

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

DECEMBER
2025

*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

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The Future is Here!

The first Sunday of Advent is just around the corner which means it is – liturgically speaking- the beginning of a new year. I am sure I have said this many times before, but the coming year promises many changes, not just in our city, nation and world, but right here on our little corner of Northfield at NCC. Setting aside global concerns (which is really, really hard to do these days!) I want to address our local setting.

First, a shout out to Northfield Fire Chief Mike Nystrand who retired last week after 50 years. Mike joins venerable Police Chief Bill Lustig who recently retired after over 40 years with the village. These two are community icons and valued friends. I will miss them both and doubt we will see the likes of them come our way anytime soon. As we said, change is upon us.

Drawing closer still, things at NCC are on the move, are changing. The Church Council will begin in earnest the process of discernment and search for a staff person to step into the role of Family and Educational Ministry at NCC. It goes without saying Ronda is irreplaceable, but short of cloning her, we will need to carry on in faith and trust to build on the legacy she has spent twenty years building. I have every confidence that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and good counsel of gifted lay leaders, we will be successful in our search. I hope you will weigh in, pitch in and join in. We are Congregationalists, meaning the whole congregation is needed and counted on.

Staying close to home, 2026 will be the year the sanctuary refreshment project will come to fruition. The Trustees have begun in earnest to plan a Capital Campaign and are getting up-to-date costs for flooring, nave seating, A/V and HVAC upgrades and repairs. The congregation will be invited to contribute to this project. Beth and I are excited to join in through contributing financially to the upcoming Capital Campaign. I hope you are too and that you will give serious and prayerful consideration to your support.

While the institution of the Church continues to get a fair bit of bad press, much of which is because of the so-called “Evangelical” movement, we should not be discouraged. The world has always sought to undermine any institution – religion in particu-

(continued on the next page) —→

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)— Duayne Meyer

lar - that calls people to loving concern for, and sacrificial commitment to, the well-being of our neighbor. The big theological and cultural issues we face isn't about our belief in God, or that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of who God is, but rather our big problem is a result of our public declaration that we (human beings) are not God; the objects of our own worship and idolatry. Nobody likes having their bubble burst by being told we are not free to do what pleases us at any and all cost to our ourselves, our neighbors and our world. We are free to do what pleases God and, therefore, brings meaning to us and hope to our world. This is the unshakable ground upon which the church must stand.

Through the changes, we can count on NCC continuing to be an inclusive and welcoming oasis in our community and a pacesetter congregation engaging in, and supporting others as they engage in, mission and outreach. We will continue to be grounded in theology, history and tradition while also innovating and stepping out in faith. I hope you, as I do, take comfort in the constancy among the many changes that confront us. Ready or not, here comes a whole new year!

Blessings dear Church, ~Duayne

Ronda's Remarks— Ronda Bower

“The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Instead of beginning on January 1, the church calendar begins four Sundays before Christmas with the season of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent this year is Sunday, November 30. The word Advent means “arrival” or “coming.” It is a time to focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus. Each week of Advent focuses on a different theme – hope, peace, joy, and love.

Advent is a great time to read scripture and pray. Please take one of the Advent devotional books, family Advent devotional books, Advent calendars with daily activities, or scripture bookmarks that are in the narthex and garden room to help you prepare your hearts for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

May we all take up the challenge this year to cut through the commercialism, the glitz, the busyness of these weeks before Christmas and keep our eyes on the celebration of the hope, peace, joy, and love of the One who is Christmas.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- Trish Andrew, Josh and Tracey Buchman, Kellie Cunningham, Janet Jesse, Jenny Jordan, and Carolyn Wiggins for helping with November's Sunday school.
- all the Messy Church teen and adult volunteers who helped to make November's Messy Church a very fun evening.
- Eileen Baumgarten and Tim Lambert for a wonderful and musical potluck study.

THE MITTEN TREE:

The mitten tree will be up in the fellowship hall beginning in December. You can bring mittens, gloves, scarves, or hats and hang them on the Mitten Tree. Your gifts will be given to organizations to help those who need these items to stay warm this winter. Thank you!

CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS:

There will be a Christmas cookie reception after the Children and Teen Christmas Program on December 14th. If you would like to bake some cookies for this reception, please let me know (rbower@northfielducc.org). Cook-

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

ies will need to be at church by Saturday, Dec. 13th. Any cookies left over from the reception will be frozen and used for the receptions after the Christmas Eve services. Thank you for your help!

BOOKS FOR BERNIE'S BOOK BANK: I know this is the time of year that you get bombarded with requests, but December 14th's Messy Church Christmas is having a donation box out to collect new or gently used children's books (infant to 6th grade) for Bernie's Book Bank. An estimated 32 million children in the US lack access to books, but Bernie's Book Bank, Chicago's largest provider of quality children's books, is changing that. Bernie's has distributed 29 million free quality children's book and counting. There will be a tub to collect books in Ronda's office through the end of December. Check with neighbors and friends to see if they have children's books their families have grown out of. Thank you so much.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:

NCC'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & TEEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

***"THE REASON WE CELEBRATE"* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:30 A.M.**

Join 38 NCC's children and teens as they lead the congregation in worship celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus.

There will be a delicious cookie reception following the program.

Come support NCC's wonderful children and teens.

MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 4:30 P.M.

Everyone is invited to come celebrate Jesus' birthday! The celebration will include activities for all ages: making different types of Christmas ornaments, angel necklaces and jingle bell bracelets, a sock Baby Jesus, balloon games, indoor snowballs, Legos, and more, plus a delicious dinner, and a celebration worship with everyone involved in telling the story of Jesus' birth. Mission: bring an unwrapped toy for Breakthrough Ministry's Christmas Store and making bookmarks for Bernie's Book Bank. All ages are welcome — you don't have to be a child or bring a child to attend!. Bring friends. Let's celebrate the birth of the Christ Child together.



A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS -SUNDAY, DECMEBER 21 at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Children, ages 3 through 8th grade, are invited to join a fun birthday party with birthday games, prizes, and treats as we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

You can bring a birthday gift for Jesus by bringing mittens, gloves, scarves, or hats for the **Mitten Tree** to be given to those who need things to keep them warm.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 P.M. FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE

10:00 P.M. CEREMONY OF CAROLS, LESSONS, AND CANDLELIGHT

Celebrate the birth of our Savior!

***"A COMMUNITY WORSHIP"* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 10:00 a.m.**

You are invited to join The Lutheran Church of the Ascension, St. James the Less Episcopal Church, and Northfield Community Church as we join together in worship here at NCC.

Festive reception following the service.



Christmas Eve
Family Nativity Service at 4pm
Ceremony of Carols, Lessons, & Candlelight at 10pm



Mission Connections

The Breakthrough Christmas Store is back!

NCC is partnering with Breakthrough Ministries for their Christmas Store project again this year. The store gives Garfield Park families the opportunity to shop for gifts for their loved ones. Our donations of brand-new gifts will be made available for purchase at a fraction of their retail cost at the temporary store Breakthrough sets up in their facility's gymnasium.

For ideas and purchasing there is an [Amazon wish list](#). Or you can make a [donation](#) and let Breakthrough do the shopping for you.

Their goal is to provide gifts for 500 families this Christmas! The QR codes are below:



Amazon

Sunday, December 14th is our official collection day. Bring your unwrapped gift to church and place it under the Christmas tree in the Narthex. And be sure to stay for the Christmas Pageant, put on by our NCC Children and Teens! If needed, you can drop your gift off early or up to two days late (December 16th) at the church office. The Mission Board will take the gifts down to Breakthrough that following Wednesday.



