



Looking Over the Pulpit—Duayne Meyer

“The future ain’t what it used to be.”

AUGUST
2025

Welcome
one
another

Inside this issue:

Ronda’s
Remarks 2

Mission
Connections 4

The Church
Family 5

Office
Notes 5

Here is what Google Gemini AI says about this phrase attributed to New York Yankees baseball great, Yogi Berra: “In essence, the phrase ‘The future ain’t what it used to be’ captures a common human sentiment of uncertainty and change as we navigate an increasingly complex and unpredictable world.”

There it is in a nutshell. And, just for the record, this pastor’s article has been written by me with my regular, though limited, human intelligence and not by the artificial kind. Technology aside, when it comes to many people and things, the present looks a lot like at least the recent past.

I have a friend who works for a local management company. One of her duties includes sending out contractual agreements. Most of the documents she creates are fairly boiler plate, so she communicates almost exclusively via text and email. There is little personal interaction involved with this part of her work. One person recently accused her of being a “chat-bot,” rather than a human. My friend is more amused than bothered by the accusation. Forget being smarter than a fifth grader, who wouldn’t want to be as smart as artificial intelligence!

The future may not be what it used to be, but one thing about human beings is pretty much like it has always been: we like to gin up things without the benefit of factual information or data and then spread misinformation like Johnny Appleseed. We point fingers and blame others for our difficulties. The future seems destined to be, as the past has been, fraught with conspiracy theories, grudges, overt and covert biases and just general paranoia and ill will. The human race may be getting smarter (by smarter I mean we have more – and conflicting - information available to us) but we do not seem much brighter, wiser or better. And certainly we are not, as a human race, kinder or more humane. Not by a long shot.

Information – artificial or otherwise - is not a replacement for decency, community and basic civility. Without these, information and intelligence are weapons in our bloodied hands. I once thought – as many liberal Christians did, and some still do – that a lack of knowing is at the heart of our difficulties as a human race. It turns out we were wrong. Knowing more is helpful in-so-far as our desire for the common good is equal to or greater than our knowledge.

The future isn’t what it used to be. The present isn’t what it’s going to be. And the past probably wasn’t as great as some of us claim it was. (continued on the next page) —→

Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

But I am convinced that the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow remains actively among us, pulling us into a future where God is and will be.

And that, dear sisters and brothers, is true today and will be true tomorrow. . ~ Duayne.

Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

“Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing.” - Nicky Gumbel, *English Anglican priest and author*

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. If you are away from NCC on a Sunday morning, please keep those at NCC in your prayers. If you are at NCC on a Sunday morning, keep those traveling in your prayers. Thank you for belonging to this wonderful family of God.

Thank you to:

- Kellie Cunningham, Molly Lu, and Carolyn Wiggins for assisting in leading July's Summer Sunday School.
- Janet Jesse for her work in preparing fleece material, and all who came to make Linus blankets on July 26 and 27 for Project Linus, which will be given to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES:

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 AT BOTH THE 9:30 & 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICES

Children and teens are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 17 for the Blessing of the Backpacks. “Be Kind” backpack tags will be available for everyone for backpacks, diaper bags, computer bags, etc.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER'S SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: EXPLORING COMMUNITY!

Children, age 3 -6th grade, are invited to explore and experience God's gift of community through lots of fun, some special guests, games, crafts, science, and cooking! Sunday school is at the 9:30 and 10:30 services with children beginning in worship with family and friends.

Aug. 3 – The gift of places we get food,

Aug. 10 – The gift of nature around us,

Aug. 17 – Who's my neighbor and how do we help?,

Aug. 24 – The gift of schools and learning with special guests teaching us fun things,

Aug. 31 – The gift of first responders with special guest Ted Garard and Northfield's fire department,

Sept. 7 – the gift of church community,

Sept 14 – the gifts of our homes with special guest architect Jen Andrew.



“Welcome one another, therefore,
just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.”

Romans 15: 7

Please note that the church driveway and parking lot are scheduled to be repaved the **week of August 11th.**

Please park across the street (to the east) that week.

