

# Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield  
community church



## Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

OCTOBER  
2025

*Let us not  
become  
weary in  
doing good.*

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I remember the summer afternoon I was in my car, moving between visits to church members, and tuning in to AM 1120 to listen to Jack Buck and the Cardinals. As it turned out, the game had been called for rain. KMOX (the Mighty Mox as it was called) had picked up Rush Limbaugh doing his syndicated broadcast. Within 10 minutes I was appalled and embarrassed. I listened as long as I could and then turned it off in stunned disbelief. It didn't matter if I agreed or disagreed with his politics, I was shocked that someone so mean-spirited had been given 50,000 watts to shock his listeners and insult anyone who disagreed with him. Over the years I would, out of habit or hoping to hear a baseball game, tune in to KMOX. I moved from disbelief, to feeling offended, to confusion and disappointment that the legacy of long-time general manager (and faithful Christian) Robert Hyland had been hijacked. "Things can't get much worse than this," I recall thinking. I have never been more wrong in my life.

Thirty years later the fraying social fabric has been ripped to shreds and the veneer of civility damaged beyond recognition, at least in many public arenas. People seem drawn to cruelty and downright meanness as moths are to a flame. Honestly, it's easy to get caught up in it and behave like those with whom we disagree or by whom we are appalled. Politics, always a grown-up game, has descended into the theater of the grotesque; like an open mic night for thugs and bullies. Not only do they seem to turn their backs to one another they refuse to look for common ground, much less the common good. Yes I know we elected them.

We admire businesses and entrepreneurs not for being successful while also paying a fair wage and playing by the rules, but for making billions of dollars by any means they can with few ethical guard rails.

Religion — particularly our brand of Christianity - once thought to be a sanctuary for people with differing views to come together and embrace (or at least get through) our differences, has lost the middle and seems to tilt only one way or the other. The Christian faith has lost much of its appeal, not because religion is archaic (which it/we/I may be) but because we hardly resemble to the world what and who we claim to be. To be fair, almost all of society's' most venerated institutions have been deconstructed and muted by circumstance and sometimes it seems by intent.

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 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)— Duayne Meyer

Enamored of this cruel, crude theater we overlook the effects of bombastic, amped up, 24 hour a day hateful – often threatening - rhetoric, particularly on those who are the most emotionally vulnerable. Keep dangling the electric wire long enough and eventually some people will grab hold. Add to the tendencies toward isolation magnified and commoditized by technology – particularly among young males - and we have a recipe for profound loneliness, misery and, at the extremes, violence and murder. It is no longer only someone's character being assassinated, it's someone's daughter, mother, husband or son.

Think what you will about what happened at UVU on September 10<sup>th</sup>, a conspiracy of the left or of the right, but we should recognize Charlie Kirk, and too many others have been victims of hate that has been legitimized by the extremes of a society where the middle ground is eroding. Will it come to a point when only the poles exist, when we can only abhor and wish harm on those whom we don't like; with whom we disagree? I wonder and worry.

Lest you think this is an old preacher's rant about the good old days, I want to mention I was around for the assassination of a couple Kennedy's, Martin Luther King Jr., and Vietnam war protests. Those weren't great times either.

My point isn't to suggest the world going to hell in a handbasket. In fact, I believe deep down in my bones the message of Christ is the hope of the world and our banner to carry. The church has a place and an important voice. We have, or can have, a disproportionate influence on just what sort of society we live in and will hand to our children and grandchildren. And we don't need 50,000 watts or a cable channel or a Tik-Tok account (though those might help), we only need some disciples who are willing to keep at our lives in faithfulness and hope armed with the most powerful message in human history.