Breakthrough

Also this holiday season, the Mission Board is dedicating our **Thanksgiving and Christmas collections** to **A Just Harvest (AJH)**, our trusted Mission Partner in Rogers Park Chicago for over 50 years. **AJH** is

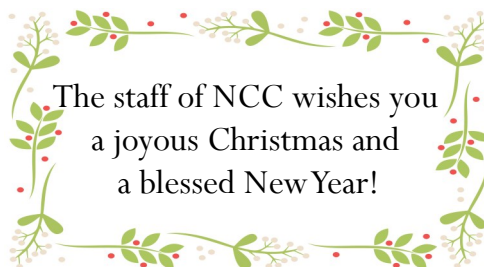


more than just a soup kitchen. In addition to feeding the hungry they are a vital community presence that helps neighbors prepare for and find employment, and by advocating for those marginalized.

Our church's monthly commitment to AJH includes food purchases and volunteer service on the first Friday of the month, led by Carol Angell. Your generosity through these holiday collections will directly **fund the food we purchase throughout 2026**. Any remainder

will become a direct contribution to support AJH's staff and facility—ensuring the kitchen's program can continue through the new year.

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!



If you would like to make an online donation to Northfield Community church, you may use this QR code:



The Church Family

Welcome and Congratulations to **Brooks Alexander Mehta** who was baptized in Christ on November 23rd. Brooks' parents are **Christopher Mehta** and **Hilary Phillips Mehta**. God parents are **John** and **Nicole LaCrosse**.

Special congratulations to **Eugene and Judy Hertelendy** who celebrated their **60th wedding anniversary** on November 25th!

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

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

Office Notes

THANK YOU to all who have sent in, turned in, or entered online their Estimate of Giving for 2026! **The Stewardship Enlistment Campaign** wraps up soon. Estimate of Giving Cards are located in the pew backs and entryways. You may also visit www.northfielducc.org and complete your 2026 estimate of giving via the secure link located at the top of the homepage. If you have any questions, please feel free to seek out Business Manager Steve Ash, Treasurer Josh Buchman, Pastor Meyer or a member of the Council or Board of Trustees.

The Annual Congregation Budget meeting will take place following each of the services on **Sunday, December 7th**. Budget details have been in the bulletins and will be available at the meeting. If you'd like a copy, extras are available in the office or contact Lea at: ljones@northfielducc.org and she'll email one to you.



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, Lea Jones, and Rob Orr and new recruits **Kelly Jordan, Claudia Andrew, Mia Andrew, and Vijay Johnson** for serving as worship service livestream techs.

Are you interested in running the sound at the 9:30 service? We occasionally need a substitute for Rob Orr. If you'd like to help out, please contact Lea Jones in the office: ljones@northfielducc.org. Thanks!

The submission deadline for the **January Window** newsletter is **December 17th**.

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>.

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First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

December Events

Dec 1st	Church Council
Dec 4th	Decorating the church for Advent
Dec 5th	A Just Harvest
Dec 7th	Annual Budget Meeting
Dec 7th	Confirmation Class
Dec 11th	Mission Board
Dec 14th	Children and Teens Christmas Worship
Dec 14th	Messy Church
Dec 16th	Board of Trustees
Dec 17th	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Dec 21st	Birthday Party for Jesus
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve Worship at 4 & 10pm
Dec 25th	Christmas Day
Dec 28th	Community Worship at NCC



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

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00pm Church Council	2 10:00am Women's Bible Study	3	4 10:00am Decorating the Church for Advent	5 11:00am A Just Harvest	6
7 Advent: Peace Annual Budget Meeting 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 6:00pm Confirmation Class	8	9 10:00am Women's Bible Study	10	11 7:00pm Mission Board	12	13 11:00am Choir Rehearsal
14 Advent: Love 9:30am Worship and Praise 10:30am Children and Teen Christmas Worship 4:30pm Messy Church 	15	16 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Trustees	17 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	18	19	20
21 Advent: Joy 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Birthday Party for Jesus	22	23 10:00am Women's Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve 4:00pm Family Nativity Service 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:00pm Ceremony of Carols, Lessons, & Candlelight	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 10:00am Community Worship at NCC	29	30 10:00am Women's Bible Study	31	Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org		