

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community



FEBRUARY
2026

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

“Where Do You Live?”

I’m not asking to locate you geographically, but rather where are the places you mostly find yourself emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, socially? Confused? Here’s what I mean:

***Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.***

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Emotionally I find myself among and with family and friends. I invest myself in upholding these relationships; my friends and family do the same. Along with them are the people with whom I spend much of my time: our church staff, lay leaders, a few colleagues, some friends whom I do not see often enough. Time, shared history and common experiences, beliefs and values bind us to one another. You may remember the old hymn, “Bind us together Lord with ties that cannot be broken...” That’s the sort of thing I’m referring to. The strength of this unbroken tie is love – a holy, reconciling, transcendent love - makes us more than the sum of our parts; transforms us into a community, makes us the church. Neither time nor distance, or, for that matter, life and death, can break this bond.

Intellectually and spiritually-speaking, as you would imagine, I see through a lens of faith. What I read and watch, how I assimilate information, ideas and even my imaginings raise questions like, “how does this inform, challenge or inspire discipleship? How might this insight, information or experience apply to life in community; our life as the church? “What can be shared, expanded, illuminated, enacted?”

As far as where I “live” socially, I’ve already tipped my hand: I mostly hang out with church-types, at least most of the time. I cannot remember when this wasn’t the case. I have had many enjoyable, informative experiences when I have stepped out of the church and into intrinsically secular, even religiously suspicious, circles and I try to take it in with eyes, heart and mind wide open. As interesting as these experiences are, I am glad to return “home” to fellow sojourners, to those whose lives are inexorably connected to the transcendent and to each other.

I bring these things up because I’ve been spending a lot of time living and working with others who are thinking about things like, “how do we go about finding a pastoral associate, not to fill Ronda’s shoes, but to stand on her shoulders and build on her legacy?” And also, “How do we husband resources and ask fellow NCC’ers to help bring the sanctuary and surrounding areas into good working order to refresh and reshape our worship and fellowship spaces to meet the congregation’s present and future needs?” How does Christ’s

(continued on the next page) —

Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)—Duayne Meyer

presence and purpose not only bind us together, but move us forward in faith and newness through these experiences and undertakings? As John Wesley might ask, “Where do we see God active or absent” in our human endeavors?

We have said many times, “the most important things aren’t things.” We have a congregation of people doing our best to be faithful and hopeful in uncertain times. The current cultural climate is, to say the least, callous and cruel. How do we keep ourselves from turning a blind eye or being so angry that we lose the capacity to be ambassadors of Christ’s saving message? We vote. We pray. We march. We refuse to accept falsehoods as truth. We maintain the capacity for indignation. We live into Christ’s claim on us and the future to which he calls us. With authenticity, we keep raising questions like, “where do we see God in our human endeavors?”

We are bound together as a community of encouragers, banner carriers of a gospel that takes the long view. As MLK said, “the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” This is where I live, the sort of place, or places, where many of us reside: with faith, buoyed up by the faithful, longing for the world to be made right, more humane. We live hoping against hope that the moral arc does – in time – bend toward justice and that our lives, our actions great and small, and our church, help to bend it

~ Pastor Duayne

Ronda's Remarks—Ronda Bower

“Pleasant words are flowing honey, sweet to the taste and healing to the bones.” - Proverbs 16:24

January’s Messy Church focused on the verse from Proverbs above. In the closing celebration, I used the “toothpaste is like words” illustration that has been around for a long time. When you squeeze out the toothpaste, it is like the words coming out of your mouth. Just like you can’t get the toothpaste back in the tube, your words cannot be taken back once they have been said. It is a reminder that words have power and to use them wisely, and how important it is to use kind words. A favorite quote from Mother Teresa, “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

Kind words and actions are so important in our world today. Here are a few ways that you can spread kindness this month with Northfield Community Church:

- Drop off non perishable grocery items at NCC for the Northfield Township Food Pantry. If you want, you can check out their website for the most needed items.
- NCC’s is signed up for another messy mission to Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville. *Feed My Starving Children is committed to ending childhood hunger. In the U.S. and around the world, they provide children and families with the food and essentials kids need to grow and thrive.* Everyone, children 5 years old and up, teens, and adults can participate in this fun, easy, and moving experience. Look in the February activity section for more information.
- NCC has completed well over a hundred fleece blankets for Project Linus. *Project Linus provides handmade blankets, locally distributed, to children 0-18 who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.* It’s time to have a blanket tying party at NCC again, so be watching for sales on fleece material. To make blankets, fleece needs to be 1 ½ or 2 yards in length and fun kid colors and designs. There will be a container in my office to collect the fleece and when we have enough, we’ll tie some blankets!
- Join the prayer shawl group meeting the first and third Fridays at 10:00 to knit and crochet prayer shawls which will be passed on to those who need a hug a prayer shawl can give. It’s a great way to enjoy time and conversation with friends. You can knit or crochet shawls on your own too. Contact Ronda Bower in the church office if you have questions about patterns, etc.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

May you find opportunities to share kindness in word and actions, and may they lift your heart. "Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." – Dalai Lama

Thank you to....:

- ◆ Trish Andrew, Tracey and Josh Buchman, Jenny Jordan, and Carolyn Wiggins who helped lead Sunday school in January.
- ◆ All the wonderful teen and adult volunteers who helped with January's Messy Church

February events at NCC:

POTLUCK STUDY - THE PHARACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

PRESENTER: NCC's OWN KEVIN TRIMPE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 11:30 a.m.

Explore the process for developing new drugs as they go from early concept and identification to the pharmacy shelf. A don't miss presentation.

Bring a dish to share for lunch.

A CONVERSATION WITH PHIL ANDREW, CANDIDATE FOR US CONGRESS

"POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN AN AGE OF CONTENTIOUSNESS"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 11:30 a.m.

