RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 19, 2026 at 9:30 am
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "My Lord, What a Morning" arr. Mark Hayes — Jerusha Burdette, Groth Scholarship Recipient; Anne Voglewede Green, accompanist

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Come to the mountain of God,
the place of God's holy presence.
No matter how steep the climb,
God journeys with us and helps us along the way.

Gathering Hymn* "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UM Hymnal 420
verses 1, 2, and 4

1. **Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,**
   that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. **Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,**
   until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
4. **Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,**
   but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Centering Prayer

God of ages past and days yet to come, journey with us today. Journey with us all our days, whether on treacherous paths or beside still waters. Guide our steps to find solid ground, that we may know the firm foundation of your constant presence. Open our minds to the blessings and miracles we encounter along the way. 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 — "Time After Time" by Cindy Lauper — Victor Zupanc

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Readings Genesis 22:1-19; Deuteronomy 21:10-14

God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you." Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy

and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?"

Abraham said, "I'm here, my son."

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?"

Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son." The two of them walked on together.

They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?"

Abraham said, "I'm here."

The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

The Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I give my word as the Lord that because you did this and didn't hold back your son, your only son, I will bless you richly and I will give you countless descendants, as many as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand on the seashore. They will conquer their enemies' cities. All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your descendants, because you obeyed me." After Abraham returned to the young men, they got up and went to Beer-sheba where Abraham lived.

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When you wage war against your enemies and the Lord hands them over to you and you take prisoners, if you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you fall in love with her and take her as your wife, bringing her into your home, she must shave her head, cut her nails, remove her prisoner's clothing, and live in your house, mourning her father and her mother for one month. After that, you may consummate the marriage. You will be her husband, and she will be your wife. But if you aren't pleased with her, you must send her away as she wishes. You are not allowed to sell her for money or treat her as a slave because you have humiliated her.

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

Sermon "What do I do with violence in the Bible?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 7 of 14

Responsive Hymn "Jesu, Jesu" UM Hymnal 432
verse 1

Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. **Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.** (Refrain)

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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" Sonja Gustafson
David H. Hegarty

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*

God of salvation, forgive us when we withhold generosity out of fear or self-interest. Help us recognize that everything we have comes from your hand. Teach us to give freely, as you have given to us. May these gifts serve your kingdom's work. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UM Hymnal 140

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God, [Creator];**
   there is no shadow of turning with thee;
   thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
   as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,**
   sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
   join with all nature in manifold witness
   to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,**
   thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
   strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
   blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

Benediction*

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

Postlude "O Rest in the Lord" from *Elijah* Jerusha Burdette
Felix Mendelssohn Groth Scholarship Recipient
Anne Voglewede Green, accompanist

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

Welcome Groth Scholarship Recipient, Jerusha Burdette
Jerusha will be a Junior at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN. She studies Vocal Performance and Communications Sciences and Disorders. Jerusha is a graduate of Washburn High School, Minneapolis, MN.

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

Teen D&D is on 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 remaining**: 7/21, and 7/28.

Mission Project Sewing
This 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.

Music For Justice Concert: Grace Weitzel, Violinist
Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Groth Scholar Grace Weitzel shares her musical gifts on the violin for this excellent recital open to the public. She'll offer several powerful pieces, including Violin Concerto in d minor op. 47 by Jean Sibelius and "Estrellita" by Manuel Ponce (arranged by Heifetz). A freewill offering supports immigrant neighbor relief and local mutual aid causes. Please save the date, bring a friend, and enjoy amazing music that supports your neighbors in a time of need.

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. 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

Summer Worship Series: "SO MANY QUESTIONS" Continues

This popular series based on your submitted questions about God, faith, church, the Bible, and life continues all summer long. The remaining "So Many Questions" topics are:

July 19	What do I do with violence in the Bible?
July 26	How can I find joy in the midst of despair?
August 2	Will God forgive me?
August 9	What do I do with the supernatural parts of the Bible?
August 16	How do I know if God answers my prayers?
August 23	What if I feel like a failure?
August 30	What is deconstruction and reconstruction of faith?
September 6	Where do I learn about God?

Coffee with the Pastor | Sign up: calendly.com/natemelcher

Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to catch-up, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting at the church campus. Let's have a great cup of coffee and connect!

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read. To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. The next meetings and books to discuss are:
August 3, The Guncle Abroad by Steven Rowley
September 14, Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure by Rhys Bowen
Please note that the meeting in September will be on the second Monday.

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: Caroline Riley, 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: Phyllis Olson, Dorothy DeFreese, and Paula Milani.
We pray for those who grieve:
- The family and friends of SuzAnn Tarvin. A memorial service is at 2:00 pm today, Sunday, July 19, 2026 in the Sanctuary. Visitation is the hour prior to service.
- The family and friends of Mark Bosch, especially Betty. A memorial service is at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 25, 2026 in the Sanctuary. Visitation is the hour prior to 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, July 19, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
1:00 pm Tarvin Visitation Time
2:00 pm SuzAnn Tarvin Memorial Service

Monday, July 20, 2026

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
6:15 pm Teen D & D
7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
3:15 pm Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Friday, July 24, 2026
4:00 pm Mission Project Sewing

Saturday, July 25, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:00 am Bosch Visitation
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
11:00 am Mark Bosch Memorial Service
12:00 pm Fellowship Time

Sunday, July 26, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

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 today: Jerusha Burdette, Anne Voglewede Green, Sonja Gustafson, Victor Zupanc
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, 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 July 19 is Kate Currie.

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