RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 27, 2026 at 9:30 am
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude	"Amazing Grace"	Katherine Harmelink Victor Zupanc
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher
Call to Worship*		Rev. Wayne Albertson

Some of us are the new kid on the block.
Some of us have been around the block and then some.
A few of us are greenhorns.
A few of us are no spring chickens.
From birth to death and all days in-between…
God sees us and values us all!

Gathering Hymn* "To God Be the Glory" UM Hymnal 98

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 [Creator] 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]
3. **Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,**
   and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
   but purer, and higher, and greater will be
   our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

Centering Prayer

Glorious God of All, we praise you with our whole hearts. You were with us when we had tremendous energy. You were with us when we wilted with fatigue. You are with us here and now, bidding that we lay our burdens before you. Anchor us, heal us, sustain us. May your glory shine forever. 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 "Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee"
by Charles Wesley

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading Joshua 14:6-15

Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him an honest report. But my companions who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, yet I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.' And now, as you see, the Lord has kept me alive, as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel was journeying through the wilderness, and here I am today, eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was on the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; it may be that the Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out, as the Lord said."

Then Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. So Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholeheartedly followed the Lord, the God of Israel. Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba; Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. And the land had rest from war.

Holy wisdom, holy words.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Do I still matter?" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Anchored in Hope" Worship Series 3 of 3

Responsive Hymn "For One Great Peace" T FWS Hymnal 2185
verse 3

3. **This check I write, this march I join,**
this faith I state, this truth I sign,
this is small part, in one small place,
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

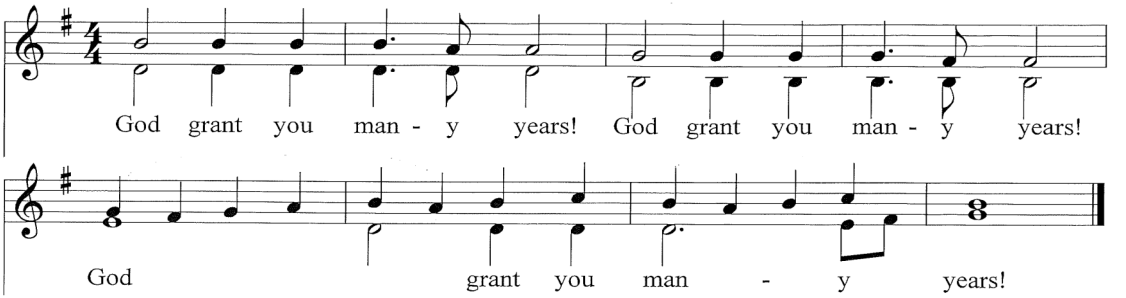
Prayers of the People

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.

Milestones and Miracles "God Grant You Many Years"
arr. by Steve Blons



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 "How Great Thou Art"
by Stuart K. Hine

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 Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these financial gifts into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Because He Lives" UM Hymnal 364

1. **God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;**
   he came to love, heal, and forgive;
   he lived and died to buy my pardon,
   an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain: **Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;**
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because he lives.

2. **How sweet to hold a newborn baby,**
   and feel the pride and the joy he gives;
   but greater still the calm assurance,
   this child can face uncertain days because he Lives. [Refrain]

3. **And then one day I'll cross the river;**
   I'll fight life's final war with pain;
   and then as death gives way to victory,
   I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. [Refrain]

Benediction*

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

Postlude "Best to Enter My House"
by Victor Zupanc

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

Milestones & Miracles | Today 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!

Beginning this Tuesday, Sept. 29
***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.

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

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

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:
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.

Thursdays, 9:00 pm | Night Owl Bible Study
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

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-5)** 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, Pat Robertson, Caroline Riley, Wes Mellgren, Nathan, son of Dorothy Holland, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, 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 27, 2026
Milestones & Miracles

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

Monday, September 28

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
3:00 pm Committee on Enhancing Connections and Building Community

Thursday, October 01, 2026
6:00 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study

Friday, October 02, 2026

Saturday, October 03, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, October 04, 2026
VEAP Hygiene Products Drive concludes

Children's Clothes, Shoes, and Halloween Costume Collection through October 9

9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Lunch for New People
7:00 pm Pub Theology

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 27 is Kate Currie.

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, Bea Melcher, TY Moore

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