Come join in a conversation with Phillip Andrew, candidate for US congress who will talk about what he sees as some of the most significant issues and opportunities facing our country and, of course, our congressional districts in metropolitan Chicago.

MESSY MISSION OPPORTUNITY: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 5:00-6:30 P.M.

Everyone (ages 5 and up) is invited to help pack lifesaving meals at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville on Saturday, Feb. 21. You can help make it possible for FMSC to send nutritious meals to children around the world. NCC is signed up for 15 spots at the 5:00-6:30 shift. **Please reserve your spot as soon as possible because they have changed their policy and spots need to be reserved by Feb. 11 or we lose them.** For reserving a spot(s) or for questions, call or text Ronda at 312-520-6318, or email rborer@northfielducc.org. Carpooling from NCC is available with advance notice so we don't leave anyone behind.

NCC's BINGO NIGHT FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

You don't want to miss Bingo Night! It's for ...

A date night some place warm... A time with friends... Just getting out of the house...Family time... Everyone, ages 0 to 100, is invited to join the fun. There will be fun bingo callers, lots of different bingo games, and prizes. Bring friends. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Come join the fun!

Can you help? We need donations of small, fun, wrapped "white elephant" gifts to be used as bingo prizes. You can drop off in Ronda's office. Thank you.

Also in February:

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 – Fridays, Feb. 6 and 20, 10:00 a.m. in the parlor

Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

Dear NCC Community,

I hope you are keeping warm in what is certainly one of our coldest winters in quite some time! The new year is off to a great start for our music ministry. We are riding high after the beautiful offerings on Christmas Eve at our 4:00 and 10:00 services. January has brought many guest organists and keyboardists as Eileen takes some well-deserved time off. We welcome Eric Budzynski and Chuck Foster, two of Chicago's premier keyboardists, to help lead our worship services at 10:30. We hope you will come to hear their wonderful musical offerings in addition to the great work of our choir. We are also grateful to Helen Raymaker, who will lead our music from the piano in the coming weeks as well.

We look forward to sharing our musical offerings with you in the weeks ahead. We will be featuring our guest keyboardists as well as other instrumentalists and soloists. In addition to our normal offerings during the worship services, we have other exciting music opportunities for you to enjoy! Mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 19! At 5:00pm, we will present a concert of Pergolesi's timeless Stabat Mater. This performance will feature string quartet and our talented soprano and alto staff singers, Abigail and Emily. More info to come, but we are very excited about this event and hope many of you will be able to attend.

Gratefully yours,
Tim (and the entire NCC music ministry team)

Mission Connections

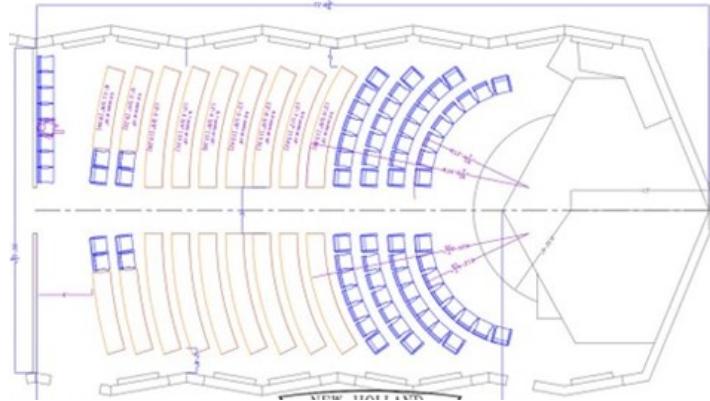
In this time of need, “Let us not grow weary of doing what is good.” Please remember when you are out doing your grocery shopping to also pick up non-perishable food items for **Northfield Township Food Pantry**. You can bring the food items to church and place in the baskets in the garden room and narthex. 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 planning to host a Q&A session during the month of February.** Stay tuned. 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, 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. .



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18th, commonly known as **Ash Wednesday**. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter. Opportunities to celebrate **Ash Wednesday**:

7:45 - 8:45 a.m. **Ashes to Go at NCC** in the colonnades.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Ashes to Go, at St. James the Less**

7:00 p.m. Evening combined worship at **Lutheran Church of the Ascension**,

Start
Your
Day
With
God's
Word

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 .

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.

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

The submission deadline for the **March Window** newsletter is **February 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 that hold the letter together and the postage stamps. Please contact **Lea Jones, ljones@northfielducc.org**, if you're able to help. **Thanks!**

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



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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

February Events

Feb 1st Potluck Study
Feb 1st Confirmation Class
Feb 6th A Just Harvest
Feb 8th Speaker Phil Andrew
Feb 10th Board of Christian Education
Feb 12th Mission Board
Feb 14th **Valentine's Day**
Feb 17th Board of Trustees
Feb 18th **Ash Wednesday**
Feb 19th Partners in Christ
Feb 20th **Window Newsletter Deadline**
Feb 21st Feed My Starving Children
Feb 23rd Church Council
Feb 27th Bingo Night



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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Potluck Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class	2	3 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	4	5	6 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am A Just Harvest	7 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
8 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 11:30am Speaker Phil Andrew	9	10 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 1:00pm NCC Staff Meeting 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	11	12 7:00pm Mission Board	13	14 8:30am Relevant Bible Study 
15 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	16	17 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:45 am Ashes to Go 7:00 pm Joint Worship at Lutheran Church of the Ascension	19 10:00am Partners In Christ	20 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group	21 8:30am Relevant Bible Study 5:00pm Feed My Starving Children
22 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	23 7:00pm Church Council	24 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	25	26	27 6:30pm Bingo Night 	28 8:30am Relevant Bible Study

Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information:
www.NorthfieldUCC.org