups meet periodically for training and consultation. People who are interested in joining a care team should contact: Kay Bergeland at kbergeland@richfieldumc.org.

HAPPY MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

March

Mark Blomsness	01	Beverly Crandall	18
Wyatt Frater	03	Ryan Olson	18
Sarah Callahan	05	Sheryl Gunderson	19
Gero Fuhrmann	06	Jacky Dabney	19
Wes Mellgren	09	Mary Pavia	20
Mary Jane Regan	11	Betty Klint	21
TY Moore	12	Georgia Le	21
Kjell Nelson-Phelan	12	Dave Berner	23
Scott Clarke	13	Lois Etken	26
Betty Bosch	14	Victoria Rebeck	26
Lynne Alexander	15	Cooper Loge	26
Amy Burmeister	16	McKenzie Gaertner	29
Ryan Whitaker	16	Sarah Musgrave	30
Marlys Hudson	17		

April

Marylee Fithian	01	Gail Johnson	17
Nick Olson	02	Michael Niesen	18
James Young	03	Steve Kirchner	19
Jerry Burmeister	04	Dan Koskey	20
Laurel Lien	04	Steve Restemayer	21
Wayne Johnson	05	Sue Restemayer	22
Roger Boyce	06	Wayne Albertson	23
Joann Schuldt	06	Mary Martha Butler	27
Alex Currie	10	Dan Bur	28
Aleksia Hake	10	Tim Nelson	28
Pat Eder	12	Asher Teal	29
Katri Reko	15		

SERMON PACKS ARE ON YOUTUBE

Sermon Packs are video collections of worship series sermons. You can now view and share Sermon Packs for all worship series from 2024. Check out the playlist at youtube.com/richfieldumc.

GROW YOUR CHURCH WHEN YOU SHARE WORSHIP

The Internet is the church's front door. If you share about your church, you help to grow your church! Share archived worship services at youtube.com/richfieldumc.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have been making a difference in the world on behalf of Richfield United Methodist Church.

California Wildfire Response

We made a rapid response donation of \$250 to the California-Pacific Conference of the UMC for their response to the Los Angeles area wildfires. You can learn more about their response or make a gift at www.calpacumc.org.

Thank You: Christmas Offering

We were able to give \$1,500.00 to Refugee Services for distribution to new Minnesotans. While refugee arrivals are all on hold due to government action, support for those who have arrived in the past year continues.

Thank You: SOUPer Bowl of Caring Drive

Thank you for participating in this amazing annual challenge to feed our neighbors. All canned goods and donations benefit our longstanding mission partner, VEAP. Thank you to everyone who helped load the vehicles on Team Colors Sunday on February 9. Our goal was 170 cans to match our 170th church birthday. Together, we received 563 pounds of food and collected \$920. Thanks to Marlys and Mick Hudson and Sue and Wayne Johnson for the delivery. And thanks be to God!



Special Giving Made a Difference for VEAP

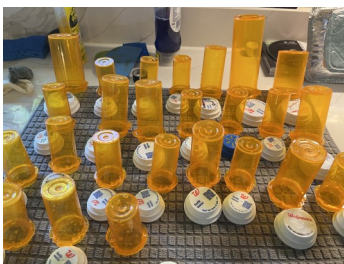
One way we love our neighbors is to support our mission partners. Through special, anonymous giving for outreach ministry, our church made a \$10,000 gift at the end of 2024 to VEAP. This gift was part of their end-of-year matching gift campaign, and we are proud to double our impact!

Easter Offering Mission Recipient

The Church and Society Team has selected Minnesota food programs as our mission partner recipients for the special Easter offering. Specific programs are being selected to reflect our 2025 focus, feeding those nearby and also extending our offering beyond the Twin Cities to help stock food shelves statewide. Let us love our neighbor in this most tangible possible way!

Pill Bottle Recycling

Thank you for doing such a wonderful job of cleaning your amber medicine bottles so they can be used by clinics in parts of the world that have no containers available for medicines. We are packing them in 1-gallon bags and sending one large moving box full to the warehouse about every 6 weeks.



MUSIC MINISTRY

RUMC Chancel Choir Update

Greetings, Friends: Dave Nyberg here, interim director of the RUMC Chancel Choir. I wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU for the warm hospitality and enthusiastic support of this amazing group of musicians! It is truly an honor to work with the choir, sharing our faith journey together in song!



We have a busy next several weeks planned as we enter the season of Lent and look ahead to Holy Week and Easter. The choir will be featuring a combination of new songs and familiar favorites along the way, all with the hope of bringing the heartfelt stories of this special time of year to our many collective worship experiences. From the soulful prayer of Bobby McFerrin's, "The 23rd Psalm" on Ash Wednesday, to the triumphant Easter Sunday refrains of Handel's, "Hallelujah Chorus", the weeks ahead look to be meaningful, spirit-filled and joyous!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or are interested in being a part of our musical adventure...I am a big believer in the camp fire favorite, "All God's Children Got a Place in the Choir"!

In song,

Dave

davenyberg@comcast.net; 651-341-6401

POSTCARDS AND THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH EMAIL

Take a "Love Your Neighbor" postcard with a link to the new monthly community outreach email. This growing list gives neighbors the scoop on how they can be part of our donation drives and service projects. You don't have to be a church member to love your neighbor. Your friend can sign up today: richfieldumc.org/email



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rumc@richfieldumc.org
www.richfieldumc.org

Heartline

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

2025 EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM

The Easter tradition to adorn the church with beautiful flowers is made possible by generous donations from the RUMC community. 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 9:30 am Easter Day worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing.

The suggested donation is \$25.00, 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 "Easter Flowers" in the memo.

Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, April 6 to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Names will be listed together within category. Names will be listed within these categories (please mark) in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of: **(please list & print names)**

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____