Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield community church

AUGUST 2026

Rooted and Growing

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Ronda's Remarks— Ronda Bower

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,being confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 1:3-6

I quoted Winnie the Pooh at my twenty years celebration party on May 31, and I have to use that quote one more time because it is so true. That sweet little bear said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

This is my last Window's article. There have been so many lasts these past few months: last Messy Church, last Children's Sunday, last Potluck Study, etc. To be honest, these "last" things have been hard, but woven together with the sad has been a lot of smiles and gratitude for all the events that have led to these lasts. My time at Northfield Community Church has been an incredible journey of laughter, tears, prayer, new experiences, celebrating traditions. Thank you for walking with me on this amazing journey. Thank you for opening your hearts, sharing times of joy and sorrow, going along with all my crazy ideas, and for volunteering even when you weren't quite sure of how things would work. NCC, you have been and are my family, you have so blessed my life, and I am so grateful for you.

It is so hard to leave, but I am very excited to move to Orlando to be just a few minutes drive from my son and daughter, their spouses, and my amazing four grandchildren. And to be honest, I am also very excited that this winter I will not have to freeze through a Chicago winter. I will think of you in January when I am sitting on my screened porch in flip flops. Though I know I will never find a church in Florida as wonderful as NCC, I do hope I can find one that has some of the things that makes NCC so incredible: a beautiful welcoming spirit; an eagerness to use heart and hands and lots of love to help brothers and sisters in need; and an inclusive spirit that finds joy in being with God's children of all ages.

And some parting words of wisdom to you, Northfield Community Church:

1) There is nothing like the support of a church family to help us stay strong and find our way in the world today. Research shows that active church involvement provides strong mental wellness support, builds a sense of belonging, builds meaningful social connection, and fosters spiritual growth. So, even though life is busy, make church a priority for you and your family (and your friends).

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Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

2) You are the church. Volunteer for something you have never tried before. And keep helping with things you find fun to do. Attend an event at church that maybe isn't your thing, but you will add to the fun. Participate and enjoy. NCC needs you!

3) Support and show your gratitude to all of NCC's staff. They work very hard, they love you, and they are amazing! And

4) Find ways to get to know and support NCC's children and teens. They can learn so much from you and you can learn so much from them. Let them see how loved they are by God and their church. Thank you for "listening".

I will get out my new mailing address and email address soon. My phone number will stay the same. My church email will remain active for about 6 months. All of this to say that I would love to hear from you. And if you are visiting Florida, let me know!

There is a wonderful Dr. Seuss quote: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." I will always smile as I think of you and remember all my time here. I will hold all the things I learned from you in my heart. I will hold on to the love you have given me because it makes me stronger. And to all of you - always remember that God loves you, and so do I.

Love and joy in Christ,
Ronda

Thank you to:

- NCC's wonderful Summer Sunday school teachers- Trish Andrew, Josh and Tracie Buchman, Kellie Cunningham, Janet Jesse, Molly Lu, Carma Pagni, and Carolyn Wiggins

- NCC's Mission Board who purchased the items for Church World Service Clean Up Buckets, to all who purchased items and donated money for the Church World Service hygiene kits, and for all who came and assembled the 10 emergency buckets and 90 hygiene kits that will be sent to communities in the US to bring care, hope, and a powerful reminder to neighbors in difficult times that they are never alone. And thank you to Kim Scott who will be delivering these buckets and kits to the drop off center in Elkhart, IN.

- to the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team: Dara Scarola, Julie Leighninger, Fran Eytalis, and Janice Gemp, who have been creating with lots of prayer and love, shawls that are wrapped and ready for you to give to a friend or relative that may be sick or experiences hardship and grief and could use a prayer shawl to let them know they are not alone and are wrapped in love. You can take a prayer shawl to share from the wicker basket under the TV in the chapel area. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry team, please contact Dara Scarola, dara10s@yahoo.com.

Sunday, August 16 at the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services. Children and teens are invited to bring their school backpacks to church if they wish for the **Blessing of the Backpacks.** Backpack tags will be available for everyone for backpacks, diaper bags, computer bags, or to share with friends.

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

"As with so many seasons in our lives, we find ourselves sad and grateful at the same time and for the same reasons. Sad, because we have come to the end of a fruitful season which, as we reflect, has brought joy, satisfaction and a deepening of relationships and of faith. The irony is we feel gratitude at the same time as we have feelings of loss; grateful and grieving all at once. In her essay, "The Open Door," Helen Keller wrote, "what we once enjoyed…we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us." Maybe we should call this mixed bag of emotions, "saditude," a mash-up of sadness and gratitude.

Maybe not but, at the very least, we must lift up with joy and appreciation the 20-year ministry of our Pastoral Associate and friend Ronda Bower. It is deeply gratifying to have shared ministry with her at NCC for these two decades. Ronda is not only a colleague and co-worker, she is a friend and neighbor to Beth and me. And while we will miss her - as all of us at NCC will miss her - we delight with her as she embarks on this next part of her life journey and once again makes her home in Florida near her children and grandchildren.

As for NCC, as with the seasons, we march on. The Search Committee is actively engaged in the interview process and is hopeful to have a candidate to introduce to the Church Council; perhaps as early as the middle or end of August. If the process continues into fall, then the Board of Christian Education and Church Council will need to organize in a way that our Christian Education ministry can effectively continue this ministry that is so vital to NCC's life and health.