“Make it better.” Those words were used often this past June during our week in West Virginia where a team of 13 youth and adults worked on Miss Myrtle’s house that had suffered flood damage. As our eager, but inexperienced, team tackled challenges we would remind ourselves that it was important to overcome our self-doubt; our job was to “make it better.” Our week was spent shoring up the structure of the house and preparing it for new weather protection and insulation. If you ask any member of the group I think they will say with some confidence we did, indeed, “make it better.” Of course more teams have followed and built on the work we began. Part of our mission was to get “making it better” underway. By the grace of God and little good luck weather-wise, repairs and improvements should be completed in August. Miss Myrtle’s life, we hope and pray, will be better; safer, healthier, more secure.



NCC’s parking lot will be repaved and a sidewalk added alongside the driveway. The total cost is estimated to be \$120,000. Potholes, flooding and unsafe conditions will be, by the grace of God and little good luck (and engineering expertise), eliminated. Is this a project the Trustees are excited about? I’m not exactly sure, but I am sure they are much relieved, knowing that this will help make part of our church and community life better. The congregation has agreed to borrow funds from the church endowment, hoping this might be repaid over time. Just a reminder the income from NCC’s endowment is the single largest contributor to the operating fund, approaching \$80,000 per year. Reducing the endowment means eroding our support of everyday operating expenses.

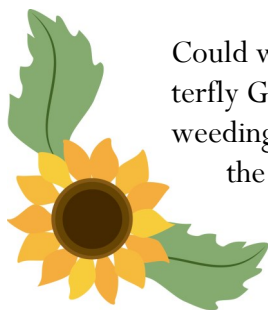
If you find yourself in a position to do so I hope you will consider donating to the Parking Lot fund. I know it’s not exactly exciting (like a sanctuary refreshment!), but it is necessary and will make things, like coming and going safely to and from church, better for members, friends, visitors, neighbors, the nursery school and wider community.

To make a donation, you may go online to www.northfielducc.org. Click the “Donate Online,” click on the word “Fund,” and then “Parking Lot Fund” in the donation window. If you prefer to contribute by check, simply make the check out to Northfield Community Church and designate “Parking Lot.” You may also donate through your Realm church member portal. If you haven’t signed up for Realm, this is the perfect time! NCC’s mission surely extends beyond this corner of Wagner and Willow. You have demonstrated this time and again by your generosity and support. NCC is also a mission outpost, meaning a great deal of good is being done by and for a great number of people right here at 400 Wagner Road. Thank you for the many ways that you join to “make it better.”

Pastor Duayne Meyer

Butterfly Garden

Could we invite people who might be able to give an hour to help us pull some weeds in the Butterfly Garden? Also, if we could thank Victoria Dinges for getting us off to a good start in the weeding department. If someone doesn’t want to, or cannot, get out to weed, donations to the butterfly garden are welcome. Simply be sure to put it in the subject line of the church or special offering part of the online donation on the website.



Mission Connections

SAVE THE DATE

North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 5, 2025 12:00 noon

North Shore United Methodist Church

213 Hazel Avenue Glencoe, IL

Ending hunger one step at a time



Potluck Luncheon August 24th

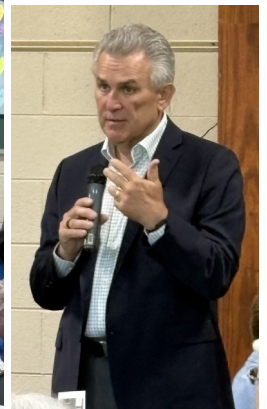
Nick Gliha, Community Engagement Specialist for Church World Service, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, **August 24 at 11:30 am. Please bring a dish to share.** CWS is an international relief agency that is the parent organization of all CROP Walks. Due to the cuts to USAID, CWS and its partners are the only remaining organizations doing life-saving development work providing food, shelter, transportation, disaster relief, and medical care for our neighbors worldwide living on the edge of survival. Nick will share the critical work being accomplished by CWS and highlight how members and friends of NCC can get involved.



dental access days

Our Mission Board financially supports **Dental Access Days**. The organization is staging a free dental clinic at the women's homeless shelter of **Sarah's Circle on August 15th**. Please encourage any dental professionals you know to volunteer for this and future events by emailing dentalaccessIL@gmail.com

Photos from Pastor Duayne's 25th Anniversary Celebration in June



Did you know that you can watch **NCC's livestream** any time you like? On our website, we have a livestream archive which contains our livestreams from the past year. Check it out here: <https://www.northfielducc.org/archived-livestream-worship>. Each Sunday, NCC's livestream is available on our website, on Facebook, and on Roku. If we're having technical issues with Facebook (which happens occasionally), please go to the church's website: <https://www.northfielducc.org/livestream-worship>.

