RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026 at 9:30 am
Rally Sunday

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "Down to the River to Pray" traditional — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* — Doris Townsend

God rallies us to a holy mission.
Yes, we're the church together.
Jesus calls us to faith, justice, and joy.
None of us do this alone.
The Holy Spirit anchors our hope.
Let us worship our living God!

Gathering Hymn* "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UM Hymnal 57
verses 1-4

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing**
   my great Redeemer's praise,
   the glories of my God and King,
   the triumphs of his grace!

2. **My gracious Master and my God,**
   assist me to proclaim,
   to spread through all the earth abroad
   the honors of thy name.

3. **Jesus! the name that charms our fears,**
   that bids our sorrows cease;
   'tis music in the sinner's ears,
   'tis life, and health, and peace.

4. **He breaks the power of canceled sin,**
   he sets the prisoner free;
   his blood can make the foulest clean;
   his blood availed for me.

Centering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we have come to this time and place to worship you. We confess our gratitude for a church community where we can belong. We confess our dreaming for what might be next. We confess your welcome compels us to welcome others. Bless this time together, and remind us that we are your people. 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 and Blessing of the Backpacks 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 "With a Voice of Singing" The Chancel Choir
Martin Shaw

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Holy wisdom, holy words.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Who will I become?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Anchored in Hope" Worship Series 1 of 3

Responsive Hymn "For One Great Peace" TFWS Hymnal 2185
verse 1

1. **This thread I weave, this step I dance,**
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,
this flag I wave, this note I sing.

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 "Play Me" Victor Zupanc
by Neil Diamond

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 Power and Might, you effortlessly created light in the darkened void of our beginning universe. Today, this light continues to fill the shapeless recesses of our lives. Multiply these gifts so your beacon of light shines in every corner of the Earth. May people everywhere receive your light with praise and thanksgiving. We ask this prayer in the name of the one who proclaimed transforming redemption, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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 Toccata Sonja Gustafson
David H. Hegarty

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

Today, September 13

Welcome to a special Sunday to kickstart a fresh fall season as the church. Today we begin a new worship series anchoring us in the hope of God! We welcome the return of Chancel Choir with new Choir Director, Dr. Josh Neuenschwander! After worship: Sunday School children & Youth Group can register for this year! Plus, "church on a stick" with voting for activities you're interested in and ice cream bars.

VEAP Hygiene Product Drive | Continues through October 4, 2026

In 2025, we filled VEAP's empty hygiene product shelves and they were amazed, so we're doing it again. **Needed items are listed below, drop off through Oct. 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

Mission Project Evening | Friday, September 18, 4-7 pm

Socialize while we cut, sew, weave, crochet/knit, and otherwise work on items for Midwest Mission. Bring your own tools if you like. Do you prefer to work at home? There are patterns and instructions for knitting or crocheting baby sweaters and sewing bags or blankets available on the Midwest Mission bulletin board (near the restrooms). Talk with Jen Pacyga or Barb Rogers for details.

Meet Your Neighbors at Penn Fest | Next Sunday, September 20,12:00 pm-5:00 pm

In Richfield, Penn Avenue closes to cars and opens to pedestrians for a fun afternoon. There are booths hosted by businesses and organizations, including Richfield UMC! This is a great way to engage neighbors out in the community and share about our worship services, outreach ministry, events, and more. **See you at the Richfield UMC booth!**

Milestones & Miracles | September 27 in Worship

Your church wants to celebrate the special happenings in your life. In Milestones & Miracles, come on up to briefly share something special that's happened in the last few months, a birthday, anniversary, new job, retirement, or any significant milestone that brought your joy. Online worshipers can type yours in the comments and it will be read on your behalf. Let us celebrate the joy God brings in our everyday lives together!

***The Book Of Joy* Online Book Study | Tuesday evenings, Sept 29-Oct 27**

7:00 pm—8:15 pm, led by Gail Johnson. *The Book of Joy* is based on conversations with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. They offer real-life insights and practical tips for finding grounding and joy, even when life is hard. In this 5-week online study, we will talk about the content and how we can incorporate its message into our lives. Contact Gail Johnson at gailjohnson417@gmail.com for details or to get the link for the sessions.

Your Next Faithful Steps: Lunch for New People | Sun., Oct. 4, 10:45 am-12:00 pm

Please RSVP to Pastor Nate, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086
You've participated in worship. You've tried an event or book study. Now, you're ready to learn more about how you can put your faith in action through this new church. RSVP for a pizza lunch with others who are new and longtime members to get to know each other, share how you'd like to go deeper, and consider becoming a member.

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.

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 at 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
Class resumes this 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.

Night Owl Bible Study | Thursdays at 9:00 pm
Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799. Busy days? Up late at night? This is the Bible study for you. Open to All.

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)** 2026-2027 registration is today, September 13 after worship in the commons area. 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: Pat Noonan, Elizabeth Lambert Warling, Steve Warner, Pat Robertson, Dave Rogers, Pat Norton, Caroline Riley, Wes Mellgren, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, 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 13, 2026
Rally Sunday: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School & Youth Registration, & Church on a Stick

VEAP Hygiene Products Drive through Oct. 4

9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Youth Group Registration

Monday, September 14
1:30 pm Women Who Read
5:30 pm Parish Companion Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 16, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, September 17, 2026
5:15 pm Church & Society Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Friday, September 18, 2026
4:00-7:00 pm Mission Project Evening

Saturday, September 19, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, September 20, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
12:00-5:00 pm RUMC at Penn Fest

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 13 is Merry Rendahl.

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, Bea Melcher, TY Moore

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