So keep broadcasting in word and deed, dear sisters and brothers, the good news that love wins. ~Duayne

## Ronda's Remarks— Ronda Bower

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

If you were at church on Fall Fest Sunday, you heard, or saw, the Bible verse above quite frequently. It is the theme of NCC's new program year. It was also the theme of September's Messy Church, using the children's book ***"Have You Filled a Bucket Today?"*** by Carol McCloud. If you have not read or heard this incredible children's book I encourage you to stop by the children's section in your local library, or Google the title and listen to one of the many YouTube videos of the book being read. The premise of this book is that everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds good feelings and positive emotions. When people act kindly or show love, they "fill" another's bucket, and this also fills their own bucket. Conversely, "dipping" or acting meanly or unkindly empties someone's bucket and doesn't fill your own. The core idea is that showing kindness, respect, and care fosters happiness for both the giver and receiver, making it a practice for building positive relationships and a happy community. My favorite page of the book tells us that bucket filling (or doing good) is fun and easy to do, that it doesn't matter how young or old you are, it doesn't have to cost money, and it doesn't have to take much time. My hope is that we don't become weary of being bucket fillers. How have you been a bucket filler today?

## Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

**Can you help? Messy Church/Trunk or Treat is right around the corner- Sunday, Oct. 12!** Volunteers are needed to bring cars and decorate. It's easy: Bring your car and park where directed around the outside of the parking lot between 4:00 -4:15. Open your trunk and decorate your trunk in some fun way. You can even spill out decorations into the parking lot. (You can *Google* Trunk or Treat for some ideas.) You can dress in some crazy clothes or costume if you wish, and hand out candy that NCC will provide, as the children Trunk or Treat around the parking lot. It's a very fun time for all! We need lots of cars. PLEASE SIGN UP AT CHURCH or CONTACT RONDA BOWER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE ASAP IF YOU ARE BRINGING YOUR CAR SO WE KNOW HOW MANY CARS TO EXPECT.

You can also help by donating a bag or two of individually wrapped candy or toys (no nuts if possible). Please bring candy by Friday, Oct. 10. Thank you!

### ***Are you interested in:***

- Learning about and trying out Yoga or Chair Yoga - Two times to try! Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m. – Explore Chair Yoga. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Come and explore a hybrid of Chair Yoga and Vinyasa Yoga. See more info with the October events.

- Learning, showing how to, or just knitting or crocheting, coming together as group together or with directions by yourself, making prayer shawls that NCC can give to those in need of comfort, love, and prayers that a prayer shawl can give when times are hard. If you are interested, contact Ronda Bower in the church office. A time to start will be determined if there is interest.

### OCTOBER EVENTS NOT TO MISS:



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the colonnades.

Bring your pet, or an item or picture of your pet and join in the blessing ceremony featuring the traditional blessing of St. Francis. There will be treats for pets and their owners.

MESSY CHURCH/TRUNK OR TREAT— Sunday, October 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Trick or treating, fall activities and crafts, celebration worship, and a delicious dinner.

Wear costumes if you want. It's a great day to invite friends and neighbors of all ages to NCC.

Come and have fun!



### HAVE YOU WANTED TO EXPLORE WHAT YOGA IS ALL ABOUT?



Two times with Two Experiences on Tuesday, Oct. 28 with Yoga instructor Molly Lu 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. – Chair Yoga - This gentle yoga class is perfect for beginners, seniors, or anyone with limited mobility. This class will focus on improving flexibility, balance, and strength through mindful movement, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques—all while using a chair for support. Wear comfortable clothing.

7:00-8:00 p.m. – Yoga and Chair Yoga Hybrid - This unique class will blend the gentle support of chair yoga with the dynamic flow of vinyasa yoga, offering a well-rounded experience that builds strength, flexibility, and balance. Ideal for all levels, especially those easing into a more active practice or seeking a mindful, adaptable approach to movement. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one.

The church has yoga mats to use if needed.

## Mission Connections

Sunday, October 5, 2025

12:00 noon

North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk

North Shore United Methodist Church

213 Hazel Avenue

Glencoe, IL



In a few short days, Team NCC CROP Hunger Walk will be in action! Your participation, prayers, and support are important! It's not too late to register as a walker. We need your donations to support our NCC Team as they step off to fight hunger in our community and around the world. Help build a better world where there is enough for ALL!

