RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 30, 2025 at 9:30 am
First Sunday of Advent

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — Prelude on "Now Thank We All Our God" (NUN DANKET) by Gerhard Krapf — Sonja Gustafson

Welcome — Rev. Bill Johnson

Call to Advent — "Light the Advent Candle" vs. 1 — TFWS Hymnal 2090

1. **Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;**
   we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
   Candle, candle, *bright your ray*, *shining on this winter day*;
   Candle, candle, *bright your ray*, *sending din and doubt away*.

Lighting the Advent Wreath I The Candle of Hope — Sarah & Andreas Mueller, Linnea, Annalie

We gather in the season of Advent, a season of Hope.

Let us be glad in that which binds us firmly together.
Peace prevails in this place. Peace be within you.
God keeps our merriness up and turns us from dismay.
We await the one to be born, the one who saves.
Tidings of comfort and joy fill the winter air.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope.
For the sake of the LORD, let us seek out the good of God!
May Hope light up this world. Amen.

Gathering Hymn* "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" vs. 1-2 — UM Hymnal 198

1. **My soul gives glory to my God.**
   My heart pours out its praise.
   God lifted up my lowliness
   in many marvelous ways.
2. **My God has done great things for me:**
   yes, holy is this name.
   All people will declare me blessed,
   and blessings they shall claim.

Centering Prayer — Gail Johnson

Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways, as we put on your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on your paths of peace and understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead. 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

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 "Waiting for Bethlehem's Light" by Dale Peterson — Chancel Choir

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-23; John 1:1, 14, 16

Matthew 1:18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

John 1:16

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

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

Sermon "Ghosted" Rev. Bill Johnson
"Never Better Than at Christmas" Worship Series 1 of 4

Responsive Hymn "People Look East" UM Hymnal 202
vs. 1-2

1. **People, look east. The time is near**
   of the crowning of the year.
   Make your house fair as you are able,
   Trim the hearth and set the table.
   People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. **Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,**
   one more seed is planted there.
   Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
   that in course the flower may flourish.
   People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

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 "Carol of the Bells" Sonja Gustafson
arr. Mark Hayes

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 justice, as we offer what we have, we remember your promise to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. May these gifts be used to build a world where peace and justice reign and where your love shines in every corner of the earth. Inspire us to walk in your light and to work for the well-being of all people. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Savior of the Nations Come" UM Hymnal 214
vs. 1-2, 5

1. **Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make thy home!**
   Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

2. **Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God**
   was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

5. **Now thy manger's halo bright hallows night with newborn light;**
   let no night this light subdue, let our faith shine ever new.

Benediction*

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

Postlude Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"
by Adolphus Hailstork

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, November 30

Advent Movie Matinees: "A Christmas Carol"
Sundays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14 at 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall
The Advent sermons are inspired by scripture and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.
Today's movie: *A Christmas Carol* (George C. Scott, 1984, 1 hour, 41 minutes)
Yes, we have snacks! Please stay after worship to enjoy these classics.

Next Sunday, December 07

Advent Movie Matinees: "A Christmas Carol"
Sundays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14 at 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall
The Advent sermons are inspired by scripture and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Dec. 7 movie: *A Christmas Carol* (Alistair Sim, 1951, 1h 26min.)

Richfield Symphonic Band Concert, 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Come for an inspired holiday concert from the Richfield Symphonic Band. Open to the public and featuring a variety of new and traditional holiday favorites, this concert for the whole family also features an organ piece presented by Sonja Gustafson. A freewill offering is split between the band and church, and there are treats following the show. Richfield Symphonic Band has shared the gift of music since 1979. Learn more at rsband.org.

Pub Theology, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm (in-person only)
Location: Pizza Lucé (800 W 66th St, Richfield, MN 55423)
Pub Theology is a drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life. Be part of the informal atmosphere and talk with people of many generations about faith questions big and small. Arrive early to order a tasty beverage and/or dinner, then stay for spirited conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

December Time for LIFE | Holiday Luncheon

Program: Songs in the Holiday Spirit with QuintEssence
Featuring David Nyberg, RUMC Interim Choir Director, and Pastor Chris Kliesen Wehrman
Date: Tuesday, December 9 **Time:** Luncheon at 12 Noon, program from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Cost: $15.00 for lunch and program; $5.00 for program only
RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or call the church office no later than Sun., December 7
After a delicious lunch, we will experience the magic of the holiday season with vocal harmonies, piano, and guitar. It's a performance that is sure to warm your heart.

Sunday, December 14

In worship we'll hear the Christmas story told through the Children's Christmas Pageant and it's Christmas Sweater Sunday, wear your favorite Christmas sweater to worship.

UWF Bake Sale, 10:30 am, Dec. 14
Stock up on holiday treats. Choose from a variety of cookies, breads, and other tasty treats. Cookies are .50 cents each and other items are priced as marked. We accept cash, checks and Venmo. We are also accepting donations of baked goods which can be dropped off at church Sat. Dec. 13, 10am to 2pm or before church on that Sunday. Walker Jewelry will also be there. Questions: contact Toni, toni@ggrreegg.com

Advent Movie Matinees: "A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 14 movie: *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (Michael Caine, 1992, 1 hour, 25 min).

The Metropolitan Men's Choir Concert, 3:00 pm, Dec. 14
Come for a new tradition as the Metropolitan Men's Choir has their premiere concert at Richfield UMC. Filed with holiday favorites, new musical pieces, and reverent music for the season, you and your friends will delight with these powerful voices. A freewill offering is split between the choir and church. Learn more about this growing musical group: metropolitanmenschoir.org

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting December 1, 2025. The book to read and discuss for Dec. 1 is The Guncle by Steven Rowley. 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.

Night Owl Bible Study | Wednesdays at 9:00 pm
Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799. Busy days? Up late at night? This is the Bible study for you. Open to all.

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)** Second and fourth Sundays during worship time Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook.
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, John Darling, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, Lynne Alexander, Donis (Burt) Andrews (sister of Shari Burt), Pat Eder, Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Betty, mother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, and DeAnna Wichman.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani and David Couillard.
We pray for those who seek strength and wisdom: Pat Robertson.
We pray for those who grieve:
Susan (SK) Johnson and her family as they mourn the death of her sister, Nancy.
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, November 30, 2025
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Advent Movie Matinee: A Christmas Carol

Monday, December 01, 2025
1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, December 02, 2025
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 03, 2025
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:15 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, December 04, 2025

Friday, December 05, 2025

Saturday, December 06 2025
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, December 07, 2025
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Advent Movie Matinee: A Christmas Carol
3:00 pm Richfield Symphonic Band Holiday Concert
7:00 pm Pub Theology

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, David Nyberg, Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Rev. Bill Johnson, Gail Johnson
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, 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 November 30 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.
- Advent Wreath liturgy by Rev. Nate Melcher.
- "Centering Prayer" by Mary Petrina Boyd. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025.* © 2024 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 276.
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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational
Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.