

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



MARCH
2026

A Letter from the Trustees

*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

Inside this issue:

<i>Ronda's Remarks</i>	2
<i>Music at NCC</i>	4
<i>Mission Connections</i>	4
<i>Sanctuary Design</i>	4
<i>The Church Family</i>	5
<i>Office Notes</i>	5

Dear Friends of NCC,

We have been exploring the possibility of a major renovation of our sanctuary and adjacent spaces for over three years. We feel that now is the proper time to bring these plans to fruition.

The main purpose of this project is to create a more intimate space for worship. It will offer better temperature control, a modern audio/visual system, and more functional and safer choir loft. It will be warmer, brighter, more attractive, and more welcoming to visitors.

In addition to the sanctuary, there are other upgrades included within this initiative that will bring our church up to the standards we have come to expect. A detailed list of these improvements have been included with this letter.

The preliminary cost estimate is \$700,000. A generous donation from the Garard family covering 35% of these costs has given us the impetus to undertake this project now. We invite you to join us in supporting this important, much-needed effort. The attached donation card requests that you prayerfully consider a contribution over a two-year period.

Our plan calls for a construction start this June with completion in the fall 2026.

We are excited about this renovation and are encouraged by the positive feedback we have already received. We hope you support this plan with enthusiasm and commitment. We will outline the details, present images of the finished space, and answer questions you may have at an informational meeting after each of the worship services on Sunday, March 1, 2026

Sincerely,
NCC Board of Trustees

Ronda's Remarks— Ronda Bower

“Try to be like the turtle – at ease in your own shell.” – Bill Copeland

“Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.” - James Bryant Conant

Since I was very young, I was fascinated by turtles and tortoises. I love the beauty of their shells and the wisdom in their faces. I love watching them stretch out on a rock to catch the warmth of the sun. I also love to see them move, from the cumbersome, slow walk of tortoise carrying the weight of their huge shells to a turtle gliding in the water. I also enjoy quotes about turtles like the two above. Turtles can teach us many things.

When I was in elementary school my parents bought my brother and I little turtles, about the size of a quarter, that lived in a small clear plastic container that held water and a little plastic island with a green plastic palm tree that the turtles could get on to get out of the water. Some of you older adults, like me, might remember those plastic containers with the palm tree. The turtles didn't last long with one left out and not being found for a long while and another who met a curious cat. Oh well...

About 28 years ago I happened upon a man selling little red-ear slider turtles, about the size of a quarter in little plastic containers with green plastic palm trees along the road. I am sure he was trying to hit up all the Florida tourists driving by. I stopped and soon a little red-eared slider was sitting in the car beside me, whom I had already named Zippy. I researched turtle care (no Google back then unfortunately) and Zippy quickly moved into a small tank which was cat proof. Through the years, Zippy has grown and his homes have gotten larger. His shell is now about the size of a saucer. Zippy moved to Chicago with me, sitting in a box next to me in the U-Haul truck. Zippy is silly and entertaining, plays hide and seek as he follows me from side to side in his tank. Zippy has lived with me longer than any other living thing and has taught me many lessons.

You are probably why all the rambling about a turtle. As sad as it makes me, as I am making plans to move to Orlando in August to be with my children and grandchildren, I have come to realize that Zippy might need to find a new home. Apartment complexes that I have looked at only allow aquariums up to 5 gallons and no more than 2 pets. I also wonder how well Zippy would move again at his age though red-eared sliders can live up to 40 years in captivity. I also wonder how I can handle moving with 2 cats and a turtle.

So, if you would like to adopt a cute red-eared slider turtle, or if you know of someone who might like a new pet turtle, please let me know.

Zippy the Turtle will bring you smiles and teach you some turtle lessons.

Take care and may you always be comfortable and at ease in your own shell.

Thank you to...

- Kellie Cunningham, Janet Jesse, Jenny Jordan, and Carma Pagni who helped lead Sunday school in February .
- NCC's group of volunteers who went to Feed My Starving Children and helped make the difference in the life of children in Haiti.
- all those who brought in white elephant gifts for Bingo Night.
- Bingo Night's wonderful Bingo callers: Lindsay Hernandez, Matt Reed, and Robert Scarola



Zippy

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

March events at NCC:

SANCTUARY REFRESHMENT MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 1 AFTER BOTH SERVICES

On Sunday, March 1st, after both services, the Trustees will provide a brief presentation to the congregation of the plans, latest renderings, tasks initiated, and overall project status for our Sanctuary and facilities refresh effort. Please join for an update on this exciting project that will enhance the beauty and functionality of our church.

YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT FRIDAY, MARCH 6 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Teens, grades 7-12, join in the best night of best night of the week: Game Night, Friday, March 6 from 6-9 p.m. We will have fun challenges, yummy snacks, and lots of fun! Bring your best game face, and a friend! Can't wait to see you there!

