RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 1, 2026 at 9:30 am
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "I Love to Tell the Story" arr. Lee Rogers — Sonja Gustafson

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

The one who lived among us is Jesus,
He who did good and healed all.
We know the message that God sends to all people.
God's peace, preached by Jesus, is available to all through the Lord of life.
This very day, God is acting.
Today, we will rejoice and be glad!

Gathering Hymn* — "God Is Here" — UM Hymnal 660

1. **God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,**
   may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
   Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
   wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
2. **Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;**
   here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
   Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
   here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
3. **Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;**
   here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
   Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
   what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Prayer of Confession

Risen Jesus, we long to proclaim the good news of your resurrection for the world. Remind us to look for you in the places we feel loss - our grief, our failure, the death all around us. And remind us to proclaim your presence on days of hope. Flawed as we are, help us perceive how deeply you love the world; bring us your never-failing grace and mercy. Hear us now in our silent confessions to you…

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

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 — "I Waited for the Lord" by Felix Mendelssohn
Scott Clarke and Pat Norton, soloists

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading — Acts 10:1-16 — Kate Currie

Peter saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

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

Sermon "God, My God, She Takes Pride in Us"
Rev. Jean Carlos Diaz
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" Worship Series 1 of 3

Responsive Hymn "Open My Eyes, That I May See" v. 1 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!

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion UM Hymnal p. 17, setting A

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the LORD.
Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the LORD.
Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.
Amen, amen, amen.

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.

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.

Receiving the Sacrament

There is no barrier between you and the table.
All who seek the grace of Jesus are welcome.

Music During Communion "Come, Let Us Eat" UM Hymnal 625

1. **Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.**
   Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
   Our Lord's body let us take together.
   Our Lord's body let us take together.
2. **Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.**
   Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
   Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
   Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
3. **In his presence now we meet and rest,**
   In his presence now we meet and rest.
   In the presence of our Lord we gather.
   In the presence of our Lord we gather.
4. **Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.**
   Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
   Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.
   Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Prayer after Receiving the Sacrament

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* "I Love to Tell the Story" UM Hymnal 156
verses 1, 3, and 4

1. **I love to tell the story of unseen things above,**
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

3. **I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat**
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (Refrain)

4. **I love to tell the story, for those who know it best**
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude Jig Fugue
by D. Buxtehude

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

Welcome Rev. Jean Carlos Diaz.
Rev. Diaz is a gay, Puerto Rican speaker, storyteller, and leader in the Twin Cities. He serves as Director of Campus Ministry at Neon / Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota. Neon is a student group committed to social justice (for people and the planet) and spirituality (shaped by Jesus and joy). After launching Neon last year, it's grown to more than 40 students weekly and up to 150 events. To support Neon, please visit: neonsupport.org.

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, February 1, 2026

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!
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 today, Sunday, February 1
Valentine's Day is celebrated as a day of love every year on February 14th. Who was St. Valentine? Isn't the day mainly a creation of Hallmark? Does it really have anything to do with religion? Dr. Bruce Forbes, our guest speaker, will offer a presentation about the history of Valentine's Day. Forbes is a Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies from Morningside University, Sioux City, Iowa, a United Methodist related school, where he taught for forty years.

Next Sunday, February 8

Team Colors Sunday
February 8 is the "Big Game," and everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite team colors to worship that day. Whether it's a football team t-shirt or a hockey jersey, your current school colors or your alma mater, we'll have a vibrant, colorful Sunday gathering to worshiping God with a little fun.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Soup Drive Concludes
Please bring your donations of cans of soup and other shelf-stable goods to benefit our longstanding partner, VEAP Food Shelf. Or donate funds at richfieldumc.org/give.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm (In-Person Only)
Begin your journey to Lent with a special worship service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Featuring the imposition of ashes, music from Chancel Choir, and spiritual practice stations led by Confirmation students, you are invited to turn your heart and mind toward Jesus and deepen your discipleship.
As we progress through the season, the worship series, "Windows of Opportunity" is inspired by the stained-glass windows of the Sanctuary. This series explores key moments in the life of Jesus, showing us that Jesus is constantly offering opportunities to follow him.

Coffee with the Pastor

Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher
Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to catch-up, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting at the church campus. Let's have a great cup of coffee and connect!

The Woven Sleeping Mats Ministry

Please hold bag donations for now.
In collaboration with Midwest Mission we are making Plarn Sleeping Mats. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The Sleeping Mats are sent internationally and locally. They are great for those who need a barrier between them and the hard ground. They have been sent for disaster relief, for the homeless, and for those who need temporary sleeping arrangements.

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.

Tues. & Thurs., 10:30 am-1:30 pm|Open Gym: Winter Prayer Walks, Fellowship Hall

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!
Options to help your family have a good experience when worshiping in the Sanctuary:

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for 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, Rev. Christie Neuger, and Marlene, mother of Deanna Wichman.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani and Dorothy DeFreese.

We pray for those who grieve:

- The family and friends of Mark Blomsness, especially his wife, Linda. A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 13 at 2:00 pm, with visitation the hour prior to the service.
- The family and friends of Mitzi Taylor. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 pm. Visitation is the hour prior to the service.
- Pat Robertson and family in the death of her husband, Jerry. A celebration of life will be held at 11 am on March 14th, 2026 at The Waters on 50th, 3500 W. 50th St, Mpls.

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, February 1, 2026
Home Communion Sunday
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
7:00 pm Pub Theology

Monday, February 2, 2026
1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking
1:00 pm Time for LIFE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
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, February 5, 2026
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking

Friday, February 6, 2026

Saturday, February 7, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, February 8, 2026
Team Colors Sunday
Last Day of the SOUPer Bowl Drive
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class

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
Guest Musicians: Scott Clarke, Pat Norton
Guest Preacher: Rev. Jean Carlos Diaz; Liturgist today: Kate Currie
Tech Crew today: Bea Melcher, 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 February 1 is Pat Norton.

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 "Prayer of Confession" by Amy B. Hunter. Beu, B.J. and Mary Scifres, ed., *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*. © 2023 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Used by permission. 88-90.
- "Prayer of Gratitude" © 2025 David S. Bell; reprinted with permission from davidsbell.org.
- Scripture quotations from Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
- 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.