RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 26, 2026 at 9:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" traditional — Victor Zupanc

Land Acknowledgment*

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota People.

These lands hold historical, spiritual, and personal significance to the Dakota People.

We are grateful for Indigenous Nations and their continued stewardship of these lands and we appreciate their perseverance and strength.

The Dakota People were harmed by the United States government through broken promises and unjust treaties, including the Cessation 289 Treaty of 1851 which names the Wahpeton and Sisseton Bands.

These atrocities effectively stole this geographical area and further harm and trauma have come through displacement, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.

This church formed in 1854 as one of the first institutions established by white settlers in this geographical area and benefited directly from this harm inflicted upon the Dakota People.

In repentance, this church seeks active partnership with Native American communities and organizations in the State of Minnesota and beyond.

We affirm tribal sovereignty. We reject attitudes of invisibility and erasure of Indigenous Peoples. We oppose policies and actions that threaten or demean Indigenous culture and tribal sovereignty by any means.

We call upon our fellow houses of worship in the interfaith community to acknowledge the realities of the lands on which they gather and take educational and restorative justice action.

With God's help, we commit to doing better. Amen.

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* — Alicia Owens

Come, walk in the light of faith.
We will walk humbly with our God.
Come, love in the light of faith.
We will love everything the light touches.
Come, sing in the light of faith.
We will sing praise to our God.

Gathering Hymn* — "Christ Is Alive" verses 1, 2, and 5 — UM Hymnal 318

1. **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**
   His cross stands empty to the sky.
   Let streets and homes with praises ring.
   His love in death shall never die.
2. **Christ is alive! No longer bound**
   to distant years in Palestine,
   he comes to claim the here and now
   and dwell in every place and time.
5. **Christ is alive, and comes to bring**
   good news to this and every age,
   till earth and all creation ring
   with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Centering Prayer

Be our vision, Holy One, for without vision your people perish. Remind us that you do not judge by outward appearances, but look on the heart. Enlighten our faith, help us see your kingdom in a tiny mustard seed, and may all marvel at the growth you offer through the power of your Spirit. 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 — "Fire and Rain" by James Taylor

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Readings — Mark 4:30-32, Matthew 17:20

Mark 4:30-32

[Jesus spoke to the crowd.] "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

Matthew 17:20

[Jesus said to his disciples], "I assure you that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Go from here to there,' and it will go. There will be nothing that you can't do."

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

Sermon — "What Is Planted, What Will Grow" — Rev. Nate Melcher
"Scandal" Worship Series 1 of 5

Responsive Hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" UM Hymnal 462, vs. 1

1. **'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,**
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

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 "Because He Lives"
by Gloria and William Gaither

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*

Heavenly Creator, you have offered us such abundance. We are so very blessed. Yet, we often think that we have so little. Some of us may even feel as though our gift is too small. Thank you for reminding us that even our mustard seed-sized gift may grow beyond our individual possibility. So, today we place before you all amounts of gifts – some quarters from children, some $1 bills from adults, some larger bills and checks – knowing that you transform our scarcity into your abundance. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Now the Green Blade Riseth" UM Hymnal 311
verses 1, 2, and 4

1. **Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,**
   wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
   Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
   Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

2. **In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,**
   thinking that he never would awake again,
   laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
   Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

4. **When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,**
   Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
   fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
   Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Benediction*

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

Postlude "All That I Have Sown"
by Bebo Norman

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 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 this 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 this 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! Join us for a wonderful afternoon as we celebrate spring's arrival!!!

Next Sunday, May 3

"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 fascinators, 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.

Pancake Breakfast | Sunday, May 3 | 8:00 am until 9:30am
Free-will donation for youth mission trip in October and other field trips
The RUMC Youth Group and the United Women in Faith invite you to a pancake breakfast to raise funds for a mission trip in October to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. At the center, youth will help prepare tangible resources that will be sent to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. Youth will experience great fellowship while making a great impact!

Maple Syrup Sale on Sunday, May 3
Get your 12-ounce bottle of 100% pure maple syrup from Minnesota maple trees. Your $10 purchase price 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 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, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Ron Doncavage, Cooper Pacyga, grandson of Jen Pacyga, Phyllis Killam, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, and Phyllis Olson.

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 26, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 Am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class

Monday, April 27, 2026
5:00 pm Parish Companion Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 29, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
3:15 pm Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Friday, May 01, 2026
9:30 am Craft-O-Rama

Saturday, May 02, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, May 03, 2026
Church Hat Sunday
Maple Syrup Sale
8:00 am-9:30 am Pancake Breakfast
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
1:00 pm Berglund Visitation Time
2:00 pm June Berglund Memorial Service
7:00 pm Pub Theology

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: Katherine Harmelink, Pat Eder, Greg Locke, Donna Furst, Rev. Nate Melcher, Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Alicia Owens
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 April 26 is Gretta Thorson.

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