

# Heartline

Keeping in touch with the heart of the Richfield United Methodist Church faith community.

2026  
March / April



Something for  
Everyone in April  
Gaming, Singing,  
Crafting! See page 3

Lunch for New People  
March 15  
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Time for LIFE  
Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5  
Page 6

Youth and Children  
Page 8-9

Worship on Sundays at  
9:30 am

⇒ In-Person Worship  
in the Sanctuary

⇒ Online Worship  
[http://youtube.com/  
richfieldumc](http://youtube.com/richfieldumc)

⇒ By touch tone  
phone at  
1.888.650.5835

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AS RICHFIELD UMC

You are invited to this sacred time in the life of the church. We will focus on the final week of the life of Jesus through special worship services filled with music, prayer, preaching, ritual, and sacrament. With hearts stirred by the Spirit, let us come together for a sacred journey that is both traditional and refreshing with Jesus to the cross and celebrate his triumphant resurrection!

### March 29 – Palm Sunday 9:30 am

Sanctuary, In-Person and Online  
Arrive early to receive a palm branch to  
wave during the gathering hymn  
processional.



### April 2 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Portland Avenue UMC  
8000 Portland Ave, Bloomington, MN  
In-Person Only



### April 3 – Good Friday 6:30 pm

Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
5:30 pm Soup Supper  
(\$5/person, \$20/household cap) in  
the Fellowship Hall (Soup Supper and  
Holy Communion)



### April 5 – Easter Sunday 9:30 am

(arrive early for the Prelude!)  
In the Sanctuary, In-Person  
and Online

Come and worship with joy and hope  
to celebrate the resurrection  
of Jesus in our lives!



*Help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!  
Easter flower donation form on page 12.*

## NATE NOTE



I am entering Lent and approaching Easter with renewed passion and faith, Church! This season of intentional discipleship will bring a mashup of traditions and fresh expressions of ministry. That makes sense, because sometimes we crave the longstanding reliability of the way we've always done it. Likewise, as much as we often say we don't like change, deep down we also know that doing the same old thing can get stale. With this duality in mind, let us journey to Easter together.

Old favorites are in store in Lent and Eastertide. We have two amazing guest speakers returning with captivating topics at Time for LIFE. We'll have the joy of organ, choir, and brass music at Easter. And our Bible studies are a consistent opportunity to dive deep into scripture as a community in a combination of in-person, online, hybrid, morning, evening, and late-night gatherings.

Some traditions get a new twist. This year, we're joining the longstanding partnership of Portland Avenue UMC and Hillcrest UMC for a joint Maundy Thursday worship experience at Portland Avenue UMC. We're having Good Friday worship in our Sanctuary, with a Soup Supper beforehand in the Fellowship Hall. And the Easter Party will feature games, crafts, and a chance for kids to hear the Easter story from one of our children's Bibles - and don't forget the cake walk!

Finally, some new things are popping up. We tried game nights in the fall? Let's do it again. We did a craft night this winter? Let's make it a craft night *and* day so people can join at the time that works for them. Need some karaoke in your life? It's true, we're going to have a rock-n-roll party!

All of these worship services, small groups, and events are for three communities. First, they're for church members like you who have committed to our mission. Second, they're for CFC Families who we support and appreciate as part of our expanded community. And of course, they're for our neighbors, and we have a responsibility to be a beacon of welcoming hope and inclusive love.

That's where your invitation comes in, Church.

All throughout Lent, the church staff and elected leaders and I will do everything we can to help you try new ways of inviting people to be a part of what

we do as a church. We hope you already know *why* you should invite people (hint: it has more to do with the power of the love of Jesus than the power of paying the bills, so be sure you're in the right head space!). As for the how, we'll give you tips, tactics, and trust to do your part as we invite and include new people.

A group of church leaders and I are reading *Beacon of Hope: Your Guide to Reaching, Witnessing, and Welcoming New People* by Rev. Ken Willard. Early in the book, Pastor Ken says to consider your "fishing pond." He writes, "Many of us seem to feel that evangelism means starting with people we have never met. *Relational* evangelism says we should instead start with those we are already closest to, those we know the most about, and those we already have a relationship with." He says that means asking yourself who is "unchurched" in my immediate family, relatives, close friends, neighbors or work friends, and acquaintances, in that order. Then, listen to what they need. If your church has what they need, even a little bit, that's your starting point to invite them to join you.