25% of the funds raised from The North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk remain in our community and are distributed to three local hunger agencies:

- A Just Harvest
- Northfield Township Food Depository
- New Trier Township Food Pantry

With federal cuts to FEMA and the SNAP program, more and more children, families, and seniors are turning to these local resources for their daily food.

75% of the money raised goes to Church World Service, the International Relief Agency that is the parent organization for all CROP Walks. Due to 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.

To register or to make a donation, go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/northfield-community-church>

Checks can be made out to Northfield Community Church with CROP Walk in the memo line. Checks can be sent or dropped off to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.

Questions? Contact Janet Jesse at [janetjesse21@yahoo.com](mailto:janetjesse21@yahoo.com) 847-971-6079

**Also from the Board of Missions:** The Board has started their fall review for the allocation of 10% of pledged and loose offerings at its next meeting September 11. If you have an organization you work with or simply want to recommend please get in touch with any member of the Board: Bill McKinley (Chair), Barbara Balch, Linda Eberlien, Vic Frank, Milt Lemke, Ann Oates, Carolyn Wiggins.

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>.

### Fall Workday, Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 8am-11am

Come for an Hour or for the morning!

Come join the fun at the NCC Fall workday. Outside projects include trimming plants away from the corner landscape lights, moving old fencing materials from behind the Scout shed to the dumpster, mulching the garden bed on the north side of the chapel and cleaning a couple sections of (low) gutters. Inside includes some reorganization and cleaning of pantry and kitchen items, wiping down tables and chairs and general “clean-out-the-cobwebs” dusting. For the brave of heart, a trip to the boiler room and some reorganization might be just the ticket!

Stay tuned for more information and updates and mark your calendar and come help tidy things up before winter.



## The Church Family

*Welcome and congratulations* to **Henry Bodman** who was baptized in Christ on September 14th. Henry's parents are **Daniel Bodman** and Katherine E. Hulick Bodman. Godparents are **Nicki Picchietti** and **Mike Wahlund**. Welcome Henry!

*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:* Eiko Fricke, Jim Goettsche, Ray Kennedy, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.

## Office Notes

**Sarah Paige** has joined the NCC staff as part-time Director of Teen Ministries. Sarah, daughter NCC's Vice-Moderator, Kim Scott, grew up at NCC and has participated in youth ministry and as a devoted volunteer. Sarah was a young adult leader on NCC's last two youth mission trips and was the main mover and shaker for the mission trip to West Virginia in June. She is a graduate of Glenbrook South High School and holds a Bachelor's degree in Dance: Performance and choreography from Texas State University. We are blessed to have Sarah leading our ministry with teens!.

**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** and **Mia Andrew** for serving as worship service livestream techs.

Are you interesting 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](mailto:ljones@northfielducc.org). Thanks!

The submission deadline for the **November Window** newsletter is **October 22nd**.

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH  
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Address Correction Requested

## ***First Class***

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### NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

#### October Events

Oct 3rd	A Just Harvest
Oct 4th	Blessing of the Animals
Oct 5th	World Communion Sunday
Oct 7th	Board of Christian Education
Oct 9th	Mission Board
Oct 12th	Messy Church
Oct 16th	Partners in Christ
Oct 21st	Board of Trustees
Oct 22nd	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Oct 27nd	Church Council
Oct 28th	Intro to Yoga and Chair Yoga



#### 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

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: <a href="https://www.northfielducc.org/embedded-calendar">https://www.northfielducc.org/embedded-calendar</a>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Illinois Conference Women's Retreat 11:00am A Just Harvest	<b>4</b> Illinois Conference Women's Retreat 10:00am Blessing of the Animals
<b>5 World Communion Sunday</b> 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School <b>12:00pm CROP Hunger Walk</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Mission Board	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00am Partners In Christ	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00am Work Day
<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Trustees	<b>22</b> <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Church Council	<b>28</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Intro to Chair Yoga 7:00pm Intro to Yoga and Chair Yoga	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 Halloween</b>	

