RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 31, 2026 at 9:30 am
Trinity Sunday

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* — Kate Currie

Look left, look right.
Jesus says look to your neighbor.
Look down, look around.
Jesus says look to your neighbor.
Look back, look ahead, look inside.
Jesus says look to your neighbor and see me.

Gathering Hymn* "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" verses 1 and 2 — UM Hymnal 584

1. **Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."**
   Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
   help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.
   With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

2. **Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."**
   That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
   give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
   With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Centering Prayer

God of mercy, you gather us in from a variety of places in life. Whether we are in the midst of spring or our autumn years, your steadfast care is evident. Whether we had a happy week or a week of tough news, your comforting strength is at the ready. Whether we follow through or falter, your consistent encouragement is a beacon. May your divine persuasion raise us from dead ways of living to new life in the name of Jesus. Hear us know 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 — "Bless the Beasts and the Children" by Barry De Vorzon

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading — Luke 16:19-31

"There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

"The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip

the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.'

"The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don't come to this place of agony.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.' The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.' Abraham said, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

Sermon "Where Are You, Where Are We" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Scandal!" Worship Series 5 of 5

A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.

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 "My Corner of the Sky" by Stephen Schwartz

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*

Patient God, our ears listen attentively, yet our understanding is lacking. Our eyes look wide open, yet human suffering is squarely in front of us. Our hands stretch outward, yet remain listless. Our voice encourages others, yet remains silent to those in despair. Every day, we are faced with opportunities to respond. Forgive us. Awaken us. Encourage us. Call us again to respond by offering your salvation and your abundant life to others every day. We humbly place these gifts before you. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "For the Beauty of the Earth" UM Hymnal 92
verses 1, 2, and 4

1. **For the beauty of the earth,**
   for the glory of the skies,
   for the love which from our birth
   over and around us lies;

   Refrain:
   Lord of all, to thee we raise
   this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. **For the beauty of each hour**
   of the day and of the night,
   hill and vale, and tree and flower,
   sun and moon, and stars of light; (Refrain)

4. **For the joy of human love,**
   brother, sister, parent, child,
   friends on earth and friends above,
   for all gentle thoughts and mild; (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude "Namaste"
by The Kennedy's

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, May 31, 2026

The Buy Nothing School Supply Drive | Now through June 14
Through June 14, we are partnering with Midwest Mission to collect gently used school supplies for students in Honduras who don't have access to basic materials. Our goal is to keep usable supplies out of landfills and put them into the hands of students who truly need them.
The needed items that are gently used and in good condition include:

- Notebooks (remove used pages)
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Folders
- Scissors
- Colored Pencils
- Erasers
- Pens
- Rulers

A full list is posted by the donation bins on the racks just inside the main doors of the church. Please do not donate 3-ring binders.

Next Sunday, June 7

Personal Dignity Kit Assembly after worship—You can help make a difference!
Through Midwest Mission we will send tangible resources to make an intangible difference for people through hope and empowerment. Our second of two kit bashes will be after worship on Sunday, June 7 help assemble Personal Dignity Kits that are filled with hygiene goods and personal items for those facing an upside-down life after a disaster. Our goal is 100 PDKs.

Pub Theology—Next gathering, Sunday, June 7, 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.

"So Many Questions" Worship Series Begins Today
Pastor Nate's summer sermons are based on your questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life. Below are some upcoming questions and dates. Please let your friends know this is a church where questions are welcome.
06.07.2026 What is a United Methodist in today's world?
06.14.2026 What is the State of the Church?
06.21.2026 How do I listen to God?
06.28.2026 Which spiritual practice is right for me?

Potluck & Semi-Annual Meeting / Church Conference
June 14 10:45 am-11:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Following worship, you are invited to a potluck lunch and church conference for the purpose of voting on new elected leaders, and receiving reports.

Rainbow Sunday (and Milestones & Miracles) Is June 28 – Wear Bright Colors!

God designs by diversity and we give thanks for God's expansive love for all people. You're encouraged to wear bright colors, bold patterns, and/or many colors as we gather for worship. It's also Milestones & Miracles Sunday and we want to celebrate the recent milestones in your life. All who have recently had a birthday, anniversary, retirement, new job, or other live event worth celebrating will be invited to share their news in worship and we will celebrate with you!

Special Music in Worship this June

The Chester E. and Marion D. Groth Scholarship for 2026-2027 were awarded this spring and the talented student recipients will be sharing their gifts in worship. Each Sunday in June we welcome the following scholarship recipients:
June 7th - Grace Weitzel, violin June 14th - Xavier Johnson Ryan, piano
June 21st - Luisa Maruyama, flute June 28th - Luke Baker-Trinity, violin

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting June 1, 2026. The book to read and discuss is The Queen of Dirt Island by Domal Ryan. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

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.

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)** September – May
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, Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Ron Doncavage, Phyllis Killam, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Wes Mellgren, Kathy Gertsema, Dorothy Holland, Nick Olson, Sally Knutson, and Rylee, grandson of Lori Claussen.

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

We pray for those who grieve:

- Rev. Lynn Borgeson and family in the death of her brother, Dale. Service arrangements are pending

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, May 31, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

Monday, June 01, 2026
1:30 pm Woman Who Read

Tuesday, June 02, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, June 03, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
3:15 pm Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community

Thursday, June 04, 2026
7:00 pm Beacon Year End Assembly

Friday, June 05, 2026

Saturday, June 06, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, June 07, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Kit Bash: Personal Dignity Kits Assembly
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: Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Kate Currie
Tech Crew today: Bea Melcher, Juan Nieves Lebrón, 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 May 31 is Pat Norton.

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- 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.
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Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.