We'll have more invitational ideas for you soon. In the meantime, please pour over this entire issue, and I mean it! There is so much happening in the life of your church. Prayerfully discern what items are for you to participate, to volunteer, and to invite. The journey to and from Easter is one of my favorite parts of being a Christian. I'm proud to journey with you, friends!

In Christ,  
Rev. Nate Melcher

## COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Sign up: [calendly.com/natemelcher](https://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 throughout the fall and winter. Let's have a great cup of coffee and connect!

## GAME-O-RAMA!

Friday, April 10, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Find community through the power of gaming! Want to learn a new game? We've got them. Have a game to teach? Bring it with you. Want to try Dungeons & Dragons for the first time? We'll have an experienced DM available. Is your D&D group looking for a new table? Just ask. Parents/guardians must be present with children 15 and under; minors ages 16-17 without a parent/guardian present must fill out a participant waiver. You can reserve table space in-advance: sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

## SPIN-O-RAMA!

Friday, April 17, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Grab a table, enjoy some snacks, and make your requests. If we've got it on vinyl or video, we'll play it! The night's focus is 1960s-1980s classic rock: David Bowie, Fleetwood Mac, AC/DC, The Who, U2, etc. Sing along with old friends and connect with new people over the power of music. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You can reserve table space in-advance: sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

## CRAFT-O-RAMA!

Friday, April 24, 9:30am-9:30pm  
Fellowship Hall

We had a blast in January at Craft Night, now it's time to go big! Come for this drop-in day of crafts in community open to church members and neighbors. Bring your own craft project or select a service project craft. All crafts are welcome: knitting, sewing, crochet, cardmaking, diamond art, or a good ol' fashion coloring book. Set up your sewing machine early and stay all day! Drop by after work and finish knitting that hat! You can reserve table space in-advance: sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

## "SO MANY QUESTIONS" WORSHIP SERIES RETURNS

This summer, Pastor Nate will once again preach sermons based on your burning questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life. Please take this season to submit a question. We'll take a Sunday in worship to write questions, or you can email your question to Pastor Nate, and thank you.

## ALL-CHURCH MARCH MADNESS BRACKET

The NCAA College Basketball tournament, a.k.a. "March Madness," arrives soon and we are getting into the fun! We'll send out a link to a free online bracket soon where you submit your picks for the winners. The top three winners will select a nonprofit organization to receive a donation on behalf of the church, courtesy of the Church & Society Team. There is no gambling involved, and you don't have to know anything about basketball to participate! More information is on the way.

## 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](mailto: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

March 1, April 5, First Sundays  
7:00 pm-8:00 pm (in-person only)  
Pizza Lucé (800 W 66th St, Richfield, MN 55423)

Pub Theology is a drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Be part of the informal atmosphere and talk with people of many generations about faith questions big and small. Arrive early to order, stay for spirited conversation. More information: [richfieldumc.org/pubtheology](http://richfieldumc.org/pubtheology)

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES | HOLY WEEK | EASTER

Let us worship the God who loves all people. All are welcome, and all means all.

### LENT WORSHIP SERIES: "WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY"

February 22 - April 12, 2026

The season of Lent is when we deepen our faith on purpose by trying on new spiritual practices and refreshing our reading of scripture. Inspired by the stained-glass windows of the Sanctuary, this series explores key moments in the life of Jesus. From his birth to his teachings, from his death to his resurrection, these eight key moments show us that Jesus is constantly offering opportunities to follow him. Pick up your new stained glass window bookmark each week - collect all 8!



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#### March 29 – Palm Sunday, 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.

