RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 6, 2026 at 9:30 am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Jesus Loves Me" arr. Fred Bock — Sonja Gustafson

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

We come with open hearts.
God, fill our hearts with your care.
We come with open minds.
God, fill our minds with your wisdom.
We come through open doors.
God, open these doors and welcome your children.

Gathering Hymn* "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" vs. 1, 2, and 4 — UM Hymnal 182

1. **Word of God, come down on earth,**
living rain from heaven descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
2. **Word eternal, throned on high,**
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heaven to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, your love outpouring.
4. **Word that speaks the Maker's love,**
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, you are our eternal guide. We confess to you that this journey is a privilege. We are glad you are our companion. We confess to you that this journey makes us weary. We find ourselves straying, from time to time. Embrace us, mend us, teach us, forgive us. It's through your divine love that we are once again made new. With longing for your forgiveness, 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 — "O How I Love Jesus" — UM Hymnal 170

1. **There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;**
   it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain: **O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,**
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. **It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;**
   it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]
3. **It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;**
   who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. [Refrain]

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading — Acts 8:26-31, 35-39 — Fern Albertson

An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury

of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him.

***

Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

Holy wisdom, holy words. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Where do I learn about God?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"So Many Questions" Worship Series 14 of 14

Responsive Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" UM Hymnal 396
verse 1

1. **O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;**
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" UM Hymnal 452
verses 1-3

1. **My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,**
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!
2. **May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,**
my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
3. **While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,**
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

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* "To God Be the Glory" UM Hymnal 98
verses 1 and 2

1. **To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. **O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,**
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

Benediction*

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

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in C Major Sonja Gustafson
by J. S. Bach

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

Pub Theology returns tonight! | 7:00pm-8:00pm at Pizza Luce in Richfield

This community ministry was featured in The Minneapolis Star Tribune this week and we're bringing it back this fall one month early. Come for spirited conversation on spiritual matters with people of many generations. Read the news article online at richfieldumc.org/inthenews.

You're Invited to Sing in the Chancel Choir

Join choir members and our new choir director, Dr. Joshua W. Neuenschwander, this fall. You're invited to join in this new season. **Our first rehearsal is set for Thursday, September 10, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** All are welcome!

Night Owl Bible Study returns September 10

New Night: Thursdays at 9:00 pm starting September 10
Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338/Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799
Read and discuss the worship scripture readings with fellow night owls. No experience necessary. Come for a welcoming, drop-in experience to go deeper in your faith and make new connections. More information: richfieldumc.org/biblestudy

Next Sunday is Rally Sunday

Welcome to a special Sunday to kickstart a fresh fall season as the church. All are invited to a worship service filled with music, prayer, preaching. All we need is you! Invite a friend to experience:

- A new worship series anchoring us in the hope of God!
- The return of Chancel Choir with new Choir Director, Dr. Josh Neuenschwander!
- Sunday School and Youth Registration
- Blessing of the Backpacks (and More)!
- Photo Booth Fun for All!
- Ice Cream Bars!

VEAP Hygiene Product Drive | September 1-October 4, 2026

In 2025, we filled VEAP's empty hygiene product shelves and they were amazed by our generosity, so we're doing it again. Shop for the items listed below and **bring items now through October 4**

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo, Body Wash, Shaving Cream, Menstrual Products, Hand Soap, Dish Soap, Dish Scrub Pads, Laundry Detergent, Household Spray Cleaners, Adult Diapers (all sizes), Toilet Paper

You may also donate through the RUMC website at richfieldumc.org/give.

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 Grade 6 & Up are invited to participate. Please tell Gail Johnson, Gailjohnson417@gmail.com and/or Pastor Nate, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org 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 meeting and book to discuss is:
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; 2026-2027 registration is on September 13th & Sunday School begins on September 27.
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: Elizabeth Lambert Warling, Steve Warner, Pat Robertson, Dave Rogers, Pat Norton, Caroline Riley, Wes Mellgren, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Phyllis Killam, 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: Marlene Davis, 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, September 6, 2026
VEAP Hygiene Products Drive continues through Oct. 4
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
7:00 pm Pub Theology

Monday, September 7, 2026
Campus Closed—Labor Day

Tuesday, September 08, 2026

Wednesday, September 09, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, September 10, 2026
5:30 pm Board of Trustees meeting
5:30 pm UWF Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Friday, September 11, 2026

Saturday, September 12, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Rally Sunday: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School & Youth Registration, & Church on a Stick
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Youth Group Registration

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 September 6 is Jerry Schilling.

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, Josh Neuenschwander, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón

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