

Ash Creek & Richland Center
United Methodist Churches
A Community of Faith
“Practicing Hope”
13th Sunday after Pentecost: August 23, 2026



The mission of the RC-UMC, as a community of faith, is to share the Gospel and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**This mark invites those who are able to please stand.
If you have a prayer concern or a joy to share, please write it down on the buff-colored paper found in the pew and place it in the offering place. Thank you.*

PRELUDE
WELCOMING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
L: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?
P: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.
L: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?
P: God shows us through the midwives’ daring, Peter’s truth-telling, and Jesus’ humility.
L: In a world where power is held over people’s heads, how does God exercise power?
P: God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.

L: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?
P: We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN:** “Children of the Heavenly Father” 141

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)
O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe, you set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect ourselves. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them. Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of your purposes. Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives. May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. Amen.

MOMENT FOR CENTERING AND PRESENCE

MINI-MESSAGE (for Children of All Ages)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING
***DOXOLOGY** 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**
Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not only with our lips, but with our whole lives, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

1st READING: Exodus 1:8-2:10 (NRSV)

2nd READING: Matthew 16:13-20 (CEB)

MESSAGE Pastor Mitch

***HYMN:** “The Church’s One Foundation” 545
vs. 1,3,5

JOYS AND CONCERNS
Pastoral Prayer
Lord’s Prayer 895

***HYMN:** “Deep In the Shadows” 2246
Faith We Sing (black book)

***BENEDICTION**

Richland Center UMC:
Hymn Leaders: David Brock, Connie Frye,
Rosanne Knowler, Kathy Schweinefus

Liturgist: Diane Cox
Organist/Pianist: Jennifer Hall
Scripture Reader: Diane Cox
Sound System: Joan Wheeler
Coffee Hour Next Week: Jeff & Sandy Brice

Upcoming Worship Servers:
Aug. 30th Connie Frye Russ Shannon
Sept. 6th Bonnie Richardson Bonnie Richardson
Sept. 13th Russ Shannon Russ Shannon
Sept. 20th Paul Murphey Paul Murphey

Ash Creek UMC:
For August
Liturgist/Scripture Reader: Jerry Sims

Prayer: God of hidden strength, thank you for working through small acts of courage and quiet faith. Teach us to trust that no act of kindness or prayer is wasted in your kingdom. Amen.

This Week's Events:

- 23 **Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. – AC**
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. – RC
- 27 Pastor on Vacation
Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library - RC

Upcoming Events:

- 30 Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. - RC
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. - RC
- 01 School starts today
Mission's Mtg: 2:30 p.m. – Library – RC
- 03 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library - RC



TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY
HOST

Many thanks to Dave & Jennifer Foley
for hosting coffee hour today.



**Pastor Mitch will be on vacation from
August 27th through September 3rd.
Beth Huebner will be preaching at
both churches on the 30th.**



Sunday school will start on September 20th.



Our worship time is changing!

Starting September 13th, our worship
time will be 10:15 a.m.

Sunday school will begin on September
20th at 10:30 a.m.

Please make a note of these changes. Thank you.

Ash Creek & Richland Center United Methodist Churches

Pastor: Mitch Richards

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-561-3050

Pastor's Email: mitchrichards64@gmail.com

Pastor in school Mondays

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday

Pastor's Days off: Friday-Saturday

AC-UMC: 28820 Henry Clark Lane

RC-UMC: 400 E. Seminary St

AC-UMC Office: 608-647-3070

Secretary: Joan Wheeler

Treasurer: Kay Ziegman

Financial Secretary: Donna Sims

Custodian: Cindy Deckert

AC & RC-UMC Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

RC-UMC Office: 608-647-3203

RC-UMC Email: trinityumc@mwt.net

RC-UMC Website: www.rc.umc.org

Or: <https://rc-umc.org>

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse

Custodian: Desiree Beik

RC August Birthdays

Ross Nelson	8/23
Jeff Brice	8/24
Rosie Steinmetz	8/24

AC August Birthdays

Will Gher	8/25
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RC August Anniversaries

Ryan & Jaleesa Bee	8/28</
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SCHOOL SUPPLIES

NEW ITEMS ONLY

RC-UMC Mission's Committee has decided to help the area schools with school supplies this year as part of our mission project for July & August. We will be sending the school supplies to the Richland Center Elementary and Intermediate Schools and St. Mary's. Would you like to help give to those children who cannot afford to purchase the needed supplies?

Below is a specific list of supplies needed for all grades.

- ◆ spiral notebooks (wide lined)
- ◆ pencils #2 (no mechanical pencils)
- ◆ crayons – 24-count only
- ◆ colored pencils
- ◆ dry erase markers
- ◆ markers
- ◆ glue sticks or Elmer's glue
- ◆ folders
- ◆ ruler
- ◆ scissors – blunt end
- ◆ large eraser
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ pencil box or pouch
- ◆ hand sanitizer

Quite a few of our teachers end up buying school items for the children that cannot afford them. Hardships arise from all sorts of things: no job or very little money coming in, perhaps quite a few school age children for one family to buy for. Let's help out if you can and purchase some school supplies.

**There is a tub in the Narthex labeled "School Supplies".
August 30th last day.**



August 2026 Mission Focus

The August mission focus will be the **RC-UMC "Wish List" Fund**. Please use your regular offering envelopes, write checks to Richland Center United Methodist Church, and note on your check and envelope "Wish List Fund" to assist our counters to credit properly your giving account. As usual, please prioritize your regular giving before considering an honor gift to this month's internal missions' project. Please see your August News From the Center for more details regarding this month's internal missions' project.



Kwik Trip cards make great gifts. We have two varieties to choose from. One is grocery only; the other is a gift card good for gas and groceries. Both are worth \$25.00. Please see Nancy McCauley to purchase. This is a Mission's project.



Please make sure to give to the Food Pantry. They are in need of our non-perishable food donations.

Please no outdated food items. Thank you.



We still need someone to sign up for Coffee Hour on September 6th. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.