RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 22, 2025 at 9:30 am
Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "You've Got a Friend" by Carole King — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* (from 1 Peter 2)

Once we were not a people.
Now we are God's people.
Once we ate food that did not satisfy.
Now we drink the spiritual milk of our Lord.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gathering Hymn* "Near to the Heart of God" UM Hymnal 472
vs. 1 and 2

1. **There is a place of quiet rest,**
   near to the heart of God;
   a place where sin cannot molest,
   near to the heart of God.

Refrain:
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee
near to the heart of God.

2. **There is a place of comfort sweet,**
   near to the heart of God;
   a place where we our Savior meet,
   near to the heart of God. [Refrain]

Centering Prayer

Merciful God, our refuge and our strength, train our hearts on the words of your Son: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Feed our souls with spiritual nourishment and build our lives into spiritual houses. Let neither famine nor storm shake the foundation of our faith. 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 here - & online - with mutual signs of peace.

Annual Conference Update 2 of 3

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 "Day By Day" Sonja Gustafson
arr. Edward Broughton

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

Sermon "Is there a right religion?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 4 of 11

Responsive Hymn "What Does the Lord Require of You" TFWS Hymnal 2174

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you? 2x
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. 2x
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God. 2x

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

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*

God of unity, in Christ, we are all one. As we bring our gifts to you, may they reflect the inclusiveness of your love, breaking down barriers and building bridges. Use these offerings to foster unity and equality in our church, our community, and our world. In your holy name, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Open My Eyes, That I May See" UM Hymnal 454

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see**
   glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
   place in my hands the wonderful key
   that shall unclasp and set me free.
   Silently now I wait for thee,
   ready, my God, thy will to see.
   Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. **Open my ears, that I may hear**
   voices of truth thou sendest clear;
   and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
   everything false will disappear.
   Silently now I wait for thee,
   ready, my God, thy will to see.
   Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear**
   gladly the warm truth everywhere;
   open my heart and let me prepare
   love with thy children thus to share.
   Silently now I wait for thee,
   ready, my God, thy will to see.
   Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Benediction*

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

Postlude Toccata in G Major
by William Walond

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

172 Days of Prayer Movement | June 8-Nov. 26

All church members and friends are called to pray for the future of your church every day from June 8, Pentecost, through the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 26. We will provide prayerful words along the way, and encourage you to pray in your own ways, as well. Even one word with a reverent attitude - "Thanks," "Peace," "Help" - is a prayer. Everything we do begins in prayer. Thank you for taking part in this urgent, faithful solution for your church.

Team Chairs Report June 29 after Worship

The Team Chairs will meet this coming week to discuss three key areas: Discipleship: *Why we value and deepen our faith in action*, Community: *Why we seek and welcome new people*, and Finances: *Why we strategize on our revenues and expenses*. A report will be presented to the congregation in the Sanctuary on June 29 after worship.

Church Conversations in July

After the congregation receives the Team Chairs Report on June 29, in July, all members are asked to attend at least one church conversation meeting about these areas, focusing on our bright spots: successful efforts worth duplicating, building on, and inspiring new efforts to lift up our mission as a church.

July 12th, Cooking Camp: One-Day Vacation Bible School (VBS)

This VBS camp will focus on age appropriate kitchen skills for the children and a Bible lesson related to their snack. There will be a morning session (10 am-12 pm) for our Pre-K through incoming 2nd grade class and an afternoon session (2 pm-5 pm) for our incoming 3rd grade through incoming 6th graders. The cost is $10 per child with a $30 per family cap. If you are interested in signing up or would like more information, please contact Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org or go to https://forms.gle/ehzAMCYE7yHGk2WYA

July 13: Worship Service at Lake Harriet Bandshell
In-Person Only at 10:00 am (note the special time)

In this perennial outdoor worship favorite, Pastor Nate preaches a sermon inspired by a scripture passage and songs by Minnesota's own Bob Dylan and performed by the Living Waters Band led by Victor Zupanc. Please invite a friend and help spread the word for this unique and lively worship service. Your presence at this service helps us connect with community members who attend, too!

Summer Movie Nights Mondays this July

Each Monday in July, come enjoy a family friendly movie at 5:00 pm. There is no cost for you, and we serve individual popcorn/goldfish and juice boxes. If you are interested in volunteering to help with movie nights, contact Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org.

The first movie is: July 7—My Neighbor Totoro
The story of two sisters who move to the countryside. They discover a magical world of forest spirits, including the titular Totoro, a large and friendly creature, and engage in whimsical adventures in their new home.

July 14—Flow (Oscar Winner)

July 21—Detective Pikachu

July 28—The Bad Guys

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting July 7. The book to read and discuss for July 7 is Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. 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)** During the program year, Sept.-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:

- 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, Don Morrow, John Darling, Curt Stull, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, Dorothy DeFreese, and Roxie Hillger.

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, June 22, 2025
9:30 am Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)

Monday, June 23, 2025

Tuesday, June 24, 2025
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, June 25, 2025
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
3:00 pm Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Friday, June 27, 2025

Saturday, June 28, 2025
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, June 29, 2025
9:30 am Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Team Chairs Report presented to the congregation in the Sanctuary

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 June 22 is Kate Currie.

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