RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2, 2026 at 9:30 am
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "Give me Jesus" arr. Mark Hayes — Gabriella Chau, Groth Scholarship Recipient

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

Sing a new song to God.
Sing of light and hope.
Dance with laughter and joy.
Dance with hearts full of hope.
Rejoice with strings and drums.
Rejoice with justice and peace.

Gathering Hymn* "Wonderful Words of Life" UM Hymnal 600

1. **Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;**
   let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
   words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

2. **Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;**
   sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
   all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. [Refrain]

3. **Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;**
   offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
   Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, amidst our songs of joy, our hearts are touched by fear. Sin plagues our world, even as we strive to build your realm. Sorrow enters our lives, even as we put on false smiles and engage in empty conversations. Death lurks around every corner, even as we struggle against our own mortality. Reconcile us with your love and compassion, and bless us with your compassionate presence, that we may be filled with joy, love, and hope this day. As we long for forgiveness, hear us 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 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" Sonja Gustafson
setting by William H. Doane

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-22 Sarah Callahan

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then our Creator who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

May God grant us understanding in this reading.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Will God forgive me?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 9 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)

THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion TFWS Hymnal 2257-a, b, c, d

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! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

...proclaiming the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

…all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever:
Amen. Amen. Amen
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

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" verses 1-3 UM Hymnal 378

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 of 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* "I Come with Joy" UM Hymnal 617
verses 1, 4, and 5

1. **I come with joy to meet my Lord,**
forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.

4. **And thus with joy we meet our Lord.**
His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.

5. **Together met, together bound,**
we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

Benediction*

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

Postlude "La Speranza É Giunta" Gabriella Chau
G. F. Handel Groth Scholarship Recipient

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

Welcome Groth Scholarship Recipient, Gabriella Chau.
Gabriella will be a Sophomore at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. She will study Music Education. Gabriella is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School, Stillwater, 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

A Time of Remembrance: Kathy Gertsema

After worship today, and a brief break, at approximately 10:45 am we will hold a time of remembrance for our friend, Kathy Gertsema, who was the Business and Administration Coordinator for Richfield UMC until her recent death. Kathy made many personal connections with fellow staff and church members above and beyond her work. You are invited to this time which honors Kathy and also her wishes for no memorial service. If you wish to make a gift in Kathy's memory her daughter, Chantel, suggests a gift to the Animal Humane Society, animalhumanesociety.org/.

Summer Worship Series: "SO MANY QUESTIONS"

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

August 2	Will God forgive me?
August 9	What do I do with the supernatural parts of the Bible? with guest preacher, Rev. Wayne Albertson
August 16	How do I know if God answers my prayers? with guest preacher, Rev. Jerad Morey
August 23	What if I feel like a failure? with wisdom from many of our retired clergy and Pastor Nate.

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:

August 2	Gabriella Chau, voice
August 9	Kalina Lee, oboe

"It's time to sign up for One-Day Camp VBS!
Camp VBS: Jesus is Our Peace

Monday, August 24th, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
We'll have fun learning a Bible verse, making crafts, experiencing new activities, and enjoying a special snack! Camp is open to children Pre-K through children entering 5th grade. The fee to participate is $10 per child with a $30 per family maximum. Please pay by check made out to "Richfield United Methodist Church" or pay with cash. **Contact Becca** at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org to receive the registration link for participants, to volunteer to help or if you have any questions.

Fall Mission Trip to Midwest Mission | October 14-16, 2026, Jefferson, Iowa

Work to show God's love in a practical way to those in need in their time of crisis. Adults and Youth in 6th Grade & Up are invited to participate.
Please tell Gail Johnson and/or Pastor Nate if you're interested or would like more information.

Craft and Vendor Fair | Saturday November 7, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

If you have crafts that you would like to donate we will start collecting them in October. If you or someone you know is interested in a table please let us know. For more information on donating items or getting a table please contact Toni Locke at 612-840-9797 or email toni@ggrreegg.com or Rhonda Olson email rhonda.s.olson@gmail.com

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
This group is taking a break for the remainer of the summer.
Class resumes on Tuesday, September 15
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: Bill, brother of Lori Claussen, 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.
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, August 02, 2026
Home Communion Sunday
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am A Time of Remembrance:
Kathy Gertsema

Monday, August 03, 2026
1:30 pm Women Who Read

Tuesday, August 04, 2026

Wednesday, August 05, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm Care Minister Meeting

Thursday, August 06, 2026

Friday, August 07, 2026

Saturday, August 08, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, August 09, 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
Liturgist today: Sarah Callahan, Fern Albertson
Musicians today: Gabriella Chau, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson
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 August 2 is Jerry Schilling.

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Richfield United Methodist Church
5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419
612-861-6086 | richfieldumc.org | Facebook
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