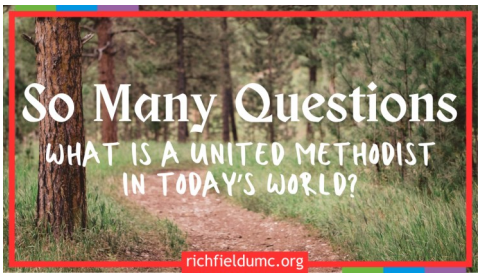
RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 7, 2026 at 9:30 am
Second Sunday after Pentecost



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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — Rhapsody No. 1 by Jessie Montgomery — Grace Weitzel, Groth Scholarship Recipient

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

God calls us to live out our faith.
We are called to be more than "almost Christian."
The gospel of Christ is in all things.
We are called to wake up, wash up, get stirred up.
There is good fruit of the Spirit in store.
We are called to be "altogether Christian."

Gathering Hymn* "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" UM Hymnal 139, vs 1, 3-5

1. **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!**
   O my soul, praise God, for God is thy health and salvation!
   All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!
3. **Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;**
   surely God's goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
   Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
   who with God's love doth befriend thee.
4. **Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,**
   fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
   Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
   spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. **Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore God!**
   All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before God.
   Let the amen sound from God's people again; gladly forever adore God.

Prayer of Confession

God of Sincerity, you are the inward principle from which our outward actions flow. Regard us with your truth and justice, even when we shy away from it. Too often have we almost done the right thing, almost stood up for your other children, almost been Christian. Forgive us for where we fall short; encourage us to repentance and a right living faith. Call us from avoiding sin from a fear of punishment. Call us to avoid sin for the virtue of love. Hear us in our silent confessions to you…

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

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 "Beautiful Savior" setting by Charles W. Ore Sonja Gustafson

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings James 2:14-18; 1 John 4:7-21 Fern Albertson

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

Someone might claim, "You have faith and I have action." But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action.

* * *

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that God has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

The Living Word of God. Living in the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "What is a United Methodist today?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 1 of 14

Responsive Hymn "What Does the Lord Require of You" TFWS Hymnal 2174

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you? 2x
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with God. 2x
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with God. 2x

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion UM Hymnal p. 18, setting B

The LORD be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the LORD.**
Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might. **God of power and might.**
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest. **Hosanna in the highest**.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, **hosanna,**
in the highest, **in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, **Christ has died,**
Christ is risen, **Christ is risen,**
Christ will come again! **Christ will come again.**

...All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen, amen **Amen, amen**
amen **amen.**

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.

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.

Receiving the Sacrament

There is no barrier between you and the table.
All who seek the grace of Jesus are welcome.

Music During Communion "Amazing Grace" UM Hymnal 378, verses 1-3

1. **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound**
that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost,
but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,**
and grace my fears relieved; how precious did
that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares,**
I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought
me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Prayer After Receiving the Sacrament

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.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Here I Am, Lord" UM Hymnal 593

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,**
   All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
   I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
   Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. **I, the Lord of the snow and rain, I have borne my people' pain.**
   I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
   I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone
   I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,**
   I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.
   Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied
   I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude "As the Wind Goes" Grace Weitzel
from *Fiddle Dance Suite*
by Wynton Marsalis

Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.

Welcome Groth Music Scholarship recipient, Grace Weitzel. Grace is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School and will be a Senior at the University of Indiana in the Jacobs School of Music this fall studying Violin Performance.

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, June 7

Today after worship, you can help make a difference!
Personal Dignity Kit Assembly
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 | This evening, 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.

The Buy Nothing School Supply Drive | Now through next Sunday, 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.

Potluck & Semi-Annual Meeting / Church Conference
Next Sunday, 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!

"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 What is a United Methodist in today's world?
06.14 What is the State of the Church?
06.21 How do I listen to God?
06.28 Which spiritual practice is right for me?

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. The next meeting is July 6, 2026. The book to read and discuss is The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar. 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 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)** 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, 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

Monday, June 08, 2026
5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

Tuesday, June 09, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, June 11, 2026
4:15 pm Caring For Children Graduation

Friday, June 12, 2026

Saturday, June 13, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, June 14, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Semi-Annual Meeting/Church Conference Potluck

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: Sonja Gustafson, Grace Weitzel
Liturgist today: Fern Albertson
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Michele Wegscheid

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 June 7 is Kate Currie.

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- "Call to Worship," "Prayer of Confession," and "Words of Assurance" by Rev. Nate Melcher, inspired by "Sermon #2: The Almost Christian" by Rev. John Wesley, preached at St. Mary's, Oxford, before the University, on July 25, 1741.
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Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.