

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community



JANUARY
2026

*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

Inside this issue:

Ronda's Remarks 2

Mission Connections 4

The Church Family 5

Office Notes 5

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

Inspiring Generosity

I hope the news of the Sanctuary Refreshment project getting underway is generally out among the congregation. You may recall in 2023 the congregation approved a capital campaign to update and refresh the sanctuary and to complete needed repairs.

A couple things set back the initial timeline, namely the addition of solar panels and resurfacing the main parking lot. The project has a wider impact than sanctuary aesthetics alone. The project includes replacing the flooring in the sanctuary, narthex and hallways, tuckpointing the exterior sanctuary walls, painting the sanctuary fascia and soffits, bringing the loft and chancel into ADA compliance and completing electrical, HVAC and sound system repairs and improvements. The pews will be replaced with a combination of chairs and pews, making a more flexible worship space. The total project is currently projected at \$600,000. This does not include the addition of an elevator, which was part of the initial project. The Trustees are hoping in the next few years pneumatic elevators, currently allowed only in residential applications, will be approved for use in settings like ours. The projected cost for elevator and installation is about \$100,000. As mentioned, it is not planned for this to be part of the current sanctuary refreshment campaign.

The capital campaign, which will get underway later this month, has been inspired by a gift of \$250,000 from the James Garard family. It is hard to overstate my gratitude to the Garard family for this generous and visionary contribution. An additional pacesetter donation by another church family brings the total contributed so far to \$300,000. We, as members and friends of NCC, are being asked to contribute the remaining \$300,000. Beth and I look forward to contributing to this important project and hope you will join the Garards and fellow NCC'ers, as we update, refresh and repair this beautiful 65 year old worship space and the surrounding areas.

(continued on the next page) —

400 Wagner Road
Northfield, IL 60093

847-446-3070
www.northfielducc.org



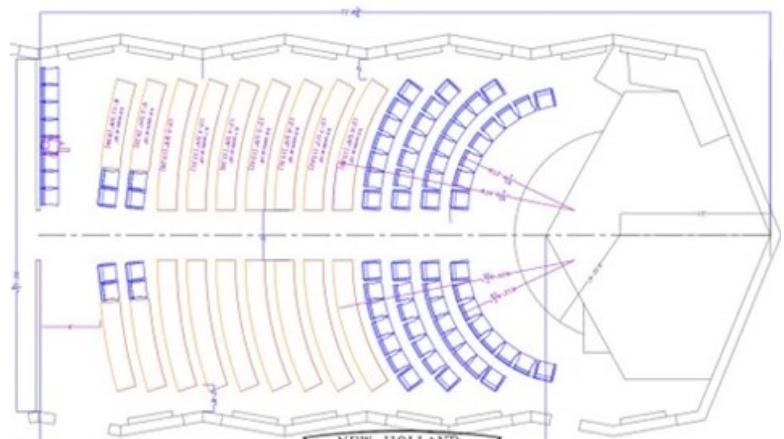
Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)—Duayne Meyer

These are exciting times for NCC and timely for us as the church as we proclaim the gospel of love, justice and welcome through worship, fellowship, learning and service.

Blessed New Year to you and yours,

~ Pastor Duayne

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” -Luke 6.38



Ronda's Remarks—Ronda Bower

“Come, let’s sing out loud to the LORD! Let’s raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Let’s come before God with thanks! Let’s shout songs of joy to the Lord! Psalm 95:1-2

Happy New Year! As we move into a new year I like to take time to think of and give thanks for the many blessing in my life. One major blessing in my life is NCC. I wish everyone could know the blessings of being part of this wonderful church, but even being part of any church. Being part of a church can provide blessings like a sense of community, spiritual growth through teachings and fellowship, support during difficult times, opportunities to serve others, encouragement to live a moral life, and a deeper connection to God through shared worship and sacraments. My hope is 2026 is that all of us at Northfield Community Church can reach out to others who may not have a church home and invite them to worship or any events at NCC that can welcome them into the blessings of this church home.

