RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 18, 2025 at 9:30 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Bold = in unison *** Rise in body and/or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Get Together" by Chester Powers — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Gathering Hymn* "Let All Things Now Living" — TFWS Hymnal 2008

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

Centering 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

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Please greet your neighbor here - & online - with mutual signs of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate the moments this week when your life's journey met God's heart.

Celebration Music

"They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love" TFWS 2223
vs. 1-3

1. **We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,**
   we are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
   and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
   And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
   yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. **We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,**
   we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
   and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
   And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
   yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

3. **We will work with each other, we will work side by side,**
   we will work with each other, We will work side by side,
   and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
   And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
   yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Living Word of God. Living in the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Go! And...Remember!" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Lift Every Voice" Worship Series 4 or 5

Responsive Song "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" UM Hymnal 584
vs. 1 and 5

1. **Lord, you give the great commission:**
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

5. **Lord, you bless with words assuring:**
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

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 "Beautiful Savior" Sonja Gustafson
David Cherwien

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 / 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.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Kenzie Lambert, Nick Olson, Promise Williams, Mitchell Wilson

God of love and God of grace, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless these young people on the milestone of graduation. May you bring them peace.

You are a surrounding God! We thank you for those who taught them, who raised them, who worked beside them, and who supported them along the way.

As they journey into goodness and celebration, we give thanks for the gift of your creative energy at work in their lives. May you bring them joy.

You are an empowering God! May they feel your loving presence with them up on the highest of mountaintops.

As they journey through confusion and anxiety, we give thanks for the gift of your guiding energy at work in their lives. May you bring them hope.

You are a sustaining God! May they feel your loving presence with them down in the lowest of valleys.

As they go from this time and this space, in your promise may they know that you go with them. May the love of Christ live loudly in their hearts every step of the way.

You are a renewing God! May these graduates be filled by your Holy Spirit to do good in all ways, in all places, and to all people. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Wonderful Words of Life" UM Hymnal 600

1. **Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;**
   let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
   words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

   Refrain:
   Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
   Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

2. **Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;**
   sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
   all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. (Refrain)

3. **Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;**
   offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
   Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude Sonata I, mvt. I
Harles W. Ore

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

Congratulations Graduates!

Kenzie Lambert is graduating from Richfield High School and is attending Normandale Community College.

Nick Olson is graduating from Richfield High School and is attending the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Promise Williams is graduating from Two Rivers High School in Mendota Heights, MN and is studying Social Work & Spanish at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Mitchell Wilson is graduating from Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis and is attending Hamline University to study Forensic Criminology.

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, Sunday, May 18

Graduation Sunday | Please stay for fellowship after the service.

Next Sunday, May 25 | Special Music

We will welcome Groth Music Scholarship recipient, Grace Weitzel, as she shares her musical talents in worship. Grace will be a Junior at the University of Indiana in the Jacobs School of Music. She studies Violin Performance.

June 1 - Hands-On Service Project following Worship

Come to Fellowship Hall after worship on June 1 to assemble 75 Personal Dignity Kits for the Midwest Mission disaster relief ministry of the United Methodist Church. We will take these to Annual Conference the next week to help victims of severe weather crises have the personal items they need to feel clean and fresh in the midst of trauma.

Pizza with the Pastor/New Member Class

Sunday, June 1, 10:50 am-12:00 pm
Please RSVP to Pastor Nate, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086
RSVP for lunch with new people and longtime members and learn about joining the church and getting involved. New members are scheduled to join on June 8 (or another date, if you can't make it).

Our Spring Intentions . . . Join Us In An Interactive Church Endeavor!

What is an intention? It is an idea that you plan (or intend) to carry out. Spring is often associated with a fresh start, mirroring the awakening of nature from dormancy. We have an opportunity as a community this spring to reflect on and set an intention related to personal growth, new projects, and positive change. On one of the bulletin boards, look for a petal to write down your spring intention and pin it on one of the flowers. Please help make our garden grow and bloom!

2025 Summer Camp Registration is Open

Time spent at United Methodist Camps provides children, youth, adults, & families with life-changing and faith-building opportunities to experience Christ, Creation, and Community. We have scholarships available. Please find a 2025 camp brochure in the Commons Area at church, or visit www.campminnesota.org

Semi-Annual Meeting / Church Conference & Potluck June 8, 10:45 am-11:45 am

In-Person (Fellowship Hall) and Online | Zoom Meeting ID: 886 0975 2661 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799 Following worship, you are invited to a potluck lunch and church conference for the purpose of voting on new elected leaders, receiving reports, and welcoming new members.

Minnesota Annual Conference Gathering is June 11-13, 2025

The 2025 session of the Minnesota Annual Conference will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. Richfield UMC has elected delegates who are participating this year – please pray for our team. All are welcome to register as an observer or be a servant volunteer. Learn more at minnesotaumc.org/annualconference.

Save the Date:

July 13, Worship Service at Lake Harriet Bandshell

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting June 2. The book to read and discuss for June 2 is All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle. 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 worshiping 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)** On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, after Time with Children in worship, the teachers lead children to the classroom for a Bible story, a snack, and an activity.
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:

- 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.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.
We pray in celebration and gratitude.
We pray for those who seek healing: Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Jim Vetsch, Rev. Marylee Fithian, Harvey Ehman (brother of Roxie Hillger), Mitzi Taylor, Don Morrow, John Darling, Curt Stull, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, and Dorothy DeFreese.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani.
We pray for those who grieve.

- The family and friends of Rev. Jerry Peterson who died on April 14 at age 92. He was an associate pastor of Richfield UMC (1962-1969).
- The family and friends of Gayle Whitney, former RUMC member. A service was held on May 9th.

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, May 18, 2025
Graduation Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Fellowship Time

Monday, May 19, 2025

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Friday, May 23, 2025

Saturday, May 24, 2025
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, May 25, 2025
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School

Monday, May 26, 2025
Church Campus Closed: Memorial Day

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Staff: Rev. Nate Melcher, Kay Bergeland, Kathy Gertsema, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker
Music Staff: Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc
Tech Crew today: 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 May 18 is Jerry Schilling.

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational
Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.