#### April 2 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm

#### Portland Avenue UMC (8000 Portland Ave, Bloomington, MN 55420), In-Person Only

This year, we are teaming-up with our neighbor churches, Hillcrest UMC and Portland UMC, to join in their longstanding tradition of a partnered Maundy Thursday worship service. Come for a bit of food, join in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and engage in music with fellow area United Methodists. Your RSVP is requested but not required *and* it will help the three churches plan the menu and be prepared. Sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

#### April 3 – Good Friday, 6:30 pm with Soup Supper at 5:30 pm (\$5/person, \$20/household cap) Fellowship Hall (Soup Supper and Holy Communion), then Sanctuary (Service)

Enjoy a warm cup of soup and homemade bread on a peaceful evening filled with church members and neighbors. Serve one another in the sacrament of Holy Communion at your tables, then journey to the foot of the cross in the Sanctuary through scripture and song. Please reserve your spot in-advance: sign-up in the Commons or contact the church. To volunteer for Soup Supper, go to [richfieldumc.org/signup](http://richfieldumc.org/signup) or contact the church.

#### April 5 – Easter Sunday, 9:30 am (arrive early for the Prelude!)

He is risen, indeed! Come and worship with joy and hope to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in our lives! Give to the Easter special offering that benefits Minnesota FoodShare. Wear your best outfit or simply come as you are. Invite your friends and family for a morning featuring amazing music featuring organ, choir, and brass, a confetti-filled Time with Children, the sacrament of Holy Communion, and lively preaching to inspire you to live in the hope of resurrection.

### SPRING WORSHIP SERIES: "SCANDAL!" | April 19 - May 17, 2026

Few of us enjoy being nudged out of their comfort zone, even if that's what Jesus tries to do with his parables. This spring, we return to chapters 5-9 of the book *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine (more copies available in Holy Week) to consider another batch of stories meant to call us to examine the world around us, contemplate a new way of life, and disturb the status quo. Each parable will be paired with a Social Principle of The United Methodist Church, based on which principles church members lifted up as wanting to learn more in worship. The ancient stories are still speaking to our everyday lives as we put our faith into action.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The numbers are coming in and they reflect your generous hearts. Consider these recent examples: we donated over 2,000 lbs. of food and \$8,635 to VEAP Food Shelf in 2025. We responded with 20 grocery bags filled with food for the Agate Housing & Services pop-up food drive. We donated 15 bedspreads, towel sets, and welcome bags for our new neighbors at the grand re-opening of The Metro after their devastating fire. We gave over \$1,000 to Small Sums through the Christmas Eve special offering. We gave dozens of hats, mittens, and more from the Warming Tree to Kenny School, Windom School, and Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. And we just gave 350 lbs. of food to VEAP Food Shelf through our annual SOUPER Bowl Drive of Caring. Your generosity knows no bounds! Thank you for reflecting God's love in the way you show up for your neighbors.

## ONGOING OPEN GROUPS

**Women Who Read (WWR)**  
1st Mondays of the Month  
1:30-3:00 pm, online by Zoom  
To join by Zoom, email Fern at [wfalbertson@gmail.com](mailto:wfalbertson@gmail.com)

If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read. The next meetings and books to discuss are:

March 2, Sipsworth by Simon Van Booy  
April 6, The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel  
May 4, Solar Storms by Linda Hogan

**Women's Bible Study**  
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am  
Online by Zoom or phone  
Please contact our Zoom Coordinator, Molly, at [mollyreko@comcast.net](mailto:mollyreko@comcast.net) or 612-270-4700, or leader, Rev. Ruth Phelps at 952-929-1595.  
There is plenty of food for thought in scripture, for as old as the scriptures are, they are alive with truth for these days.

**Wednesday Men's Bible Study**  
Wednesdays at 9:00 am-10:00 am  
Hybrid: Grace Room and [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799  
Check-in with one another about life. Read and discuss scripture for upcoming sermons, or catch up on an intriguing theological video series. Meet in-person and get a cup of coffee or come online. For the latest updates, contact Pastor Nate to be on the email list for frequent participants.

**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  
Drop-in to read and discuss the scripture readings for worship with fellow night owls. People have said they get more out of Sundays by being part of this "no homework" gathering with lots of learning and laughter together! Open to church members and neighbors of the community.

