RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 28, 2025 at 9:30 am
First Sunday after Christmas

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Gathering Hymn* "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" — UM Hymnal 240

1. **Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;**
   peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
   Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
   with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
   Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"
2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;**
   late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
   Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
   pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
   Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
3. **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**
   Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
   Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
   born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
   Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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.

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

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

Please greet your neighbor 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 "The First Noel" vv. 1-2 UM Hymnal 245

1. **The first Noel the angel did say**
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. **They looked up and saw a star**
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading (Unison) Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song
because he has done wonderful things!
His own strong hand and his own holy arm
have won the victory!
The Lord has made his salvation widely known;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the eyes of all the nations.
God has remembered his loyal love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Be happy!
Rejoice out loud!
Sing your praises!
Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—
with the lyre and the sound of music.
With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!
Let the sea and everything in it roar;
the world and all its inhabitants too.
Let all the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the Lord
because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
He will establish justice in the world rightly;
he will establish justice among all people fairly.

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

Sermon "The Songs and Their Stories" Rev. Nate Melcher

Carol* "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv. 1, 3 UM Hymnal 234

1. **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;**
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

Carol “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv. 1, 4 UM Hymnal 211

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,**
   that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

4. **O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;**
   before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. (Refrain)

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vv. 1-2 UM Hymnal 230

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;**
   above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
   Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
   the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. **For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,**
   while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
   O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
   and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

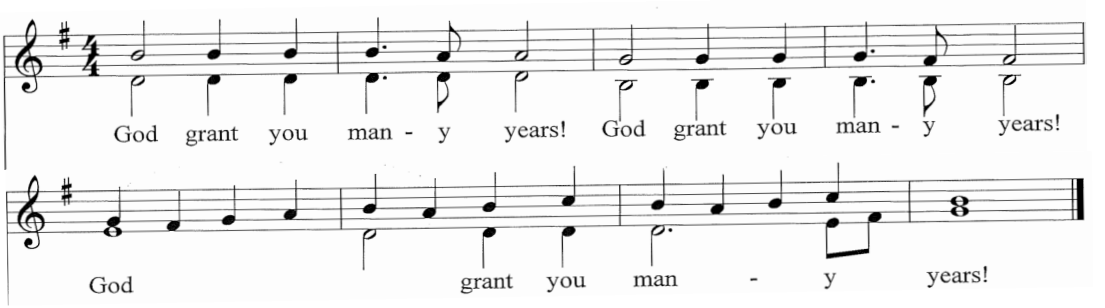
Carol* “Joy to the World” vv. 1-2, 4 UM Hymnal 246

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;**
   let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
   and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. **Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;**
   while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
   repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove**
   the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
   and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Milestones and Miracles “God Grant You Many Years”
arr. by Steve Blons

[lyrics] **God grant you many years!** x 3



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 "We Three Kings" vv. 1, 5 UM Hymnal 254

1. **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain: **O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

5. **Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.** (Refrain)

THANKSGIVING

Prayer of Gratitude / 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.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn***** "Go Tell It On the Mountain" UM Hymnal 251

Refrain: **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

1. **While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.** (Refrain)
2. **The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.** (Refrain)
3. **Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** (Refrain)

Benediction*****

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

Postlude "Christmas Time Is Here" by Vince Guaraldi

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, Sunday, December 28

Cereal Sunday: Today after the service enjoy a bowl of cereal while visiting with new friends and those you've know for years. Thanks to all who brought an unopened box of cereal for VEAP Food Shelf.

Next Sunday, January 4, 2026

Souper Bowl of Caring: Soup Drive Begins (January 4—February 8)
Begin 2026 with this perennial tradition. Please bring your donations of cans of soup and other shelf-stable goods to benefit our longstanding partner, VEAP Food Shelf.

Lunch For New People | Sunday, January 4, 10:45 am-11:45 am, Fellowship Hall
Please RSVP to Pastor Nate, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086
You came to worship and met someone new over coffee. You participated in an event, Bible study, or donation drive. Now you want to grow in your faith, community connections, and service to God and neighbor. RSVP for a pizza lunch with new faces and longtime members to make connections, deepen your faith, and consider becoming a member. We'd love to get to know you more.

Pub Theology | January 4, February 1, First Sundays at 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Pizza Lucé (800 W 66th St, Richfield) Led by Pastor Nate, Pub Theology is a drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage.

Night Owl Bible Study | Wednesdays at 9:00 pm, resumes January 7

Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799
This welcoming, drop-in group discusses scripture readings for worship. No experience necessary, open to church members and neighbors from the community.

Open Gym: Winter Prayer Walks | 10:30 am-1:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Fellowship Hall, ongoing | No Open Gym on Thursday, January 29

While winter bids us to hunker down and get cozy, we know the importance of staying physically active. Church members like you and your friends can combine a low-impact cardio workout with peaceful prayer in the warm welcome of Fellowship Hall. Turn on music or a podcast on your headphones, read the prayer and poetry wall posters, and enjoy light exercise in the comfort and privacy of your church building. It takes 34.5 laps to walk a mile – how many steps will you take?

Town Hall: Operations Budget | Sunday, January 18 at 10:35 am in the Sanctuary

The Finance Team plans to publish their 2026 operations budget on January 15 at richfieldumc.org/statements. Church members are encouraged to read it before voting about it at the church conference on January 25 and/or ask questions at the town hall on January 18.

Workshop: Writing and Leading Prayers for Worship | 7:30-8:30 pm on Jan. 19 and 26

Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799
Join your church's roster of worship liturgists. Discover various forms of prayer, learn how to craft Prayers of the People, and practice public speaking together. Pastor Nate leads this workshop relying on his experience as a college English instructor and improv coach to help you write and lead liturgy with poise and confidence. All experience levels welcome in this non-judgmental atmosphere.

Church Conference on January 25, 10:45 am
This Church Conference is to receive reports and vote on the 2026 operations budget. The meeting is in Fellowship Hall. Church members have voice and vote.

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting January 6, 2026. At this gathering, participants will make recommendations and the reading list for 2026 will be created. 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)** *Note: No Sunday School today, Dec. 28.* 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, Donis (Burt) Andrews (sister of Shari Burt), Pat Eder, Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Betty, mother of Michele Wegscheid, and Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani and Lynne Alexander
We pray for those who seek strength and wisdom: Pat Robertson.
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, December 28, 2025
Cereal Sunday
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Fellowship Time with cereal

Monday, December 29, 2025
The church campus is closed.

Tuesday, December 30, 2025
The church campus is closed.
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31, 2025
The church campus is closed.

Thursday, January 01, 2026
Happy New Year
The church campus is closed.

Friday, January 02, 2026

Saturday, January 03 2026
The church campus is closed.
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, January 04, 2026
"Souper Bowl" Soup Collection Begins
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Lunch for New People
7:00 pm Pub Theology

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Staff: Kay Bergeland, Kathy Gertsema, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker
Music Staff: Sonja Gustafson, David Nyberg, Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Rev. Nate Melcher
Tech Crew today: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, Bea Melcher, 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 December 28 is Kate Currie.

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