

# Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield  
community church



SEPTEMBER  
2025

## Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

*Let us not  
become  
weary in  
doing good.*

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August, 2025

Dear Northfield Community Church congregation and friends,

My years with you at Northfield Community Church have been such a blessing. Next June will mark the end of my 20th at NCC, and the completion of our 10th year of Messy Church! However, as my grandchildren get older, (two are in high school now), my wish is to be with my children and grandchildren in Orlando more, and this seems like the right time to step back from my job here. I recently informed Pastor Duayne, the Moderators, Staff, and the Board of Christian Education that I plan to retire from Northfield Community Church at the end of August 2026.

This has been a difficult decision, and although I'm full of emotions as I get used to saying it, I believe it is the right decision. And, for now, there isn't really a change. I continue in my role as Pastoral Associate for Family and Educational Ministries with joy and am excited about the year ahead. I know God's love and light will continue shine into the community and the world from this corner of Willow and Wagner Roads, this year and for many, many more years to come.

God is good, all the time!

Ronda Bower



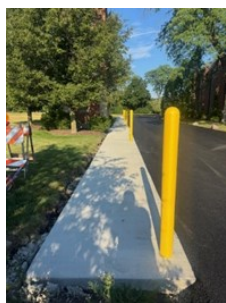
*God  
IS good*

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 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer



\$124,000 later NCC has a new parking lot and sidewalk, paving the way for safe walking and driving. Not the most exciting project we've undertaken but one that has already elicited thanks and appreciation from Nursery School families, parents with school children, and folks from our own church. Remember, if you would like to donate to this effort you may indicate this in the memo line on your check or through NCC's secure online giving at [www.northfielducc.org](http://www.northfielducc.org) or by going to your Realm app. Your generosity is paving the way for safe comings and goings for church friends and members as well as the wider community.

Get ready for a full fall at NCC! Messy Church, Fall Festival, Oktoberfest, Blessing of the Pets, Crop Hunger Walk, to name some, and by no means all, of what is happening at NCC. This comes on the heels of our August Garden Picnic and Church World Service Potluck at NCC. The Holy Spirit is paving the way for good fellowship, fun and food at NCC.

The theme for 2025 is "do not grow weary of well-doing..." from Galatians 6:9. During 40 years of ordained ministry I regularly hear of "giving fatigue," or "volunteer fatigue." Yes, each of us has to find a balance of care for self while caring for the needs of others. But it's not one or the other. Care for self is also finding meaning, purpose and connection as we care for others. Caring for others also means stepping back to see how and where our time, energy and gifts can be put to use in ways that not only contribute to the needs of others, but also puts a bounce in our step as we learn, discover and grow. Worship and scripture pave the way for a deeper connection with the transcendent and a greater self-awareness.

Our much beloved Pastoral Associate of 20 years has announced she will be stepping down next summer as she makes the move to be with her family in Florida. Ronda Bower, in her 20th year at NCC, has surely paved the way for children and adults alike to learn about scripture and love the church. Ronda's legacy paves the way not only for whoever might follow in her footsteps but also for a church that is stronger because of the generous sharing of her gifts. God's grace is paving the way for Ronda's new adventure and for NCC to build on her legacy of blessing.

"Let us not grow weary of well-doing," writes St. Paul to a little, struggling congregation in out-of-the-way Galatia. They did not know the disproportionate influence they would have on the world around them. How could they? Yet they stepped forward in faith, onto anything but smooth ground, and paved the way for the church — including our church — to be as faithful in our time and place as they were in theirs.

I hope you'll agree this little congregation at Wagner and Willow has a similar reach and impact; makes a difference, is helping to, as Isaiah wrote, "make crooked places straight and rough places plain." ~Duayne

### **A Women's Retreat Opportunity:**

Do you ever have difficulty praying? Have you ever felt God is not listening to your prayers? Interested in learning different ways to pray? Then join us at the **UCC Illinois Conference Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center in Princeton, IL, Oct. 3 and 4**. The theme is "When You Pray... An Exploration of Prayer Practices." The overnight retreat begins late afternoon on Friday, October 3, with dinner at 6 pm, and concludes around 3:30 on Saturday, October 4, at our beautiful Pilgrim Park where there will also be time for you to relax, refresh and renew yourself. Co-leaders Carol Currier-Frighetto and Ronda Bower. Workshop leaders include Lea Jones and Hope Molozaiy. Register by **September 21st** by going to the Pilgrim Park website or use this link: <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com>

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

### **DON'T MISS SEPT.'S ACTIVITIES AS NCC KICKS OFF THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR:**

#### **MESSY CHURCH - SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 4:30 P.M. – FILL A BUCKET**

We'll kick off this new year of Messy Church by explore loving God and loving others using the children's book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. The afternoon will be filled with lots of fun, crafts, games, snacks, friends, craziness, and a delicious dinner. Everyone is invited- all ages! Invite friends and neighbors to come!



**Mission: Collecting boxes of cereal for Cereal Box Dominos and then they will be taken to the Northfield Township Food Pantry to fill people's buckets and their stomachs. Please bring cereal boxes to NCC by Messy Church on Sept. 14. Thank you!**

### **IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION SUNDAY!**

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21!**

*"So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith." Galatians 6:10*

#### **KICK-OFF THE 2025-26 PROGRAM YEAR WITH:**

##### **10:00 a.m. – Lively All-Church Celebration Worship**

Don't miss the joy of worship together as one!

Worship will be in the sanctuary with music from both 9:30 and 10:30 musicians.

