RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 20, 2026 at 9:30 am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude	Meditation on "Blessed Assurance" Landon	Sonja Gustafson
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship*		Kate Currie

God hears the castoffs and downtrodden.
God will not abandon you.
God hears the oppressed and fearful.
God will not dismiss you.
God hears the beloved and the claimed.
God will not forget you.

Gathering Hymn* "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" UM Hymnal 64

1. **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
   Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
   Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,**
   casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
   cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
   which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,**
   though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
   only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
   perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
   All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
   Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Centering Prayer

Holy Lord God Almighty, we rejoice in your stalwart presence. You comfort the afflicted, reminding us no one goes through life alone. You afflict the comfortable, reminding us of our responsibility to our neighbor. May we claim you as you have claimed us. 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 "Order My Steps" Chancel Choir
arr. Jack Schrader

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Holy wisdom, holy words.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Does God see me?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Anchored in Hope" Worship Series 2 of 3

Responsive Hymn "For One Great Peace" TFWS Hymnal 2185
verse 2

2. **This pot I shape, this fire I light,**
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,
this child I raise, this earth I tend.

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 "Your Song" by Elton John Victor Zupanc

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*

Almighty God, you gave us your commandments and asked us to live according to your holy will. As part of your design for honorable living, we participate in this simple act of giving. We dedicate ourselves to living lives of honesty and peace. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Abide with Me" UM Hymnal 700
verses 1, 2, and 5

1. **Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;**
   the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
   When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
   Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. **Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;**
   earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
   change and decay in all around I see;
   O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

5. **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;**
   shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
   Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
   in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Benediction*

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

Postlude "Namaste" Victor Zupanc
by The Kennedys

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

Meet Your Neighbors at Penn Fest | Today,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!**

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

Milestones & Miracles | Next Sunday, 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. In this 5-week online study, we will talk about the content and how we can incorporate its message of real-life insights and practical tips for finding grounding and joy, even when life is hard. Contact Gail Johnson at gailjohnson417@gmail.com for details or to get the link for the sessions.

Youth Group First Thursdays of the Month | Fall Gatherings: **Oct. 1**, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

Youth group is moving to Thursday nights! We will be meeting for the first Thursdays of each month from 6:30-7:30 in the Grace room. Youth group is open to children grades 6th-12th, email Becca at bwhitaker@richfieldumc.org with questions.

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.

Kids Clothing & Halloween Costume Swap

RUMC is hosting a clothing and Halloween costume swap. Here is how it works:
October 4-9 (Sunday to Friday) people are invited to drop off gently-used and clean clothing, shoes, and Halloween costumes.
Friday, October 9, volunteers will sort donations by size and prepare for Saturday.
Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 am—12:00 pm, people are invited to come and take what they need.

Pub Theology | First Sundays, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm (in-person only)

Pizza Lucé (800 W 66th St, Richfield, MN) | Fall Gatherings: **Oct. 4**, Nov. 1, Dec. 6
Pub Theology returns for drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Our church is out in the community to connect across the generations. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

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:
October 5, Becoming Madame Secretary by Stephanie Dray

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; 2026-2027 Sunday School begins next Sunday, September 27. Sunday School is the second and fourth Sundays during worship time Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook.
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: Kirsten Klosinski, Pat Noonan, Elizabeth Lambert Warling, Pat Robertson, 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 20, 2026
VEAP Hygiene Products Drive continues through Oct. 4
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
12:00-5:00 pm RUMC at Penn Fest

Monday, September 21

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2026
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Friday, September 25, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Milestones & Miracles

VEAP Hygiene Products Drive continues through Oct. 4

9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Youth Field Trip

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 20 is Pat Norton.

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: Rev. Bill Johnson, Juan Nieves Lebrón, Michele Wegscheid

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Richfield United Methodist Church
5835 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls., MN 55419
612-861-6086 | richfieldumc.org | Facebook
Email List: richfieldumc.org/email | Give: richfieldumc.org/give
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