

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

OCTOBER
2026

Save the Date! Sunday, November 15th
Sanctuary Rededication & All-Church Celebration
10:00 am Festival of Worship
11:15 am Celebration Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

I'm doing something new

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Rooted and Growing— Abby Cunningham

"Where faith, gratitude, and community come together.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."— Ecclesiastes 3:1

New Beginnings, Big Towers & a Little Bit of Mess: A story from Messy Church

There have been a lot of new things happening around here lately. I started my new position as Faith Formation Director at Northfield Community Church on September 1. We've begun a new school year, welcomed new faces, started new programs, and celebrated our Fall Festival with the theme "Something New." That theme has seemed particularly fitting this year.

Starting a new position comes with plenty of questions: Who will I meet? What will this look like? Will everyone know who I am? But those questions have quickly been replaced with something much more exciting—I'm getting to know the people who make NCC such a wonderful community. What better way to get to know a church than through Messy Church? It was wonderfully messy.

We had giant Jenga blocks, and one child decided to see just how tall a Jenga tower could get. The answer was: very tall. The tower eventually stood taller than the kids, taller than the parents, and, for a brief moment, seemed to be defying the laws of gravity. Then it came crashing down. Thankfully, nobody was underneath it!

There were bubbles, crafts, tacos, prayer activities, and several enthusiastic renditions of Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. I also discovered Biscoff spread for the first time, which, for anyone else who has somehow missed out on this experience, tastes remarkably like the cookies. There was also a surprisingly serious debate happening around the cheese. Does cheese belong in a can? Does cheese belong on everything? Apparently, this is a question on which people have very strong opinions.

We also had one important victory: not a single drink was spilled on the newly installed carpet (Duayne will be happy to know that!). The tacos, however, were a different story. It turns out that handing children heavy plates of tacos and then asking them to carry those plates around is perhaps not the most foolproof plan. There were a few casualties. But there were also plenty of people willing to grab a towel, help clean up, and laugh about it.

Somewhere in the middle of all that chaos, I looked

(continued on the next page) —→

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Rooted and Growing (continued) — Abby Cunningham

around and thought, this is church. Not because everything was perfectly organized or because every activity went exactly according to plan, but because people were together. Kids were laughing. Adults were serving. People were making things, singing, eating, playing, praying, and welcoming one another. There was a lot of joy in that room, and God was in it too.

A Moment of Gratitude

Before I move on, I need to give a very big thank you to Ronda. I've been told that Messy Church is near and dear to Ronda's heart, and after looking through old bulletins and seeing just how long she has been making this happen (ten years!) I can certainly see why. Ronda has made this transition incredibly easy for me. She passed along a wealth of information, thoughtfully organized and neatly put together, so that I could walk in and actually know which way was up.

Apparently, this is very much the Ronda way. I've heard the words meticulous, hardworking, and dedicated more than once when people describe her. After seeing how much thought she puts into everything, I can understand why. She has a remarkable ability to prepare things so that other people can simply show up, plug in, and play. Then there is Ronda's creativity. Her heart for this ministry is a powerhouse of thoughtfulness, imagination, and care.

Duayne once mentioned to me over lunch that Ronda casts a pretty large shadow around here because she has helped with just about everything. I laughed, but I also understood what he meant. I don't see my role as trying to recreate what Ronda has done. I get to build on it. Ronda has spent ten years creating, organizing, growing, and caring for Messy Church at NCC. She has already laid a wonderful foundation, and I'm grateful that I get to take what she has built and add my own ideas, energy, and creativity to it. That's the exciting part about something new. It doesn't have to mean starting over. Sometimes something new grows because someone else has already done the hard work of planting and tending the garden.

Thank you, Ronda, for making it possible for me to jump in and get started, and for showing me just how much love can go into something as wonderfully messy as Messy Church.

Faith in Motion: Finding God in the changes, challenges, and joys of everyday life

There have been some pretty big changes in my life this month. I started this new job, my sister got married, we said goodbye to our dog, and my partner brought home two foster cats. Some changes have been exciting, some have been difficult, and some have involved two cats who apparently believe my home is a free 24-hour all amenities included jungle gym. Through all of it, I've been reminded that new beginnings don't always look the way we expect them to.

Sometimes they're big and exciting, sometimes they're hard, and sometimes they look like a room full of children trying to build the world's tallest Jenga tower. God is present in all of it. Sometimes we notice God in the big, important moments. Other times, I think God sneaks in through the little ones, a child proudly showing off a Jenga tower, someone helping clean up spilled food, a room full of people singing a silly song, or a volunteer quietly staying behind to make sure everything gets put away.

Those moments may not seem particularly profound at the time, but they are the moments that make a community. So, my gratitude this month is for the people of NCC who have welcomed me, jumped in to help, laughed when things got messy, and made my first month here so much fun. I have a feeling there will be plenty more messes, questions, laughter, and surprises ahead, and I'm looking forward to all of them.