##### **10:15 a.m. – Sunday School Kick-Off in the chapel**

Children ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to this fun filled and interactive show with

##### **Juggler, Magician, and Storyteller Kevin Adair.**

Invite your friends!

(beginning in worship with family and friends in the sanctuary at 10:00)

##### **11:00 a.m. – An All-Church Pizza Party!**

Pizza, watermelon, special treats, indoor and outdoor seating, laughter, friends, and celebrating the kick off of another year together at NCC.

**Don't miss this fun Fall Fest celebration! This is a great time to bring friends and neighbors to introduce them to the wonderful, fun people of God at NCC!**

#### **OKTOBERFEST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 Beginning at 4:00 P.M.**

Members and friends of all ages are invited to attend Oktoberfest and a finish of our celebration of Duayne's 25<sup>th</sup> & 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries at the home of Matt and Sarah Hayes.

Don't miss the fun of friends, good food, and great music.

There will be face painting and other fun children's activities.

Potluck sign up coming soon.

**Calling those who like to knit and crochet:** If you would like to share your knitting and crocheting love and ability with some NCC people who would love to learn, please contact Ronda Bower in the church office, [rbower@northfielducc.org](mailto:rbower@northfielducc.org).

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## Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

To the NCC Community,

It's hard to believe we have already reached the end of the summer! We hope you've enjoyed the various musical offerings throughout these past few months. As always, we are deeply grateful for your support of all that we do in our music program at Northfield Community Church.

September will bring the start of our program year! We have a variety of musical offerings to share with you. The choir will resume singing at our 10:30am services on September 14. Other exciting events to look forward to this fall include a collaboration between the choir and praise band for the Fall Festival, our annual joint choral service with Winnetka Congregational Church, and of course, our Christmas Eve lessons and carols. This year is sure to be full of beautiful music and meaningful moments, and we can't wait to share them with you.

Enjoy these last days of summer and best of luck with all of the new school year excitement!

Warmly,

Tim (and the entire NCC music ministry team)

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## Mission Connections



The North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk steps off on Sunday, **October 5, 2025 at 12:00 noon**. Our host is **North Shore United Methodist Church, 213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe, IL**.

It's time for NCC Walkers to sign up, start fund raising, and invite friends and family to join. The need this year is critical. 25% of funds raised remain in our community. Our local recipients are A Just Harvest, Northfield Township Food Depository, and New Trier Township Food Pantry.

With federal cuts to 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 the 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.



Please plan to participate by walking, fund raising, or contributing. Sign up at church or by contacting NCC Team Captain Janet Jesse. [Janetjesse21@yahoo.com](mailto:Janetjesse21@yahoo.com). 847-971-6079.

OR Click on this QR code to go directly to the North Suburban Chicago CROP Walk page.

*Let's end hunger one step at a time!*

**Also from the Board of Missions:** They will start 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>.



As we head into Fall, NCC's lay leaders want to remind you of a few things: we are planning to finish out our celebration of Duayne's 25th & 40th anniversaries.



First, please watch for **NCC's Oktoberfest on September 28<sup>th</sup>** and be sure to attend!

In addition to a festive autumn, *we'll celebrate Duayne in words*. We are building a collage of the words that describe, or embody, or represent Duayne best. When you think of Pastor Duayne, what one word/phrase comes to mind? Please send your "Duayne word" to Kim Scott by September 15<sup>th</sup>: [3kimscott@gmail.com](mailto:3kimscott@gmail.com) Too hard to narrow down to just one word? Send your 2 or 3 words to Kim; she won't censor, no worries!

## The Church Family

*Welcome and congratulations* to **Lindsey Hourihan** who was baptized in Christ today. Lindsey's parents are **Daniel Hourihan** and **Taylor Bodman Hourihan**. Godparents are **Callie Sullivan** and **Tim Hourihan**. **Welcome Lindsey!**

*We are saddened to share the news* of recent deaths among the NCC family and friends:

**Lynne Curtis**, a long-time, dedicated member of Northfield Community Church passed away on July 31st. One of the many ways Lynne served Christ through NCC was her oversight and care of the Memorial Garden. Services were held on August 30th. Please keep Tracey and Josh Buchman in your prayers as well as the Curtis and Buchman families.

**Jay Lorenz**—Jay passed away peacefully on August 20th. Service plans for Jay are pending. Please keep Jean and the family in your prayers. Jean's address is: 1200 E Partridge St Apt 35 Metamora, IL 61548-9619.

*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, Jay Lorenz, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.

## Office Notes

**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.

The submission deadline for the **October Window** newsletter is **September 19th**.

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

## ***First Class***

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### NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

#### September Events

Sept 1st	Labor Day, Office Closed
Sept 5th	A Just Harvest
Sept 9th	Board of Christian Education
Sept 10th	Choir Rehearsal
Sept 11th	Mission Board
Sept 14th	Messy Church
Sept 16th	Board of Trustees
Sept 18th	Partners in Christ
Sept 19th	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Sept 21st	Fall Festival
Sept 22nd	Church Council
Sept 28th	Octoberfest



#### 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

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <i>Holiday, Office closed</i> 	<b>2</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:00am A Just Harvest	<b>6</b> 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Mission Board	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
<b>14</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>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Trustees	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00am Partners In Christ	<b>19</b> <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>20</b> 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
<b>21 Fall Festival</b> 9:00am Band and Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fall Festival Worship 10:10am Sunday School Kick-off 11:00am All Church Pizza Party	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Church Council	<b>23</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
<b>28</b> 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 4:00pm Octoberfest 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am Women's Bible Study	Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: <a href="http://www.NorthfieldUCC.org">www.NorthfieldUCC.org</a>			