Exciting and new:

- Join certified yoga instructor Molly Lu for **Chair Yoga** in the narthex every Tuesday from 11:45am - 12:45pm, beginning January 6. Molly's class will focus on moving the body with awareness, reducing stress, and supporting physical and mental well-being in a safe, supportive way. This class is perfect for beginners and anyone with mobility concerns. Cost: \$10/class or 4 classes for \$20. Questions? Call or text Molly at 815-988-9771 or email molld615@gmail.com

- **A Prayer Shawl Group** has begun at NCC. This group is working on crocheting and knitting prayer shawls that will be given to NCC's congregation and friends who are in need of comfort, support, and prayer from a loving church. Some of us have just learned to crochet with our great teacher Dara Scarola, and have begun our prayer shawls. Dara will also be working with some on knitting. We will be gathering once or twice a month (meeting times are yet to be determine) for some time of friendship and sharing as we work. If you would like to join in the fun, or would just like to get a pattern to work on shawls at home, please contact me, Ronda Bower, in the church office or rbower@northfielducc.org.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

Begin 2026 with some wonderful January events at NCC:



MESSY CHURCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 4:30 P.M. “CHOOSING TO ‘BEE’ KIND WITH OUR WORDS!”

Proverbs 16:24 tells us that, “Pleasant words are flowing honey, sweet to the taste and healing to the bones.” We’ll investigate the impact our words can have and also the wonderful world of honey bees with honey tasting, honey slime, buzzing bee noisemakers, bee punch balloons, and more fun crafts and games. There will also be a delicious meal and a fun celebration worship with the book “Taste Your Words” by Bonnie Clark.

All ages are welcome! Don’t miss the fun!

Bring someone new to show them your wonderful church home.

WOMEN’S TEA AND MYSTERY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 3:00 P.M. AT NCC “THE CRAZY QUILT CAPER”

Come and share in an afternoon of good food, great friends, and wonderful fun!

Help solve the mystery of the Crazy Quilt Caper and enjoy the antics of our NCC actors. There will be a quilt show and tell so you can bring a quilt to show or just a quilt story to share if you wish.

Mission for Project Linus to help children in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need: You are invited to bring some colorful fleece material (1½ - 2 yard pieces) or a cash donation to purchase fleece for an upcoming Linus blanket making day at NCC.

Women and girls of all ages are invited to join this wonderful event.

Bring someone new to share the incredible light and love that is Northfield Community Church.



Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 11th
The meeting will be held after each service. We will vote on the budget (which had been presented at the December Annual meeting). Also on the agenda is the Sanctuary Refresh project:

Inspiring Generosity .

Subscribe to the United Church of Christ ***Daily Devotions***:

https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

Mission Connections

Thank you for your generous donations this Christmas Season!

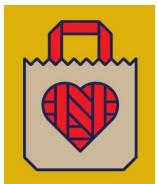
Thank you to all who donated gifts to **Breakthrough Ministries** for their Christmas Store. The store gives Garfield Park families the opportunity to shop for gifts for their loved ones.



Also, Thank You for your monetary donations to the **Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings**. Those gifts went 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!



Christmas Celebrations at NCC



The Church Family

We're grateful to share the news of the birth of **Allan Jesse Kaplan**. Allan was born on December 8th, 2025 in Seattle to Molly Gries and Harry Kaplan. Proud grandparents are Allan and Loretta Kaplan.

We are saddened to announce the passing of **Joan Evenstad**. Joan and her family were quite active at NCC. A memorial service is planned sometime in June of 2026. Please keep her family, especially her son Steven, in your prayers.

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, 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. .

Office Notes



We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:

The Memorials Committee (and friends) for decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

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 **February Window** newsletter is **January 23rd**.

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-livedstream-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>.



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

The Church Staff

January Events

Jan 2nd A Just Harvest
Jan 6th **Epiphany**
Jan 11th Congregational Meeting
Jan 11th Messy Church
Jan 13th Board of Christian Education
Jan 15th Partners in Christ
Jan 15th Mission Board
Jan 19th **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Jan 20th Board of Trustees
Jan 23rd **Window Newsletter Deadline**
Jan 26th Church Council
Jan 31st Women's Tea

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

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am A Just Harvest	3
			Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org			
4 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:30am Sunday School	5	6 Epiphany 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	7	8	9	10 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
11 Congregational Meeting 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 4:30pm Messy Church	12 	13 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	14	15 10:00am Partners In Christ 7:00pm Mission Board	16	17
18 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	19 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</i>	20 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	21	22	23 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	24 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
25 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	26 7:00pm Church Council	27 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	28	29	30	31 8:30am Relevant Bible Study 3:00pm Women's Tea