

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community



APRIL
2026

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

“Everybody Walks With a Limp”

“Everybody walks with a limp.” He went on, “Sometimes others can see our disability and need but most of the time they can’t.”

I was a young, just-out-of-seminary, pastor who had accepted a call to large church. Demands I mostly take in stride now, were weighty to me back then. It would take some years to live into the yoke Jesus referred to as “easy and light.” Much of the time I felt over-matched by the nature and quantity of the demands I felt were being placed on me. The good counsel and support of family, and of sisters and brothers in the faith, lightened the load. But, even trusted family and friends, can only do so much to ease one’s burden.

The strain caught up with me one Monday morning just a week or so before my 28th birthday when I found myself physically unable to get out of bed; I was paralyzed from the waist down. My doctor, whose office was a block from the parsonage, came over as soon as he could. After a thorough looking over, he concluded I had a slipped disc and had aggravated and inflamed various nerves, tendons and ligaments. He prescribed muscle relaxants to help get me on my feet and moving again. PT and a variety of exercises and lifestyle changes followed.

In my follow up visit the next week, sitting in our living room, the young doctor said, “you know, this isn’t just a result of physical strain, this is your body reacting to your mental and emotional state. The stress you are feeling located itself in a place it could force you to stop and assess what is going on in your life. As a pastor, part of your job is to model for the rest of us emotional and spiritual health and self-care.”

And that is when he said, “everybody walks with a limp, sometimes others can see our disability and need but most of the time they can’t.” I understood him to mean that my attempts to be stoic, and to act self-sufficient, weren’t just costing me my health but I was also missing an opportunity to bear witness in my life and ministry by asking for help while admitting the limits of my abilities.

I bring this up for a couple reasons: first, not quite two weeks post-op after undergoing a total knee replacement, my limp is pretty obvious. It’s not only a limp, it is also the subsequent pain felt with each step taken. The pain is subsiding but I suspect the limp will be with me a while longer. As we said, “sometimes others can see our disability and need.”

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*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)— Duayne Meyer

Secondly, the acknowledgment that all of us carry our brokenness and need – visible and invisible – seems a thoroughly appropriate idea as we come to the end of Lent. We admit wherever we go, or how things may seem to others, we have burdens we bear, and sometimes we cannot bear up under the weight of them all. As Christians, we acknowledge this, not to wallow in what weighs us down, but rather hoping such honesty might open us to be more compassionate in our dealings with others and with ourselves, and is catalytic in moving us toward transformation or, as Jesus put it, “new life” in him. Part of the genius of the Christian walk is that our brokenness and need – when placed before the cross and in God’s hands - can be sources of healing for others and for us. After all, we proclaim to the world that the Savior of the world is a wounded healer.

I am hopeful that in a few more weeks I will no longer be bobbing around church and home with a cane in my hand, walking with a limp. The doctors and physical therapists assure me that, in due time, the pain will subside; I’ll get back my old gait.

But there’s part of me that hopes my walk will look a little different from now on, that I’ll take for granted a little less the pleasure of a walk in the park with Beth, a quick jog down the hall to get to a church meeting on time or holding one of my grandchildren’s hands while on the move with them.

This Lent I would like to learn to walk less disguised and more authentically, even gratefully, trusting in the one who has been walking with me all along – limp and no limp. ~ Duayne

Ronda’s Remarks— Ronda Bower

“For we are God’s masterpiece. God has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things God planned for us long ago.” - Ephesians 2:10

Erma Bombeck said, “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’” God blessed us each with different talents. Sometimes it is easier to see the talents we don’t have than the ones we do have. Psalm 139 says, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” We are all God’s wonderful creations, God’s masterpieces, wonderfully made. We all have talents, some more visible than others, but all given by God to be used to share God’s joy, love, justice, and peace in the world. What are your talents? If you have a hard time seeing them, ask someone who loves you. I find it easier to see the wonderful talents in others, than in myself.

Let’s have fun sharing those talents, no matter what they are. Friday, April 24, the Board of Christian Education is inviting you all to one more “Tacos and Talents” where we can celebrate everyone’s talent ... and eat... and have fun! Find out more look below in the April activities.

Thank you to:

- all the volunteers who helped March’s Messy Church “No Room at the Zoo for You”.
- all who donated money and items, and those who came and put together 92 Easter Baskets at March’s Messy Church for the Northfield Township Food Pantry.
- all who donated money and fleece material, and those who cut, tied, and completed 24 fleece blankets on March 14th and 15th for Project Linus.
- Jen Andrew, Josh and Tracey Buchman, Janet Jesse, Carma Pagni, and Carolyn Wiggins for assisting in leading the March Sunday school classes.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

April Events at NCC As We Walk Continue to Through the Season Of Lent and Easter:

Good Friday Meal and Worship - Friday, April 3

6:00 p.m.—Break bread together with a delicious pasta and salad dinner with thoughts and scripture of Maundy Thursday/The Last Supper.

7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

A solemn and sacred service of scripture narratives, hymns, and lighting reflecting on Christ's journey to the cross



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5 CELEBRATE THE JOY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION!

9:30 am – Chapel Worship and Praise

10:30 am – Spirited Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Receptions after both services in the fellowship hall, hosted by the Memorials Committee.

During each service the children will begin in worship, then are invited to join in an **Easter Adventure** in the Sunday school rooms or outside, depending on weather.

TEEN ACTIVITIES

♦ Escape Room Event Saturday, April 11th, 7-9 pm

♦ Coffee Time Sunday, April 12th, 10:30-11:30 am 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 – FORGIVENESS IN ACTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 4:30 P.M. Everyone, all ages invited!