## JOIN CHOIR FOR EASTER

Attention all singers, past, present, and wannabes. If you have any interest in making joyful music for the Lenten and Easter season, please consider joining the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. We sing Sunday morning for service with warmups usually at 8:40, then sing during the service 'til 10:30ish. Please consider joining even if it is just for the Lenten/Easter season. If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-309-5401. Thank you for your consideration.

Brad Gardner

## POST-WORSHIP FIELD TRIP IDEAS? WE WANT THEM!

Did you enjoy Pastor Nate's sermons and presentations about South Korea and now you'd like to go out together for a Korean lunch or visit a Korean Methodist Church with English translation? Would you like to make a prayerful pilgrimage to 34<sup>th</sup> and Portland or 26<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet with other church members? Is there a great local restaurant who would donate proceeds to our church as a nonprofit partner if we went and invited friends and family to join us for lunch after worship? Let's make some plans for after worship and coffee to connect with each other in our amazing neighborhood!

## SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL UPCOMING SUNDAYS AND WORSHIP SERVICES

March 29	Milestones & Miracles
April 02	Maundy Thursday
April 03	Good Friday
April 05	Easter Sunday
May 03	Church Hat Sunday
May 24	Pentecost Sunday
June 07	Semi-Annual Meeting (tentative)

**FROM THE PARISH NURSE**  
**Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together**



**MARCH**

**Program:** "The Biggest Crowd-Pleasing Records" with Radio DJ, Mike Henry

**Date:** Tuesday, March 3

**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, March 1

**APRIL**

**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!* Stunningly beautiful and very unique, loons have captured our hearts for thousands of years. Each year, we await their spring return, and then we delight in hearing their calls across our northern lakes and watching them swim and dive. Stan has spent over 20 years studying and photographing loons, and we will be filled with awe at his stunning pictures of loons in all their splendor and glory. Stan answers

some of the age-old questions about loons, such as: Do they mate for life, do the same loons return to the same lake each year, and why do loons have red eyes?

Over the past three decades, Stan has authored more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books, and wildlife audio CD's for nearly every state in the nation. Stan is also a well-known columnist and radio personality. His syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers, and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations. Stan studies and photographs wildlife throughout the world and has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs.

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!

**MAY**

**Program:** Spring Sing! with QuintEssence

**Date:** Tuesday, May 5

**Time:** Spring luncheon at 12 Noon; program from 1:00-2:00 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00, payable the day of the event

**RSVP:** Sign up in the Commons or call the church office by Tuesday, April 28



The quintet of musicians that brought rich harmonies, sing-alongs, and a touch of laughter and spice to our Christmas luncheon celebration are back for a spring sing!

Dave Nyberg, Chris Kliesen Wehrman and friends Rachel Bridges, Alan Husby and Kathy Webb are back with a picnic basket full of spring favorites - along with a new treat or two! This is where you come in. Yes, YOU. Is there a song that makes you think of spring? Maybe the springtime of your life - or your love? The music makers would love to know the title of that song...and why it is a "spring song" for you. Please do this spring thinking now as the snow is beginning to melt, and pass along your "spring song" request to Parish Nurse Kay ([kbergeland@richfieldumc.org](mailto:kbergeland@richfieldumc.org) or 612-861-6086) no later than Sunday, March 29. That will do two things: 1) help you remember that spring is coming!! (it is coming, it is, it is, it is!) and 2) will allow QuintEssence to work with your suggestions. Who knows how your spring memory may show up?!?!  
Join us for a wonderful afternoon as we celebrate spring's arrival!!!

## UMCOR Reimagines Disaster Material Resources Management

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a unit of Global Ministries, is reimagining its approach to disaster material resources management. This work - which includes how disaster relief supply kits for U.S. disasters are assembled, stored, and shipped - aims to increase efficiency, scalability, and responsiveness while reducing costs. UMCOR will seek an experienced logistics partner and expand collaboration with affiliate warehouses across the country, allowing for easier geographic coverage during disasters and enhanced opportunities for volunteer participation. As part of this restructuring, UMCOR will no longer operate the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, starting January 2027.

UMCOR will partner with an experienced logistics organization to ensure quick and efficient distribution of relief supply kits to communities affected by disasters. In addition, UMCOR is developing a capacity-building grant program for affiliate warehouses across the United States to support volunteer involvement, enhance kit readiness, and meet UMCOR operational standards.

**Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) is currently one of seven cooperating depots in the UMCOR relief supply network.** As an affiliate warehouse, they receive, assemble, store, and distribute UMCOR disaster relief kits throughout the United States upon request during disasters.

MMDC is a separate 501(c)(3) organization. They are not owned, funded, or operated by UMCOR, and do not receive apportionment dollars from the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is Midwest Mission's main U.S. Disaster Relief Partner, but they also have partnerships for domestic and international supply distribution. They maintain a covenant relationship with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the North Central Jurisdiction, but MMDC operates independently.

The closure of UMCOR Sager Brown does not affect MMDC's operations. In fact, they believe this transition may create new opportunities to strengthen collaboration with United Methodist churches, and expand their reach to serve more people in crisis.

**Currently Richfield UMC, through our Woven Sleep Mats Ministry, is working through the Midwest Mission Distribution Center to get the mats to those in need.** Additionally, Pastor Nate and several members took a mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center this February. More information about their experience will be shared later.



## NEON/WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

On February 1, 2026, we welcomed Rev. Jean Carlos Diaz to preach at that day's Sunday worship service. He is the 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).

If you are someone with a heart for the next generation, you are invited to the Neon/Wesley Foundation annual dinner. The event celebrates the stories, students, and supporters who make Neon—our campus ministry at the University of Minnesota—possible. Dinner from [Soul Bowl](#).

**What:** Neon/Wesley Foundation Annual Dinner

**When:** Thursday, May 7 • 6-8 PM

**Where:** Good Samaritan UMC

**RSVP:** <https://neontogogether.org/rsvp>

## OPEN GYM: WINTER PRAYER WALKS

**10:30 am-1:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays Fellowship Hall, ongoing**

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?

## “SPRING FORWARD”

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th. Move your clocks ahead one hour.

## CARING FOR CHILDREN

Early Learning Center

The children have been enjoying watching the seasons change from winter to spring. This time of year, is a wonderful symbol of renewal and growth. The days are getting longer, and the promise of warmer weather brings fresh energy to our children. They are embracing the signs of spring and new life.

Kathy Newbauer  
Caring for Children Director



Infant Music



Preschool Class



Toddlers

## CFC FAMILY OPEN GYM

Fridays in March: 6, 13, 20, and 27  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

CFC parents and guardians are welcome to pull up a chair, connect, and watch their children get the wiggles out in the wide-open Fellowship Hall. Older siblings up to 5th Grade are welcome and church members can join, too. **Parent/guardian supervision is required for the use of Fellowship Hall; play at your own risk.** There is no child care staffing present and everyone is expected to uphold common ground rules: safety first, respect the people and the space, and clean up after yourself.

At 5:00 pm, there's a brief drop-in discussion topic for adults:

**March 6** - Does your kid...? Open up about your parenting challenges and seek peer wisdom.

**March 13** - What helps you? Share any helpful resources that make you the best parent you can be.

**March 20** - What do we need? Tell Pastor Nate what neighbor families like yours need right now.

**March 27** - What's next? Discuss the future of these Open Gym events and what we could do next.

## CAMP MINNESOTA

Camp Minnesota 2026 Registration is open for all **Summer 2026** camp sessions at **Northern Pines, Koronis Ministries, and Kowakan Adventures**. Register early to check this off your to-do list and get a head start on your summer plans!



Learn about all the camping opportunities and register at:  
[campminnesota.org/campsessions](http://campminnesota.org/campsessions)

Camp Minnesota's 2026 lineup offers something for every age, interest, and ability. Campers can focus on what they love or try something new, all while enjoying swimming, campfires, group games, and s'mores. Let's look forward to sharing a faith-filled summer together!

# Youth & Children



Becca Whitaker  
CYF Ministries Coordinator  
[bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org](mailto:bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This new year kicked off with some great new crafts for our Sunday School class! We have made prayer cubes, kindness chains and Valentines cards with more fun on the way. We are continuing our way through the Whirl Bible with lots of great questions from our kids.

## CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation Class recently watched and discussed a video about John Wesley and his origins. Then, they prepared to lead the Ash Wednesday worship service and its various spiritual practice stations, only to have a windy snowstorm cancel the service. This is turning into an Ash Wednesday tradition! Coming up next, we're exploring our United Methodist roots and the Social Principles of the denomination.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank all our volunteers that have been helping our children and youth during this year, volunteers like Betty, Andi, Gail and Sarah are what help us make fun programming for your children. We couldn't do this without all the incredible volunteer work they are doing. As always, anyone can volunteer at any time to help with the CYF programming like youth group and Sunday school, to learn more about volunteer opportunities or to sign up, email Becca at [bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org](mailto:bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org).



## EASTER PARTY

**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](mailto:bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org).

## Calendar:

Wednesday	03/04	Youth Group	6:30 pm-7:30 pm in the Grace Room (GR)
Sunday	03/08	Sunday School	After Time With Children in the Little Lunch Room (LLR)
		Confirmation	10:45 am, GR
Wednesday	03/18	Youth Group	6:30 pm-7:30 pm, GR
Sunday	03/22	Sunday School	After Time With Children, LLR
		Confirmation	10:45 am, GR
Saturday	03/28	Easter Party	10:00 am-12:00 pm Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary
Wednesday	04/01	Youth Group	6:30 pm-7:30 pm, GR
Sunday	04/05	Easter Sunday	
Sunday	04/12	Sunday School	After Time With Children, LLR
		Confirmation	10:45 am, GR
Wednesday	04/15	Youth Group	6:30 pm-7:30 pm, GR
Sunday	04/26	Sunday School	After Time With Children, LLR
		Confirmation	10:45 am, GR

## HAPPY MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS

### March

Sarah Callahan	05	Marlys Hudson	17
Gero Fuhrmann	06	Beverly Crandall	18
Wes Mellgren	09	Ryan Olson	18
Mary Jane Regan	11	Sheryl Gunderson	19
TY Moore	12	Mary Pavia	20
Kjell Nelson-Phelan	12	Betty Klint	21
Scott Clarke	13	Georgia Le	21
Betty Bosch	14	Dave Berner	23
Everleigh Freeman	15	Georgia Klosinski	26
Amy Burmeister	16	McKenzie Gaertner	29
Ryan Whitaker	16	Sarah Musgrave	30

### April

Nick Olson	02	Steve Kirchner	19
Jim Young	03	Dan Koskey	20
Jerry Burmeister	04	Steve Restemayer	21
Laurel Lien	04	Sue Restemayer	22
Wayne Johnson	05	Wayne Albertson	23
Roger Boyce	06	Mary Martha Butler	27
Joann Schuldt	06	Dan Bur	28
Alex Currie	10	Tim Nelson	28
Pat Eder	12	Asher Teal	29
Gail Johnson	17		

## 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.

We pray in celebration.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who grieve:

- The family and friends of Lynne Alexander who died on December 25, 2025.
- Andi Olson and family in the death of her father, Neil Christenson.
- The family and friends of Mitzi Taylor who died on January 13, 2026.
- Pat Robertson and family in the death of her husband, Jerry.
- The family and friends of Mark Blomsness, especially his wife, Linda. Mark died on January 27, 2026.
- Mary Kay Petersen in the death of her sister, Nancy.

## RUMC LIBRARY NEWS

This library article could rightly be called "Seasons." For the time I have worked with our church library, we have had a Theme Table. I use it to place books of a certain topic relative to either a season or a particular ministry emphasis of our congregation. The books are placed there as ones most clearly definitive of that season or ministry, and to draw attention to the quality of the books in the library. Persons are welcome and invited to check out the Theme Table books and also peruse the areas (biography, devotions, fiction, etc.) from which they came.

