RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 11, 2026 at 9:30 am
First Sunday after the Epiphany

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "Come and Worship" by Bebo Norman — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Beloved people of God, welcome to worship.
We come to worship and to praise.
With love for one another, we gather as neighbors.
With love for God, we gather as a community of love.

Gathering Hymn* "Christ Is the World's Light" UM Hymnal 188
vv. 1-3

1. **Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;**
   born in our darkness, he became our brother.
   If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
   Glory to God on high!

2. **Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;**
   no one can serve him and despise another.
   Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
   Glory to God on high!

3. **Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;**
   sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother;
   he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
   Glory to God on high!

Centering Prayer

Loving God, thank you for being present in our lives and in this time of worship. Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear the fruit of your knowledge and grace. 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 "He's Got a Way" by Billy Joel

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Luke 10:25-37

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

He responded, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Sermon "Who Is Hurt, Who Will Help" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Disturbing!" Worship Series 2 of 4

Responsive Hymn "God Will Take Care of You" v. 2 UM Hymnal 130

2. **Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;**
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.

God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.

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 "This Old, Old Story Medley" arr. Harold DeCou — Sonja Gustafson

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*

Great God in Heaven, you remind us to focus our ability on first loving you. Then, you urge us to reflect that love toward our neighbor. We desire to be the modern day "Good Samaritan." Create anew in our hearts a burning desire to care for your children. Encourage us to follow the caring ways that Jesus taught. Multiply these tithes and offerings so acts of tolerance and hospitality are extended through our ministry to all of your children. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Jesu, Jesu" UM Hymnal 432
vv. 2-3

Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

2. **Neighbors are rich and poor,**
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

3. **These are the ones we should serve,**
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in F Major
by J. S. Bach

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, January 11, 2026

Souper Bowl of Caring: Soup Drive Continues (Now through February 8)
Please bring your donations of cans of soup and other shelf-stable goods to benefit our longstanding partner, VEAP Food Shelf.

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
This welcoming, drop-in group returns to read and discuss scripture readings for worship with other night owls. 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
Next 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. Members are encouraged to read it before voting about it at the church conference on Jan. 25 and/or ask questions at the town hall on Jan. 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

This is a Conference following worship at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. We'll receive reports and vote on the 2026 operations budget. Church members have voice and vote.

All-Ages Craft Night | Friday, January 30, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm

You're invited to this drop-in night of crafts and community open to church members and neighbors. Bring your own craft project or select a service project-focused craft. Whether your art is knitting, sewing, crochet, cardmaking, or coloring, this is a good night to stay warm and cozy with friends, hot chocolate, and the comfort of crafts!

Family Sledding at Kenny Park | Sunday, January 25 at 1328 W 58th St, Minneapolis

You are invited to join in sledding, meet there after 11:30 am to have fun in the snow. Please email Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org if you are interested or have any questions. All are welcome to attend, children 15 and under will need a guardian present.

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting February 2, 2026. The book to read and discuss will be announced. 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)** 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, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, and Elizabeth Warling.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani.
We pray for those who seek strength and wisdom: Pat Robertson.
We pray for those who grieve:

- The family and friends of Lynne Alexander who died on December 25, 2025. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Visitation is the hour prior to the service.
- The friends and family, especially Dayle, of David Couillard who died on December 4. A memorial service will be held at Richfield UMC on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 10:00 am with visitation the hour prior to the service.
- Andi Olson and family in the death of her father, Neil Christenson.

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, January 11, 2026
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class

Monday, January 12, 2026

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking
5:30 pm Finance Committee
7:00 pm Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, January 15, 2026
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking

Friday, January 16, 2026

Saturday, January 17, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, January 18, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:35 am Town Hall: Operations Budget

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
Liturgist today: Rev. Nate Melcher
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, 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 January 11 is Jerry Schilling.

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