RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 5, 2026 at 9:30 am
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Come, walk in the way that leads to life.
It is better to be reconciled with another than to be proven right.
Come, choose to live a genuine life.
Life is too short for petty resentments.
Come, walk in the way Christ invites us to travel.
We give thanks for Christ's way, and for the freedom to follow!

Gathering Hymn* "This Is My Song" UM Hymnal 437

1. **This is my song, O God of all the nations,**
   a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
   This is my home, the country where my heart is;
   here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
   but other hearts in other lands are beating
   with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,**
   and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
   but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
   and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
   O hear my song, thou God of all nations,
   a song of peace for their land and for mine.
3. **This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:**
   Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
   Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
   and hearts united learn to live as one.
   O hear my prayer, thou God of all nations;
   myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, you are ever ready to forgive and free us from our burdens. Forgive us for judging ourselves and others harshly. Free us from the times we have made others stumble. Forgive us for lifting ourselves up by putting others down. Free us from self-condemnation and regret. With every breath we take, help us choose to live in Christ's ways. Hear us now in our silent confessions to you…

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Time with Children

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 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Sonja Gustafson
David H. Hegarty

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:38-48 Sarah Callahan

"You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*. But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well. When they wish to haul you to court and take your shirt, let them have your coat too. When they force you to go one mile, go with them two. Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, *You must love your neighbor* and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Creator who is in heaven. God makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, just as your heavenly Creator is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking to us I these words.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Why should I love my enemies?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 5 of 14

Responsive Hymn "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" UM Hymnal 381
verses 1 and 2

1. **Savior, like a shepherd lead us,**
   much we need thy tender care;
   in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
   for our use thy folds prepare.
   Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
   Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
   Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
   Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. **We are thine, thou dost befriend us,**
   be the guardian of our way;
   keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
   seek us when we go astray.
   Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
   Hear, O hear us when we pray.
   Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
   Hear, O hear us when we pray.

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion UM Hymnal p. 17, setting A

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, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the LORD.
Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
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 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

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* "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UM Hymnal 431

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Benediction*

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

Postlude Jig Fugue Sonja Gustafson
Buxtehude

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

Next Sunday
Worship at the Lake Harriet Bandshell on July 12 at 10:00 am (note special time)

Bring a friend or neighbor and get closer to God in this beautiful outdoor setting.
Music provided by the Living Waters Band – guaranteed songs you will know!
There are benches or you can bring your lawn chair or blanket.
Lake Harriet Bandshell,
4135 W. Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis
Parking in paid lots or free on the streets

In this perennial outdoor worship favorite, Pastor Nate preaches a sermon inspired by a scripture passage and hymns of justice and songs of solidarity performed by the Living Waters Band led by Victor Zupanc. Please invite a friend and help spread the word for this unique and lively worship service. We will showcase some of our recent outreach ministry and your presence at this service helps us connect with community members who attend.
There is no worship on campus this day; there will be a special worship reprise online at our regular 9:30 am time.

Teen D&D is back Tuesdays in July

If they'd like, your teens will have the chance to run a session. If your child would like to participate or run a game, please email Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org, space is limited. **Time**: 6:15 pm to 9:15 pm **Dates**: 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, and 7/28.

Mission Project Sewing | Friday, July 24, from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Join this summer in helping others through sewing mission projects. This special evening brings together mission-minded sewers to create some of the most needed hand-sewn items that go directly into Midwest Mission. With instruction, participants will cut materials for and sew Feminine Hygiene Pads and one-handled cloth bags. Whether you're experienced or not, there's a job for you. Come with your desire to help others and enjoy this opportunity to sew together in fellowship with others. Light snacks provided.

"So Many Questions" Worship Series Continues

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.

July 5	Why should I love my enemies?
July 12	Who's gonna clean up this mess?!
July 19	What do I do with violence in the Bible?
July 26	How can I find joy in the midst of despair?

Special Music in Worship this Summer

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. During worship this summer we welcome the following scholarship recipients:

July 19	Jerusha Carmichael Burdette, voice
July 26	Rebecca Hall, violin
August 2	Gabriella Chau, voice
August 9	Kalina Lee, oboe

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
Note date change for the July meeting to the second Monday.
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. The next meeting is **July 13**, 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: Caroline Riley, Pat Robertson, Sally Knutson, Nick Olson, Wes Mellgren, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Phyllis Killam, Ron Doncavage, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Pat Noonan, Marilyn Dodge, Bob Mills, Shar Salisbury, John Darling, Jim Vetsch, Agnes Danzl, and Laurel Lien.

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

We pray for those who grieve:

- The family, especially daughter Chantel, and friends of Kathy Gertsema who died on June 19.
- SK and Susan Johnson in the death of their sister-in-law, Libby.

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, July 05, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

Monday, July 06, 2026
1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, July 07, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
6:15 pm Teen D & D

Wednesday, July 08, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, July 09, 2026

Friday, July 10, 2026

Saturday, July 11, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, July 12, 2026
9:30 am Online Worship Service
10:00 am Worship Service at the Lake Harriet Bandshell

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Staff: Rev. Nate Melcher, Kay Bergeland, Sonja Gustafson, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc
Musicians: Sonja Gustafson
Liturgist today: Sarah Callahan
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, 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 July 5 is Merry Rendahl.

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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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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational
Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.