As I write this article, we are in a season we might call "Ice-y" (in more than one way, both spiritual and meteorological). It affects our understanding of how we live our lives and the purposes God made possible for them in Christ Jesus. Books have been chosen to address the human needs of Peace, Courage, and Vision in this season. (I add my thanks to Shana Hoffer and Diane Mills for help in choosing the books for this "season.") We are then followed by the seasons of Lent and Eastertide (yes, Easter is a season and not just a day). Books pertinent to each of these seasons will be placed on the Theme Table close to their beginnings. Given the unusualness and demanding nature of the Icey season, I plan to leave books relevant to it up a bit beyond the normal time of change. I encourage you all to check out what is there, and then check it out again to take home and read. And, with each season, read for the spiritual and purposeful discoveries you may make in each Season.

Thank you - Wayne Albertson

## "CHURCH HAT SUNDAY" IS MAY 3

Spring arrives with a fun twist in worship. Celebrate God with style on May 3, the day after the Kentucky Derby with all of its fashion and fascinatons, wearing your favorite hat. Whether it's fancy, well-worn, or a family heirloom, we want to see you and your hat in worship that day.



## YOU'RE INVITED TO SEE GERTIE IN "MATILDA JR."

6:30 pm - March 11 and 12  
7:00 pm - March 13 and 14  
2:00 pm - March 14

For tickets contact Anthony Middle School  
<https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/anthony-musical/matilda-jr-anthony-middle-school>

Anthony Middle School, 5757 Irving Ave S,  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Gertie (one of the leads) and Bea (costumes tech crew) invite you to the spring musical at Anthony Middle School, "Matilda Jr." Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, "Matilda Jr." is inspired by the classic children's book by Roald Dahl about a girl who overcomes trouble at school with amazing powers. Buy tickets in advance (it will sell out) and arrive early for a good parking spot. (Children and Youth: if you have games, shows, etc. coming up and you want to invite your church, please have your parents/guardians contact Becca Whitaker!)

## WHAT IF ICE FEDERAL AGENTS SHOW UP ON CAMPUS?

Remain calm. Your safety is our top priority. Do not open the door to unknown parties. Immediately contact Pastor Nate, Kathy Newbauer (CFC Director), or Steve Warner (Trustees Chair). If you want to be part of local mutual aid, go to [richfieldumc.org/help](http://richfieldumc.org/help) for resources or donate to the Immigrant Aid Fund with our friends at Brooklyn United Methodist Church, [bumc.org/en/give](http://bumc.org/en/give).

*Please join your church in praying the Breakthrough Prayer daily at 8:35.*

**OUR BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER**

Loving God of all,  
renew our hearts and minds.

Reveal your wildest dreams,  
breakthrough 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.**

## ECO-PALMS

By choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday Richfield UMC promotes environmental and social justice with our palm purchase!

### Promote Social Justice

Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price. Gatherers will receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

### Promote Environmental Stewardship

Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities. Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

### Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm. To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

### Did You Know?

- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars/year.
- A congregation of 1,100 to 1,500 members will order approximately 700 palm fronds for Palm Sunday services.
- Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.

## KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR CHURCH HEALTHY IN FLU SEASON

Please do your part for public safety. Wash your hands, get your flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine, and please stay home if you're sick. Anyone is welcome to wear a face mask on campus. Thank you for looking out for your health and the health of others.

## YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

Churches thrive when members commit their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the mission. You can be a worship liturgist or greeter, help with cleaning or office tasks, or help at special events open to the community. Contact the church if you've got a way you can help, or go to "Sign-Up Central" at our website: [richfieldumc.org/signup](http://richfieldumc.org/signup) to do your part.



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rumc@richfieldumc.org  
www.richfieldumc.org

# Heartline

Keeping in touch with the heart of the  
Richfield United Methodist Church faith community.

## 2026 EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM

The Easter tradition to adorn the church with beautiful flowers is made possible by generous donations from the RUMC community. As in previous years, the practice of having the loved ones you are honoring listed in the bulletin will continue. At the conclusion of the 9:30 am Easter Day worship service, if you wish, you may take a plant of your choosing.

The suggested donation is \$25.00, but a donation of any amount will be accepted to defray the cost of the flowers. Please make checks payable to Richfield United Methodist Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo.

**Please return the form with your payment by Sunday, March 22** to ensure the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the bulletin.

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names will be listed together within category. Names will be listed within these categories (please mark)  in memory of,  in honor of,  in celebration of: **(please list & print names)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_