RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 18, 2026 at 9:30 am
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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

ENTRANCE

Prelude	"Alice in Wonderland" by Sammy Fain	Victor Zupanc
Welcome		Rev. Nate Melcher

Gathering Hymn* "Spirit of God" TFWS Hymnal 2117
verses 1, 2, and 5

1. **Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,**
blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

2. **Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,**
healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace, captives will find release,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

5. **Spirit of God, in all, we gladly hear your call,**
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Centering 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.

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.

Celebrating God's Mission Fall Donation Drive Results

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 "Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading John 14:1-6a, 15-17, 25-27 Jen Pacyga

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life..."

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask God, and our Creator will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees nor knows it. You know this truth because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you."

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "God is ahead of us." Rev. Nate Melcher
"God's Mission, God's People" Worship Series 3 of 4

Sharing Our Stories Brad Gardner

Responsive Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" UM Hymnal 117
verse 3

3. **Before the hills in order stood,**
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

Thanking God's People Pastoral Care and Funeral Volunteers

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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" Sonja Gustafson
arr. David Hegarty

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/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* "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" UM Hymnal 465

1. **Holy Spirit, Truth divine,**
   dawn upon this soul of mine;
   Word of God and inward light,
   wake my spirit, clear my sight.

2. **Holy Spirit, Love divine,**
   glow within this heart of mine;
   kindle every high desire;
   perish self in thy pure fire.

3. **Holy Spirit, Power divine,**
   fill and nerve this will of mine;
   grant that I may strongly live,
   bravely bear, and nobly strive.

4. **Holy Spirit, Right divine,**
   King within my conscience reign;
   be my Lord, and I shall be
   firmly bound, forever free.

Benediction*

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

Postlude Toccata
Marius Monnikendam

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.

Announcements

Next Sunday, October 25 | Commitment Sunday
You should have received your Annual Giving Commitment packet last Sunday or in the mail this past week. Please prayerfully complete the commitment sheet and bring it to worship for Commitment Sunday, next Sunday, October 25 or mail it to the church. If you did not receive a packet, please see an usher. Together, our generosity ensures that this church can thrive not only for those who call this church their home but for those who come to us seeking connection, grace, and love.

Charge Conference Scheduled
There is a Charge Conference at Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431) next Sunday, Oct. 25 at 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm to approve clergy compensation for 2027. Ad Board members have voice and vote. Church members may attend and per Annual Conference instructions should please RSVP with Pastor Nate (nmelcher@richfieldumc.org, 612-861-6086) in advance, thank you.

Reminder: On Sunday, November 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends: Move Clocks Back One Hour

Craft and Vendor Fair | Saturday November 7, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Get a jump on your holiday shopping and support local businesses. Please spread the word and contact Toni Locke at toni@ggrreegg.com or 612-8409797 with any questions.

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together
Program: *Travels to the Mediterranean,* with Pastor Nate
Date: Tuesday, November 10, program from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, with tasty Mediterranean treats to follow
Cost: $10.00 for program and food
RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or call the church office by Sunday, November 8
Come hear Pastor Nate share stories, history, and photos from his family's recent trip to the Mediterranean this summer. Experience the science and spiritual wonder of the total solar eclipse. See the spectacle of cathedrals where human ingenuity meets God's majesty. Learn about Roman ruins dating to the time of Jesus, island settlements from the Bronze and Iron Ages, and prehistoric cave paintings from 27,000 years ago. This special presentation will leave us feeling deep wonder and awe, humility, and a powerful sense of connection to the vast universe.

Note: Date change for the December Time for LIFE Program. The new date is Tuesday, December 15, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, with a special holiday dessert to follow

Coffee with the Pastor
Sign up at calendly.com/natemelcher
Pastor Nate is meeting with church members like you to catch-up, reconnect, and pray. Sign up with the calendar link (if you cannot go online, please call the office) for a meeting. Let's have a great cup of coffee and connect!

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:
November 2, The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

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!
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 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)** 2nd & 4th 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: Barb Rogers, Kirsten Klosinski, Pat Noonan, Pat Robertson, Caroline Riley, 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, October 18, 2026
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
Monday, October 19, 2026
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Church Office Closed
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Church Office Closed
9:00 am Men's Bible Study
Thursday, October 22, 2026
Church Office Closed
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 pm Night Owl Bible Study
Friday, October 23, 2026
Saturday, October 24, 2026
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group
Sunday, October 25, 2026
Commitment Sunday
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class
4:00 pm Charge Conference at Hillcrest UMC

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 October 18 is Gretta Thorson.

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, Rev. Bill Johnson, Josh Neuenschwander, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc
Tech Crew today: Rev. Bill Johnson, TY Moore, Michele Wegscheid

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.