

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



MAY
2026

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

We are on our way!

It's hard to know where to begin as NCC is in a season of change, growth and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, new life. I'll do my best to enumerate some of what's happening at NCC and hope this epistle is somewhat coherent.

*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

After several years of pushing the facilities refreshment project to a back burner we are underway in earnest. A generous, catalytic gift from the Garard family provided the impetus to move forward this summer. The sanctuary will close on June 15 and, if all goes to plan, will reopen in time for Fall Fest on September 13 or 20. We will worship in the Chapel throughout the summer, most likely at 9:00am and 10:30am.

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By now most of us have seen, or at least had the opportunity to see, the scope of work throughout the building. Not only will the sanctuary be repaired and refreshed, several areas of the building will be brought into good working order. Case in point: the Chapel roof was replaced this week and tuckpointing is currently in progress. Of course, much of the work being undertaken most of us won't notice (caulking, painting, HVAC repairs, window replacement, tuck-pointing, etc.), but the updates to some areas, most notably the sanctuary, will be hard to miss and will be beautiful as well as functional (think audiovisual, climate control, livestreaming). We have the Board of the Trustees, with Kevin Trimpe at the helm, the Design Team, with Jennifer Andrew's expertise, and the Capital Campaign Team under Janet Jesse's leadership. There are able, dedicated people working diligently. Stan Xidas is the General Contractor, so things are in capable hands. We have the right people, at the right time, doing things the right way. We are on our way!

Certainly, as important if not more important, is the change taking place to our NCC staff. After twenty years of effective, faithful and tireless ministry at NCC, in August Ronda Bower is returning to Florida to be closer to family (and warmer winter weather!). Anytime someone brings up the notion of "replacing Ronda," they self-correct and say, "of course there is no replacing Ronda." Truer words. To quote Bob Dylan, "the times they are a'changin.'" Ronda is irreplaceable. Even so, – and once again – with the help of the Holy Spirit, new leadership with different and, hopefully, complimentary, gifts will step forward. We have a gifted Search Committee in place and you will be hearing from them in the coming weeks and months as the search process continues. We are on our way!

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)— Duayne Meyer

Sarah Paige and Alex Kopley, our youth leaders, are going on Mission Trip with 12 youth and two other adults to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky in mid-June. We have good work to do there in addition to the important ministry of faith and identity formation. You will be hearing more in the coming weeks but please keep Sarah, Alex and our Mission Team in your prayers. We are (almost) on our way!

I want to conclude by mentioning NCC's upcoming annual meeting on May 14th. Not only will we elect and install our 2026-27 slate of leaders, we will also hear from the Refreshment Team, the Search Committee and other lay leaders. We are on the move! We are on our way! . ~ Duayne

Ronda's Remarks— Ronda Bower

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children.’” - Matthew 19:14

I am so grateful that Northfield Community Church continues to grow and change to find the best ways to make everyone who comes to NCC feel comfortable, loved, and welcomed. In keeping with that important vision, NCC's church council is looking at meaningful ways to welcome and nurture children, especially infants through age 3 and their families.

NCC's church nursery has not really been used in the last 12 months. So, after some thoughtful conversation, the church nursery will close after May 3 and the space in the back of the chapel and a section of the parlor behind the sanctuary will be redesigned to be a space of welcome for infants and toddlers and their families if needed during worship.

There will still be Sunday school for children age 3 and up each Sunday morning. There will be children's worship bulletins available with scripture puzzles, coloring, and games for these older children to use when they are in worship sitting with their families.

And now your job. (You didn't think I would let all of you off the hook, did you?) Please greet all our families with children. If you don't know their names introduce yourselves. Help if you can and even sit with the families, especially those with infants and toddlers so these families feel welcome in our church home. Help them feel welcome and loved, even if a child is loud, or cries, or has the wiggles. We all have our loud, sad, and wiggly days, and the sound of children in church is the sign of a strong and faithful family of God!

Please help all of God's children, no matter their age, feel loved and welcome.

Thank you to:

all who helped and all who came to April's Messy Church.

to Trish Andrew, Kellie Cunningham, Jenny Jordan, and Kim Scott for teaching Sunday school in April.

to all who came and participated in Tacos and Talents.

Check out NCC's website, www.northfielducc.org

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

May Events at NCC:

**POTLUCK STUDY - "HOW THE WORLD CHANGED MY VIEW OF SERVICE"
PRESENTER: KERRI GILBERT, VICE-PRESEIDENT OF EDPOWERMENT INC.
AND SOCIALPRENEUR OF THREADS WORLDWIDE**

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 11:45 a.m.

What does it really mean to help others? Join us for a heartfelt and inspiring presentation that challenges the idea of "helping" and explores a more meaningful approach—empowerment. Through personal stories from her global experiences and work with organizations focused on education and artisan partnerships, Kerri Gilbert will share how real change happens when we walk alongside others rather than try to fix their problems. Come be encouraged, inspired, and reminded that each of us has the ability to make a difference—right where we are.

Bring a dish to share for lunch.

YOUTH GROUP AMONG US NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 8 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Teens, 7th – 12th grade, are invited to join this fun evening of snacks, team building, and laughs!