You can access NCC's online Giving form by texting "NCCNORTHFIELD" to 73256

Or use this QR code ->



The Church Family

NCC we offered the **Sacrament of Baptism** to **Anthony Joseph Grana** on July 27th. Anthony's parents are Natalie and Daniel Grana. Godparents are Andrea Shaeffer and John Grana. Welcome Anthony!



The Townsend Family have moved to Tampa Florida. Here's their new address: Chris and Susan Townsend, 8713 Hampden Dr Tampa, FL 33626-2934.

We are saddened to share the news of three recent deaths among the NCC family and friends:

Patrick B. Velasco, age 76, of Wilmette died Wednesday, May 14th at Evanston Hospital. Beloved husband of the late Pauline, née Tanaka; loving father of David (Brooke) Velasco; Service and Interment are private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Community Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.), 4927 Main St., Skokie, IL 60077

Kun Chae Bae, a pillar of Chicago's Korean community and a quintessential American entrepreneur, passed away on July 22, 2025, at the age of 91. Born in 1934 in Korea, he arrived in the United States in the late 1950s. He earned a bachelor's degree from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and embarked on a remarkable career as a chemist and business leader. He is survived by his wife, Myoung; his sons, Donald, Kevin, and Scott; his daughter, Stefanie; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William (Doc) Schnell passed away on July 28th surrounded by family, as the chaplain was praying, he drew his last breath. In many ways it was a beautiful death, a peaceful ending. And yet his impact lives on, in all of the people whom he touched and taught and mentored and loved. He was a wonderful man, caring teacher, and loving friend. We are grateful for his life. He will be very missed. The memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, at Glenview Community Church.

Our 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, Lois Katarski, Susan Little, David Otis, and Ginny Tips .

In Hospital or Assisted Living: Lynne Curtis, Jim Goettsche, Ray Kennedy, Jay Lorenz, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.

Office Notes

Special Thanks to an anonymous donor for sponsoring the special music at the 10:30 service this summer while the choir is taking a well-deserved break.

We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:

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

Tracey Buchman for the beautiful flower arrangements at each door.

Margaret Weber, Bill McKinley, Aidan Andrew, Lea Jones, and Rob Orr for serving as worship service livestream techs. Livestream Tech training will begin in August. We have 3 new recruits! Please contact Lea Jones in the office if you're interested.

Special thanks to **Aidan Andrew** who has spent the last 5 years serving as LiveStream tech. Aidan is off to Tufts University in August and we will miss him. Best wishes and **Thanks Aidan!**

The submission deadline for the **September Window** newsletter is **August 20th**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

August Events

Aug 2nd Feed My Starving Children
Aug 11th-15th Parking Lot Repaving
Aug 14th Mission Board
Aug 17th Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug 19th Board of Trustees
Aug 20th *Window Newsletter Deadline*
Aug 24th Potluck Luncheon: Church World Service
Aug 25th Church Council

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



Northfield Community Church

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11:00am A Just Harvest	2 5:00pm Feed My Starving Children
3 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	4	5 10:00am Women's Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	11 <i>Driveway Paving - Please park across the street</i>	12 <i>Driveway Paving - Please park across the street</i> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	13	14 <i>Parking Lot Paving - Please park across the street</i> 7:00pm Mission Board	15 <i>Parking Lot Paving - Please park across the street</i>	16 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
17 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i> 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	18	19 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Trustees	20 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22	23 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
24 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 11:30am Potluck Study	25 7:00pm Church Council	26 10:00am Women's Bible Study	27	28	29	30 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
31 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org					