TEEN COFFEE TIME SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 10:30-11:30 A.M. IN THE YOUTH ROOM

Each second Sunday of the month teens, grades 7-12, are invited to stop by the youth room after the 9:30 worship service for donuts, friends, and fun.

MESSY CHURCH "THIS ZOO IS NOT FOR YOU" SUNDAY, MARCH 8 4:30-6:30 P.M.



Join in the fun as all ages explore the feeling of belonging together with activities like panda donuts, flamingo ring toss, platypus bookmarks, elephant trunk game, tiger tail tag, kazoos, gobstopper colors, and more; and also, a fun, active worship and delicious dinner. The mission activity is assembling Easter baskets for the Northfield Township Food Bank.

Bring neighbors and friends. Don't miss the fun. Everyone is welcome!

DO-NUTS, DO-KNOTS BLANKET TYING PARTY SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 9:30 A.M. and SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 11:30 A.M.

Everyone is invited to a Donut and Fleece Blanket Tying Party for Project Linus. Come one day or come to both days! No experience is necessary. Enjoy donuts, friends, and helping others. Fleece material will be provided, but you can bring fabric scissors if you have them. Activities will be available for those too young to tie.

Also in March:

Every Tuesday – Chair Yoga with Molly Lu at NCC. Chair yoga focuses on moving the body with awareness, reduction stress, and supporting physical and mental well-being in a safe, supportive way. Cost: \$10/class or \$20 for 4 classes. Questions? Molld615@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Group – The first and third Fridays of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor – March 6th and 20th. All are invited to knit or crochet, those who need to learn, beginners, or experienced knitters and crocheters. Or you can make prayer shawls at home. Questions: contact Ronda Bower in the church office.

Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

Mark Your Calendars!

The month of April will bring several wonderful musical events for our NCC congregation (and the surrounding area)! The NCC music ministry has two concert presentations to share with the community.



Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*

Join us for a concert presentation of Pergolesi's timeless and stunning masterwork, *Stabat Mater*, **at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19**, at Northfield Community Church. This performance will feature NCC's staff singers joined by the Elsinore String Quartet, conducted by NCC music director, Tim Lambert. You won't want to miss this beautiful concert! Free and open to the public.

Laurent Jochum Organ Recital

French organist Laurent Jochum will be presenting an organ recital at Northfield Community Church on **Tuesday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.** Laurent is the organist at the Saint Jean Baptiste Church in Paris. A frequent recitalist and touring performer, he has won many competitions and awards, including the International Organ Competition and the Angers Inter-Conservatory Grand Organ Award. Learn more about Laurent and his work at <https://www.laurentjochum.fr>. This concert is free and open to the public

Mission Connections

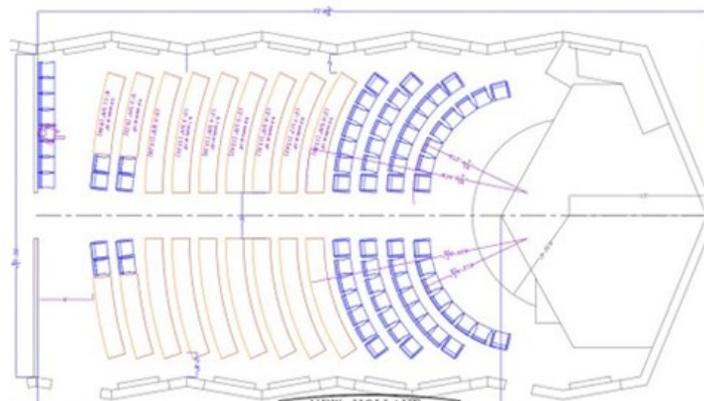


In this time of need, "Let us not grow weary of doing what is good." Please remember when you are out doing your grocery shopping to also pick up non-perishable food items for **Northfield Township Food Pantry**. You can bring the food items to church and place in the baskets in the garden room and narthex. Thank you!