After all, faith is rarely lived out in perfect, tidy moments. More often, it looks a lot like showing up, loving one another, helping when things get messy, and trusting that God is right there with us.

Take It with You: Where did you see God this month?

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Janet Jesse, who was there through all the chaos of getting me settled and helping with the transition, and then spent several hours on her feet helping make Messy Church run smoothly. I'm so grateful for your help, patience, and willingness to jump in wherever you were needed!

Another big thank you to Trish Andrew for helping with setup, and to Kim Scott, Carol A., Zemi, and Josh for cooking dinner for all 45 people who joined us! Feeding 45 people is no small task!

And thank you to all of our station leaders and volunteers who helped make my first Messy Church possible. From preparing dinner and setting up activities to welcoming families, leading stations, helping wherever there was a need, and cleaning up afterward, so many people played a part in making the evening such a success. I'm incredibly grateful for every person who showed up, pitched in, and helped make the whole wonderfully messy evening happen!

Another big thank-you to our Sunday School leaders, Molly Lu and Jenny Jordan, for all the time, energy, and care they put into creating a welcoming and meaningful experience for our kids. I'm so grateful for the ways you show up, jump in, and help make Sunday mornings special for NCC's youngest members.

Looking Ahead: There is already so much happening as we begin this new season of ministry! Over the next month, look for opportunities to get involved:

Sunday School: Every Sunday 9:30 & 10:45

Women's Bible Study: Every Tuesday @10AM

Chair Yoga: Every Tuesday @11:45AM

Prayer Shawl: Every other Friday @10 AM

Blessing of the Pets: October 3 @10 AM

Bring your pet, a picture of your pet, or even a special item that reminds you of a beloved animal. We'll gather together to celebrate the animals who bring so much joy, companionship, and love into our lives.

Bible Dedication for 2nd Graders: October 11 (During the Worship Services 9:30 & 10:45)

We'll celebrate our second graders and present them with their own dedicated Bibles. It's a special milestone as they begin growing in their understanding of Scripture and making the Bible their own.

Confirmation: October 4 @5pm (1st Sunday Every Month)

Our Confirmation program for 7th and 8th graders begins this fall. Confirmation is a chance for young people to explore their faith, ask honest questions, learn about the church, and begin thinking about what it means to make their faith their own.

Messy Church/Trunk or Treat: October 11 @4:30PM

We're getting messy again! This intergenerational evening will include decorated cars, trick-or-treating, dinner, activities, and plenty of fun for all ages. Come decorate a trunk, bring some candy, lend a hand, or simply join us for the evening.



Potluck Study: October 18 @11:45

Get to Know Abby! Since I'm the new person around here, I thought it was only fair to give you all a chance to ask me some questions! Bring a dish to share, grab a plate, and come get to know me a little better. Ask about my background, my faith, what brought me to NCC, or whatever else you're curious about. I'll do my best to answer honestly and hopefully we'll have some good food and plenty of laughs along the way!

All the best, Abigail Cunningham (She/Her/Hers)

Mission Connections

North Suburban Chicago Crop Hunger Walk: Sunday Oct 4

The CROP Hunger Walk is one of the most meaningful ways our church family can stand with neighbors near and far. Through Church World Service, your support helps communities:

- **Grow food that lasts** — CWS teaches families which crops thrive in their climate, providing nourishment and income.
- **Gain access to clean water** — helping build wells, protect water sources, and teach long-term water stewardship.
- **Recover from disaster** — by strengthening and supporting existing local organizations rather than replacing them.
- **Support refugees** — even as national programs shrink, CWS continues vital work with refugees who are here and fighting to remain safe.

Let's walk with purpose, give with compassion, and continue NCC's legacy of showing up for our neighbors in ways that truly matter. You can donate on the NCC CROP Walk page: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/northfield-community-church-2>

Youth Group

Happy October! We have some great stuff coming up for our Youth Group! We're excited to introduce the new BAND app, where students and parents can stay updated with announcements, reminders, and events! On October 11th, we would love for youth group to help out with the Trunk-or-Treat Messy Church! Then, on October 18th we'll have our October Youth Group: Pumpkin Olympics! Get ready for some fun and competitive pumpkin-themed games and a great time together! We can't wait to see everyone this month!

Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

Happy autumn! As the weather turns cooler and we enter a new school and program year, the entire music ministry is so glad to be back with you. The choir returned to its regular singing at the traditional service on September 20, and the choir and praise band will join together for our annual Fall Festival on September 27. It is sure to be a wonderful event, and we can't wait to see you there!

