RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 19, 2026 at 9:30 am
Third Sunday of Easter

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" Teschner / arr. Cassler — Sonja Gustafson

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* (from Psalm 118) — Gail Johnson

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.
Line the festival procession with branches.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Gathering Hymn* — "Rise, Shine, You People" verses 1-3 — UM Hymnal 187

1. **Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered**
   our human story; God in him is centered.
   Christ comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
2. **See how he sends the power of evil reeling,**
   and brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
   All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
3. **Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,**
   your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
   To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.

Centering Prayer

Blessed One, our hearts sing when we see you approach. Our lips shout your praises, as you empty yourself to become a servant of all. Open our hearts to the depth of your love, that we might walk faithfully with you. 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 — "Hymn of Promise" by Natalie Sleeth — Chancel Choir

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading — Matthew 21:1-17

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer,'
but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself'?"

He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

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

Sermon "Jesus Marches" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Windows of Opportunity" Worship Series 4 of 8

Responsive Hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" v. 3 UM Hymnal 462

3. **Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,**
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace.

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 supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

Offertory "Give Thanks" by Henry Smith — Victor Zupanc

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 Lord, we surrender our lives to your prophetic message of salvation. You have given us the gift of enduring steadfast love. Multiply these gifts so that we may share the magnitude of your joy-filled message throughout our community and world. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" UM Hymnal 581
verses 1, 3, and 4

1. **Lord, whose love through humble service**
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

3. **As we worship, grant us vision**
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving,
your abundant life to share.

4. **Called by worship to your service,**
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.

Benediction*

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

Postlude "How Will I Live My Life Now"
by Victor Zupanc

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, April 19

After worship enjoy a cup of coffee in the commons area.
Next Sunday we begin the "Scandal!" worship series. If you didn't get a copy of the book "Short Stories by Jesus" written by Amy-Jill Levin, there are some copies still available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Craft-O-Rama! | Friday, April 24, 9:30am-9:30pm

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. You can learn how to cut, sew, and prep menstrual pads for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and help keep girls in school and young women working and fight poverty across the world.

Next Sunday, April 26

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

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together
Note: Early RSVP Date of Tuesday, April 28 (1 week prior to the event)

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 to our Christmas luncheon celebration are back for a spring sing! Dave Nyberg, Chris Kliesen Wehrman and friends are back with some spring favorites. Join us for a wonderful afternoon.

Sunday, May3

Church Hat Sunday! May 3 is the day after the Kentucky Derby with all of its fashion and fascinators. Join in the fun, **wear your favorite hat on May 3**. Whether it's fancy, well-worn, or a family heirloom, we want to see you and your hat in worship that day.

Pancake Breakfast | 8:00 am- 9:30 am
Before worship on May 3, enjoy delicious pancakes and help support the youth on their fall mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and other field trips.

Maple Syrup Sale on Sunday, May 3
Get your 12-ounce bottle of 100% pure maple syrup from Minnesota maple trees. Your free will donation (suggested at least $10) benefits the children and youth ministries.

Pub Theology | Next gathering, Sunday, May 3, 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.

Live Zoom Q&A with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine

Monday, May 4, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 Passcode: 5835
Prof. Amy-Jill Levine joins us for a live Q&A session about her book, *Short Stories by Jesus*. We're excited to have a prominent scholar of Jesus and a Richfield UMC favorite join us once again. You're encouraged to bring a question, bring a friend, and bring excitement to this unique opportunity to engage an amazing author.

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting May 4, 2026. The book to read and discuss is Solar Storms by Linda Hogan. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 am-1:30 pm| Open Gym: Winter Prayer Walks in the 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 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), Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Lynne Clarke, Ron Doncavage, Cooper Pacyga, grandson of Jen Pacyga, Phyllis Killam, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, and Wes Mellgren.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rev. Lynn Borgeson's brother, Dale.

We pray for those who grieve: The family and friends of June Berglund. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm with visitation the hour prior to the service.

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, April 19, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

Monday, April 20, 2026

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026
9:30 am-9:30 pm Craft-O-Rama

Saturday, April 25, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, April 26, 2026
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, Sonja Gustafson, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Gail Johnson
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Juan Nieves Lebrón

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 April 19 is Pat Norton.

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