Of course, we are also in a season of refreshment of our facilities and ground. Seems like an apropos metaphor, given our search for a new ministry staff person. We are doing a little de-constructing and then will put things back together again. Things will look a little - not a lot - different. There will be a different "vibe" to the place. Surely this is true in many regards.

Even as we are in a season of change, there is a constancy to be counted on, dear sisters and brothers. We can depend on the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. In our busyness and work as an organization, it is critical that we should also be still so we might hear and see - and feel some poking and prodding of - the Holy Spirit at work among us. How and where are we being led as Christ's church? What part are each of us to play? What am I to do as the gospel is proclaimed in and through my church?

Yes, I know it's summer and it will be summer for a little while longer (thank heavens!). But you and I also know it is a changing season in our church. It's a season of gratitude: thank you Ronda Grant Bower for your good and faithful ministry! It is a season of sadness: we will miss you Miss Ronda! And is it a season of change and opportunity: we are excited as we stand on tip-toe to see what the Holy Spirit might yet have in store for Northfield Community Church.

~Pastor Duayne Meyer

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.

Teens on Missions

Mission Trip Team

Adult leaders:
Sarah Paige
Chris Townsend
Kim Scott
Alexander Kopley

Collegiate Leader:
Tessa Gemp

Participants:
John Townsend
Kavi Johnson
Vijay Johnson
Kate Ptak
Maggie Ptak
Leighton Gemp
Bevin Gemp
Lochlyn Gemp
Rhys Phillips
Gwenyth Phillips
Mia Andrew
Ruthie Andrew

A JUST HARVEST

Volunteers are needed for **A Just Harvest!** The First Friday of each month we serve lunch at **AJH** in Rogers Park. Please contact Carol Angell if you are able to help. **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.

North Suburban Chicago Crop Hunger Walk (Sunday, Oct 4)

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK

After countless years of Jim Hutten's enthusiastic supervision and Janet Jesse's stellar work last year, NCC is in need of a Captain for this year's event. The job involves creating a team page, staying in touch with the walk coordinator and encouraging and staying in touch with NCC walkers. There will be emails, some phone calls and a few presentations at services.

NCC is without doubt the most impactful team for our local walk, bringing in almost 70% of the revenue which supports the important work of Church World Service. Big shoes to fill!

Questions: Victoria Frank, 847.910.3901, vfrank@vcfinc.com

The Church Family

We mourn the passing of Joan Neil. Joan Passed away peacefully on July 19th. A memorial service is planned for September 12th at NCC.

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, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.

Worship times in August

August 2nd: 9:00 am & 10:30 am
August 9th: 9:00 am & 10:30 am
August 16th: 9:00 am & 10:30 am
August 23rd: One service at 10:00 am—we honor Ronda's last Sunday
August 30th: One service at 10:00 am

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're looking for comments on **Assistive Listening Systems** for the sanctuary. A part of the Facilities Refresh is updating our assisted listening system. Many of the systems available work with hearing aid apps that reside on smart phones and/or with Bluetooth. We'd like to install a system that folks are able to use. This will likely include the FM broadcast system and another, more modern type system, perhaps Auracast. If you have comments, questions or suggestions, please contact Lea Jones in the office. Thanks!

We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:

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

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

The submission deadline for the **September Window** newsletter is **August 20th.**

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

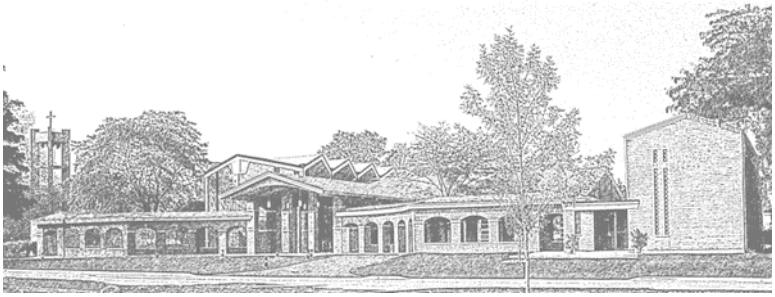
NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

August Events

Aug 7th	A Just Harvest
Aug 13th	Mission Board
Aug 16th	Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug 18th	Board of Trustees
Aug 20th	***Window Newsletter Deadline***
Aug 23rd	Worship Celebrating Ronda
Aug 24th	Church Council

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

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org						**1** 11:00am Joan Evenstad Memorial
2 9:00am Worship and Praise 9:10am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	**3**	**4** 10:00am Women's Bible Study	**5**	**6**	**7** 11:00am A Just Harvest	**8**
9 9:00am Worship and Praise 9:10am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	**10**	**11** 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	**12**	**13** 7:00pm Mission Board	**14**	**15**
16 Blessing of the Backpacks 9:00am Worship and Praise 9:10am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	**17**	**18** 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	**19**	**20** ***Window Newsletter Deadline***	**21**	**22**
23 10:00am Blended Worship 10:10am Sunday School	**24** 7:00pm Church Council	**25** 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**
30 10:00am Worship 10:10am Sunday School	**31**					