With the start of the new year, we welcome (and welcome back) our choral staff singers. We hope you'll take a moment to say hello and welcome them to our community. They are Kylie Buckham (soprano), Lauren Maho (alto), Jared Cohen (tenor), and Stephen Miller (bass).

This year also brings the reopening of our remodeled Sanctuary, along with a host of musical events. We are excited for collaborations with the praise band and guest organists, as well as a choral-orchestral concert with our choir in the spring. There is much to look forward to!

In the meantime, mark your calendars for our monthly "drop-in choir" series at the 10:30 service. On the third Sunday of each month, we welcome anyone interested in singing with the choir. This is a low-stakes, no-commitment opportunity to join us in music ministry. We'll sing simple songs that we all know and love, and all you need to do is attend the rehearsal before the service. Then you're ready to sing! The first "drop-in choir" will be on Sunday, October 18.

If you have questions about the choir — or anything related to music ministry at NCC — please be in touch with Director of Music Tim Lambert (tlambert@northfielducc.org). We look forward to sharing this year of wonderful music with you!

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

Faith in Conversation

A Welcoming Bible Study for Couples & Individuals

Looking to grow in faith, strengthen relationships, and connect with others? Join **Faith in Conversation**, a welcoming Bible study designed for couples, with individuals also warmly invited. Together, we'll explore Scripture, share perspectives, and grow through meaningful discussion and prayer.

What to Expect:

- Three initial sessions, with the option for three additional sessions
- Scripture-based discussions on a variety of themes, with real-life application
- A safe, inclusive environment where all perspectives are welcome
- An opportunity to connect, share, and grow in faith together



Hosts & Content Guidance:

Robert and Dara Scarola will host the sessions. Duayne and Beth Meyer will participate, with Duayne providing content guidance to help shape themes and discussions.

Kickoff: Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. at NCC Contact the office if you're interested.

The Church Family

We mourn the passing of Shirley Bastiani. Shirley passed away on September 12th. Loving mother of Tina (Matthew) Baldwin, Elena (Joseph) Kasper, Anthony Bastiani, and Christa (Marc) Rossi. Cherished Nana of Ruth, Julian, Kaleb, Cora, Kensi, Colton and Francesca. Before she moved to the northern suburbs, Shirley was very active at St. Peter Church, especially with the Christian Education program and the Quilters Group. She will be dearly missed. A Celebration of Life service is planned for a later date.

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, David Otis, and Ginny Tips.

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

Office Notes

Interested in joining an NCC Board or Committee? It is a great way to "not become weary in doing good." We will be electing and installing Board members at the Congregational Meeting on May 14th and are looking for new members. You can speak to any of our current Board members (see below) about the details! They can fill you in on the work of any of the boards. **We need your help and the time commitment in most cases is small.**

Deacons/Ushers: Jeff Jordan

Christian Education: Janet Jesse

Trustees: Kevin Trimpe

Partners in Christ: Nancy Hyrczyk

Missions: Bill McKinley

Memorials: Tracey Buchman

Music: Helen Raymaker

We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:

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

Claudia Andrew, Mia Andrew, Ruthie Andrew, Vijay Johnson, Bill McKinley, Margaret Weber, Lea Jones, and Rob Orr for serving as worship service livestream techs.

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

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Address Correction Requested

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

October Events

Oct 2nd	A Just Harvest
Oct 3rd	Relevant Bible Study
Oct 3rd	Blessing of the Pets
Oct 4th	Crop Hunger Walk
Oct 4th	Confirmation
Oct 11th	Messy Church
Oct 13th	Board of Christian Education
Oct 15th	Partners in Christ
Oct 15th	Faith in Conversation
Oct 18th	Potluck: Getting to Know Abby
Oct 18th	Pumpkin Olympics
Oct 20th	Board of Trustees
Oct 22nd	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Oct 26th	Church Council



The Church Staff

All of the members of NCC	Ministers
Steve Ash	Business Manager
Eileen Baumgarten	Organist
Abby Cunningham	Director of Faith Formation
Lea Jones	Office Manager
Tim Lambert	Music Director
Duayne R. Meyer	Senior Pastor
Don Minnick	Pastor Emeritus
Sarah Paige	Director of Youth Ministry



Northfield Community Church

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: https://www.northfielducc.org/embedded-calendar				1	2 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00 am A Just Harvest	3 8:30am Relevant Bible Study 10:00am Blessing of the Animals
4 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am Sunday School 12:00 pm CROP Hunger Walk 6:00 pm Confirmation Class	5	6 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	7	8 7:00pm Mission Board	9	10
11 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am 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 Faith in Conversation	16 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group	17
18 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am Sunday School 11:45am Potluck: Get to know Abby 5:00pm Pumpkin Olympics	19	20 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	21	22 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	23	24
25 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am Sunday School	26 7:00pm Church Council	27 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	28	29	30	31 Halloween