RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 18, 2026 at 9:30 am
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "Leap of Faith" by Susan Staples Bell — Buerkley Owens

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Praise the Lord!
We gather to sing praises to God.
Praise the Lord!
We gather to give thanks for all God has done in our lives.
Praise the Lord!
We gather to worship our creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

Gathering Hymn* "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UM Hymnal 140
verses 1-2

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;**
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,**
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

Centering Prayer

Holy One, we come before you with sighs too deep for words. We come to praise your name and to be reassured of your unending grace. Open our hearts to your presence, our ears to your word, our hands to your service. May our lives reflect Jesus who walks with us and gives life. 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 Never Failed me Yet" Antonisia Collins
by CeCe Wynans

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:10-13, 16-17, 33

Matthew 13:10-13

Jesus' disciples came and said to him, "Why do you use parables when you speak to the crowds?"

Jesus replied, "Because they haven't received the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but you have. For those who have will receive more and they will have more than enough. But as for those who don't have, even the little they have will be taken away from them. This is why I speak to the crowds in parables: although they see, they don't really see; and although they hear, they don't really hear or understand.

Matthew 13:16-17

"Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear. I assure you that many prophets and righteous people wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn't.

Matthew 13:33

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough."

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

Sermon "When Is Heaven, Where Is Heaven" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Disturbing!" Worship Series 3 of 4

Responsive Hymn "God Will Take Care of You" v. 3 UM Hymnal 130

3. **All you may need God will provide,**
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
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 "Rise Up"
by Andra Day

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*

Holy Spirit, you search the recesses of our minds and the depths of our hearts. You call us to be not only givers but also receivers of your gift of grace. We believe that you will multiply our gifts to draw us nearer to your side. As we offer these financial gifts, we are grateful to be joined to the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Lift Every Voice and Sing" UM Hymnal 519
verses 1-2

1. **Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,**
   ring with the harmonies of liberty;
   let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
   let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
   Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
   sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
   facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
   let us march on till victory is won.

2. **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,**
   felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
   yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
   come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
   We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
   we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
   out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
   where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Benediction*

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

Postlude " A Change Is Gonna Come"
by Sam Cooke

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

Welcome Antonisia Collins. Antonisia is a sought after actress in the Twin Cities who recently played the lead role of Ti Moune in a production of Once On This Island at Artistry Theatre. She is currently working as a Production Assistant at Children's Theatre Company.

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 18, 2026

Town Hall: Operations Budget | immediately following worship in the Sanctuary
The 2026 operations budget is available for review at richfieldumc.org/statements. Members are encouraged to read it before voting about it at the church conference on Jan. 25. Stay after worship today to ask questions and learn more.

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.

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

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?

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. All experience levels welcome in this non-judgmental atmosphere. Let Pastor Nate know will attend by emailing him at nmelcher@richfieldumc.org.

Church Conference on January 25

This is a Conference following worship at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary. 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, children 15 and under will need a guardian present.

Pub Theology | 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.

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together

Tuesday, February 3, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, with a delicious dessert to follow!
Program: Does Valentine's Day Have Anything to do with Religion? with speaker, Dr. Bruce Forbes
Cost: $10.00, payable on the day of the event
RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or call the church office by Sunday, February 1

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 is Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. 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.

Wednesdays, 9:00 pm | Night Owl Bible Study
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, 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 Mitzi Taylor. Service arrangements are pending.
- 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 18, 2026
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:35 am Town Hall: Operations Budget

Monday, January 19, 2026
Campus is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
7:30 pm Workshop: Writing and Leading Prayers for Worship

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking
7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:15 pm Youth group
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, January 22, 2026
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking

Friday, January 23, 2026

Saturday, January 24, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, January 25, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Church Conference
10:45 am Confirmation Class
11:30 am Family Sledding at Kenny Park

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Guest Musicians: Antonisia Collins, Donna Furst, Greg Locke, Buerkley Owens
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, Bea Melcher, 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 18 is Merry Rendahl.

Permissions and Acknowledgements:
- 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.
- "Call to Worship" and "Centering Prayer" by Karen Ellis. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*. © 2019 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 162.
- "Prayer of Gratitude" © 2025 David S. Bell; reprinted with permission from davidsbell.org.
- Scripture quotations from the COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE. © Copyright 2011 COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE. All rights reserved. Used by permission. (www.CommonEnglishBible.com).
- Lyrics published by special permission, public domain, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A704105, or CCS WORSHIPcast License #8155.

Richfield United Methodist Church
5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419
612-861-6086 | richfieldumc.org | Facebook
Email List: richfieldumc.org/email | Give: richfieldumc.org/give
Worship Livestream and Subscribe: youtube.com/richfieldumc
Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational
Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.