Sanctuary and Facilities Design Team

While the Capital Campaign has not yet gotten underway, a Sanctuary and Facilities Design Team has been appointed by the Church Council. The Team is tasked with selection of flooring, stain, upholstery, lighting and furnishings for the sanctuary and surrounding areas. Jennifer Andrew, a member of the Board of Trustees and an architect, is the key resource person. She, along with David DeHorn, Kevin Trimpe and the Board of Trustees are tasked with overseeing construction and finance components to the project. The Design Team has begun to meet and will keep the congregation up-to-date on their progress. **The Board of Trustees is hosting a Q&A session on March 1st.** Members of the Design Team are:

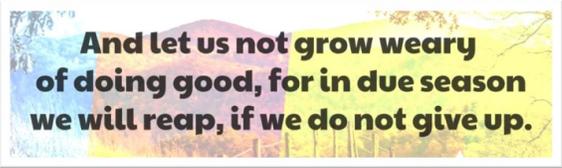
Jennifer Andrew
Tracey Buchman
David DeHorn
Sarah Hayes
Loretta Kaplan
Kevin Trimpe
Duayne Meyer, Ex-Officio



The Church Family

Prayers are offered for those who have been hospitalized or are being cared for at home or Assisted Living. At Home: Rick Connor, Steven Evenstad, Eugene Hertelendy, Judy Hertelendy, Lois Katarski, David Otis, Ray Scott and Ginny Tips.

In the Hospital or Assisted Living: Eiko Fricke, Jim Goettsche, Ray Kennedy, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Nancy Puls, Bob Snyder, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.



**And let us not grow weary
of doing good, for in due season
we will reap, if we do not give up.**

Interested in joining an NCC Board or Committee? It is a great way to “not become weary in doing good.” We will be electing and installing Board members at the Congregational Meeting on May 14th and are looking for new members. You can speak to any of our current Board members (see below) about the details! They can fill you in on the work of any of the boards. **We need your help and the time commitment in most cases is small.**

Deacons/Ushers: Jeff Jordan

Missions: Bill McKinley

Christian Education: Janet Jesse

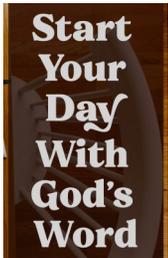
Memorials: Tracey Buchman

Trustees: Kevin Trimpe

Music: Helen Raymaker

Relevant Bible Study at Northfield Community Church

Relevant Bible Study meets in the library on **Saturday mornings at 8:30am**. This is an informal Bible study with no particular curriculum, which has been meeting for more than 20 years. It is open to anyone who is curious about how the Bible relates to his or her personal life and the modern world in general. We normally focus on a particular book of the Bible at a time, but the discussions are wide ranging and there is no set pace or schedule. Participants are encouraged to ask questions, compare translations, and express their thoughts and experiences and how the Bible story fits into lives today. Newcomers are welcome to join this group any time. If you're interested or even just curious contact Lea Jones, ljones@northfielducc.org.



**Start
Your
Day
With
God's
Word**

Office Notes

Did you know there are many ways to gift to NCC? Besides regular offerings or cash donations, there are strategies that can potentially limit your tax burden and aid in your estate planning. For example, you may be able to donate a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution directly to our church. We can also accept appreciated stock as a donation, instead of having to sell out and create a taxable event. In addition, NCC could be named as a beneficiary for your accounts to carry on its mission through your legacy some day. To discuss these strategies or hear more information, please reach out to Sam McGuire at (248) 497-1939 or email sam.mcguire@jpmorgan.com.

We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:

Sue Golden for delivering food donations to the Northfield Township Food Pantry.

Claudia Andrew, Mia Andrew, Margaret Weber, Bill McKinley, Vijay Johnson, Kelly Jordan, Lea Jones, and Rob Orr for serving as worship service livestream techs.

The submission deadline for the **April Window** newsletter is **March 20th**.

Volunteer(s) Needed to assemble the Window newsletter. Once a month we need help with assembling the newsletter which includes affixing the address labels, the disks the hold the letter together and the postage stamps. Please contact **Lea Jones**, ljones@northfielducc.org, if you're able to help. **Thanks!**

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH
400 WAGNER ROAD
NORTHFIELD, IL 60093-2922
Address Correction Requested

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

March Events

- Mar 1st** Sanctuary Refreshment Discussions
- Mar 1st** Confirmation Class
- Mar 6th** A Just Harvest
- Mar 6th** Teen Game Night
- Mar 8th** Messy Church
- Mar 10th** Board of Christian Education
- Mar 12th** Mission Board
- Mar 14th** Donuts and Blanket Tying Party (part 1)
- Mar 15th** Donuts and Blanket Tying Party (part 2)
- Mar 17th** **Election Day**
- Mar 19th** Partners in Christ
- Mar 19th** Board of Trustees
- Mar 20th** **Window Newsletter Deadline**
- Mar 23rd** Church Council
- Mar 29th** **Palm Sunday**



The Church Staff

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| All of the members of NCC | Ministers |
| Steve Ash | Business Manager |
| Eileen Baumgarten | Organist |
| Ronda Bower | Pastoral Associate of Family & Educational Ministry |
| Lea Jones | Office/IT Manager |
| Tim Lambert | Music Director |
| Duayne R. Meyer | Senior Pastor |
| Don Minnick | Pastor Emeritus |
| Sarah Paige | Director of Youth Ministry |