Forgiveness is not always easy, but very important to all of us. Join in the exploration of the importance of forgiveness with a s'mores snack, string handcuffs puzzle, heart bird feeder, puzzle scavenger hunt, heart tie pillows, paper beads, broken heart balloon game, and more. Plus, there will be a delicious dinner and a celebration worship featuring NCC's Jim Hutten with a lively musical instruments vocalization activity with everyone playing a part.



Mission: Pop up heart cards for NCC's homebound.

Come and laugh, have fun, and celebrate together. Invite others to come & enjoy the celebration.

NCC's Board of Christian Education brings you one more...

“NCC'S TACOS AND TALENTS” – DINNER AND A TALENT SHOW

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

What's for dinner? A delicious taco bar. *What should you bring?* Bring your talent...

Do you have a performance talent? Singing, dancing, telling jokes, magic, balance a spoon on your nose?

Come and share it (3 minute time limit, you bring props).

God gave everyone talents, though not everyone has a performance talent.

So, do you paint, knit, cross stitch, write poems, etc.? Tables will be set up to display your talent.

Is your talent cooking, baking, organizing, decorating, welcoming others? Please use your talents to help plan, organize, and run this event. Is your talent encouragement, cheerleading, supporting others? What an audience of support you will bring! Any talent missed? We need you too!

Think about what you can add with your God given talent to make this the best Talent Show ever. There will be sign up boards at church and on-line sign ups beginning Sunday, April 5 so be ready to sign up your talent. Guests are always welcome. (Maybe inviting people is your talent.)

Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

The month of April brings 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

EASTER OFFERING

The war in Ukraine has entered its **fifth year** following the full-scale invasion that began on February 24, 2022. Our Easter Offering this year will again go to Scholar Leaders to support their efforts to help the people in Ukraine. Christopher Hays, the CEO of Scholar Leaders will join us Sunday May 10th as a guest preacher and will provide, among other things, an update on their efforts there. Here are a few stats to put the human and economic toll in perspective:

Casualties: Estimates for combined military and civilian deaths and injuries have surpassed **1.5 million**; recent reports indicate over 15,000 civilians have been killed and 41,000 injured.

Displacement: Over **10 million** people remain displaced, including nearly 7 million internally and 3.7 million as refugees abroad.

Infrastructure: 14% of all housing in the country has been damaged or destroyed.

Reconstruction: The World Bank currently estimates the total cost for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction at approximately **\$588 billion** over the next decade.



Facilities Refresh Capital Campaign

The long awaited Facilities Refresh is underway! This is an exciting time in the life of NCC. Our church is vital and growing. The Trustees have been hard at work planning repairs, improvements, and upgrades that will make our worship space more flexible and up-to-date while maintaining the sense of worshipfulness. A sanctuary in good repair means that future church leaders can focus on other aspects of ministry and mission that are timely and important. We will be more accommodating to our members and friends with mobility issues. Our outreach ministry will be stronger with better live-streaming options and improved audio. We are fortunate that Stan Xidas is our general contractor. His expertise and his love for NCC insure this project will be completed with all the care it deserves.

Our participation is coming up! Soon you will receive information about the capital campaign and the opportunity to pledge your support to the future of NCC. Your church council leaders and trustees have all made their pledges. We are accepting leadership gifts. On **Sunday, April 19 following both services**, Trustees will be in Fellowship Hall to answer your questions and explain the exciting improvements we will be experiencing. Light refreshments will be served. Plan on attending one of these enlightening sessions.

The Church Family

We mourn the passing of John Hultman. John passed away on March 15th. Please keep Wilma and the family in your prayers. Memorial service plans are pending.

On March 8th, NCC welcomed new members!

Michael Liddy and Whitney Liddy and their children Bennett, Wesley, and Evelyn.

Matt Reed and Megan Reed and their children Ryan and Bryn.

Robert Scarola and Dara Scarola



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, 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.

Office Notes

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

Christian Education: Janet Jesse

Trustees: Kevin Trimpe

Partners in Christ: Nancy Hyczyk

Missions: Bill McKinley

Memorials: Tracey Buchman

Music: Helen Raymaker

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 **May Window** newsletter is **April 20th**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

April Events

- Apr 3rd** A Just Harvest
Good Friday Meal
Tenebrae Service
- Apr 5th** **Easter**
- Apr 9th** Mission Board
- Apr 11th** Teen Night Escape Room
- Apr 12th** Messy Church
- Apr 14th** Board of Christian Education
- Apr 16th** Partners in Christ
- Apr 19th** Facilities Refresh Conversations
Stabat Mater Concert
- Apr 20th** *Window Newsletter Deadline*
- Apr 21th** Board of Trustees
- Apr 24th** Tacos and Talent
- Apr 27th** Church Council
- Apr 28th** Laurent Jochum
Organ Recital





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 |



Northfield Community Church

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org			1	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am A Just Harvest 6:00pm Good Friday Dinner 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	4 8:30am Relevant Bible Study		
								
5 Easter Sunday 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:45am Easter Adventure Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Easter Adventure Sunday School	6	7 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	8	9 12:00pm CMA COM meeting 7:00pm Mission Board	10	11 7:00pm Teen Night Escape Room		
12 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship and Praise 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Teen Coffee Hour 10:30am Traditional Worship 4:30pm Messy Church	13	14 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	15	16 10:00am Partners In Christ	17 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group	18		
		19 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Facilities Refresh Info Mtg 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 11:30am Facilities Refresh Info Mtg 5:00pm Concert: Stabat Mater	20 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	22	23	24 6:30pm Tacos and Talents	25
26 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	27 7:00pm Church Council	28 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 2:00pm Laurent Jochum Organ Recital	29	30				