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & DINNER – "ROOTED AND GROWING"

THURSDAY, MAY 14 – IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

6:00 P.M. DINNER, 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BEGINS

Let's gather in community, share a delicious potato and salad bar dinner, and celebrate our upcoming fabulous facility refreshment.

"Do not grow weary of doing good..." Galatians 6:9



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY, MAY 17 - "LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

CHILD & TEEN LED WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.

Hot dog lunch for the whole congregation 11:30 a.m.

Come and support NCC's children and teens!



Ronda Celebration Day!

Join us on Sunday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m. for a special celebration worship service honoring Ronda and her 20 years of faithful ministry in Christian Education. A luncheon and time of sharing will follow the service.

We invite you to help us create a "Book of Blessings" by submitting notes, stories, memories, and photos of Ronda and your family. Contributions can be uploaded here: <https://forms.gle/avFuPaMnLu1srkYw7> or emailed to celebrateronda@gmail.com.

Let's come together to celebrate and thank Ronda for the many lives she has touched!

"Well done, good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23

Mission Connections

The Mission Trip is only 2 months away! Thank you to our generous congregation members for all of your support in sending our youth on this eye-opening and inspirational trip! They are incredibly excited to head to Kentucky this June and can't wait to share in this meaningful experience!



Thank you to the **Faith Formation Search Committee** members who are volunteering their time to search for a replacement for the irreplaceable Ronda Bower.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Duayne Meyer | Tessa Gemp | Beth Meyer, clerk |
| Dana Johnson | Jenny Jordan | Molly Lu |
| Kim Scott | Debbie Tan | Liz Warner |

Facilities Refresh Capital Campaign



NCC has begun to check off some of the projects to be completed as a part of the Facilities Refreshment! So far, the chapel has a new roof, and drainage improvements have been made on the front walkway. Tuck pointing on the outside walls is underway. Following the June 14 worship service, the sanctuary will be closed so that repairs and remodeling can be done. All worship services will be held in the chapel through the summer. The Praise Service will be at 9:00 am with the Spirited Traditional Service at 10:30. In mid-September, we will celebrate the completion of the refreshment.

Members and friends have received a letter requesting participation in the Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$700,000. To date, we are more than 60% there! Please consider your pledges prayerfully. Pledges should be received by December 31, 2027. You can make your pledge on Realm. <https://onrealm.org/northfielducc/-/form/pledge/sanctuaryrefresh>

If you would rather, you can drop your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you have questions about the project, please reach out to the church office or to a member of the Board of Trustees.

Thank you to the **Facilities Refreshment Design Committee** who are sharing their talents in the design of the updates and refreshment of the building.

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Duayne Meyer | Kevin Trimpe | Jen Andrew | Tracey Buchman | David DeHorn |
| Sarah Hayes | Lea Jones | Loretta Kaplan | Stan Xidas | |

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

https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

The Church Family

We mourn the passing of Ray Scott. Ray passed away on March 31st. A service to celebrate Ray's life will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 11am. Due to construction at Northfield Community Church, services will be held at neighboring Lutheran Church of Ascension, located at 460 Sunset Ridge Rd. in Northfield. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be directed to Kiwanis of Glenview-Northbrook or Northfield (IL) Community Church, or that you honor Ray's memory by performing a simple act of kindness for someone in need just as he so often did. Please keep Phyllis, Kim, Kevin and Lindsay, Sarah Paige, Alyssa Yagelski, and all the Scott family in your prayers.

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, Ray Kennedy, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Nancy Puls, Bob Snyder, 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 Hyczyk

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.

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

The submission deadline for the **June/July Window** newsletter is **May 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

May Events

- May 1st** A Just Harvest
- May 3rd** Potluck Study
Confirmation Class
- May 7th** Mission Board
- May 7th** Youth Group Among Us Night
- May 12th** Board of Christian Education
- May 14th** Annual Spring Meeting
- May 17th** Children's Sunday
- May 18th** Church Council
- May 19th** Board of Trustees
- May 20th** *Window Newsletter Deadline*
- May 21st** Partners in Christ
- May 24th** Pentecost
- May 31st** Ronda Bower Celebration


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

May 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org | | | | | 1 May Day 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am A Just Harvest | 2 8:30am Relevant Bible Study |
| 3 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Potluck Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class | 4 | 5 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga | 6 | 7 9:00am CMA Cluster 1 Clergy Meeting 7:00pm Mission Board | 8 6:00pm Youth Group | 9 |
| 10 Mother's Day 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School | 11 | 12 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Christian Education | 13 | 14 Ascension Day Annual Spring Meeting 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Meeting | 15 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group | 16 |
| 17 Children's Sunday 9:30am Children Sunday rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 10:30am Children's Sunday Worship 11:30am Children's Sunday Hot Dog Lunch | 18 7:00pm Church Council | 19 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees | 20 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i> | 21 10:00am Partners In Christ | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Pentecost 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 10:30am Traditional Worship | 25  | 26 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Ronda Celebration Day 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 10:30am Traditional Worship | | | | | | |