RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# March 8, 2026 at 9:30 am
# Third Sunday in Lent

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

## ENTRANCE

Prelude "All That I Have Sown" by Bebo Norman — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* (Psalm 112)

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who delight in the Lord!
**We come to this place, where generations before us have gathered.**
Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.
**Here we allow God's light to shine through us.**
Let us worship our radiant God.
**Praise the Lord! Happy are we who delight in the Lord!**

Gathering Hymn* "You Who Are Thirsty" TFWS Hymnal 2132

**You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.**
**You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.**
**You who are tired, find rest. You who are weak, find strength.**
**You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink.**

**You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.**
**You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.**
**You who are tired, find rest. You who are weak, find strength.**
**You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink.**

**He will freely feed all of them who are weak.**
**He will quench the righteous thirst of all who humbly seek.**

Centering Prayer

**Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day. For this, we are grateful. As we worship today, open our minds to learn your wisdom. Open our eyes to places that need healing. Open our hands to do your work. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit, who gifts and guides us. 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 "Draw Me Close/I Need Thee Every Hour" — Chancel Choir
Mark Hayes

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:1-2, 13-20; 7:24-28

Matthew 5:1-2

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and

trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:24-28

"Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,

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

Sermon "Jesus Preaches" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Windows of Opportunity" Worship Series 3 of 8

Responsive Hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" v. 2 UM Hymnal 462

2. **O how sweet to trust in Jesus,**
**just to trust his cleansing blood;**
**and in simple faith to plunge me**
**neath the healing, cleansing flood!**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!**
**How I've proved him o'er and o'er!**
**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!**
**O for grace to trust him more!**

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](richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Offertory "Just As I Am" Sonja Gustafson
David Paxton

## 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*

**Blessed One, we discover such a contrast to our present culture when we read the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. We rejoice that these generous gifts will strengthen this congregation's ability to engage in ministries of peace, mercy, comfort, and truth. We dedicate them to you in gratitude for your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Seek the Lord" UM Hymnal 124
verses 2 and 3

2. **"Judge me not by human standards!**
**As the vault of heaven soars**
**high above the earth, so higher**
**are my thoughts and ways than yours.**
**See how rain and snow from heaven**
**make earth blossom and bear fruit,**
**giving you, before returning,**
**seed for sowing, bread to eat:**

3. **"So my Word returns not fruitless;**
**does not from its labors cease**
**till it has achieved my purpose**
**in a world of joy and peace."**
**God is love! How close the prophet**
**to that vital gospel word!**
**In Isaiah's inspiration**
**it is Jesus we have heard!**

Benediction*

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

Postlude "The Gathering of Spirits"
by Carrie Newcomer

**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, March 8, 2026**

**Sunday School** (Grades K-6) 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship time. After the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship.

**Confirmation Class** at 10:45 am in the Grace Room

**Next Sunday, March 15**

**Your Next Faithful Steps: Lunch For New People**
**Sunday, March 15, 10:45 am-11:45 am, Grace Room**
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.

**Children's Easter Party—You Can Help!**

**Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am—12:00 pm**
Easter is just around the corner, and with Easter comes our Easter party. Please join us on March 28th for a morning of fun and games. We will have craft activities like our "stained glass" egg cut outs, games like Bunny Bowling and a Cake Walk with fun Easter prizes. We will also have an Easter story time to finish off the activities. All of this fun wouldn't be possible without all of our amazing volunteers, if you would like to learn more or sign up to volunteer during the event, please contact Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org.

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30 am, Sanctuary, In-Person and Online**

Arrive early to receive a palm branch to wave during the gathering hymn processional. Come for spectacular music reflecting Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Following the stained glass windows, the sermon on March 29 (Palm Sunday) will focus on the crucifixion and the sermon on March 15 will focus on the palm-filled story.

**Pub Theology**

**Next gathering, Easter Sunday, April 5,** 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**

**Program:** Fascinating Loons, with well-known naturalist, Stan Tekiela
**Date:** Tuesday, April 7
**Time:** Program from 1:00-2:00 pm, with a delicious dessert to follow!
**Cost:** $10.00, payable the day of the event
**RSVP:** Sign up in the Commons or call the church office by Sunday, April 5
We are excited to welcome back one of our favorite Time for LIFE speakers, Stan Tekiela. Stan is an award-winning author, naturalist, and wildlife photographer, and we will have the opportunity to hear his program, *Fascinating Loons!* This is Stan's sixth time back to RUMC, but his first time presenting his program on fascinating loons. Join us as we learn all about this iconic waterbird!

## Ongoing and Open

**1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read**
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting April 6, 2026. The book to read and discuss is The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

**Tues. and Thursdays, 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!**
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), Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Betty, mother of Michele Wegscheid, and Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rev. Lynn Borgeson's brother, Dale.
We pray for those who grieve:

- Pat Robertson and family in the death of her husband, Jerry. A celebration of life will be held at 11 am on 3/14/26 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, March 08, 2026**
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 Am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class

**Monday, March 09, 2026**
5:00 pm Parish Companion Meeting

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

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

**Thursday, March 12, 2026**
10:30 am-1:30 pm Open Gym: Walking

**Friday, March 13, 2026**
4:30 pm CFC Family Open Gym

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Lunch for New People
12:00 pm Groth Scholarship Auditions

**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
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc
Tech Crew today: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, Bea Melcher, TY Moore

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 March 8 is Merry Rendahl.

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