

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



SEPTEMBER
2026

Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

I'm doing something new

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"Can't you see? I'm doing something new!" Isaiah 43.19 (rephrased)

Isaiah is writing to exilic Israel, carted off to Babylon to serve the whims and wishes of King Nebuchadnezzar. The prophet Isaiah speaks up on Yahweh's behalf, not only with words of comfort but conviction, as if to say, "God's not done yet; hardly. God's just getting warmed up. So, pay attention!"

I suppose we have colloquialisms and clichés that convey something similar to Isaiah's message: "It's always darkest before the dawn," "there's light at the end of the tunnel," "tough times never last, but tough people do." You get my drift. But as I hear myself say now and then, "just because it's a cliché doesn't mean it isn't true." There is truth in these words.

So, here we are. It's definitely time of newness and, maybe, a bit of a sense of wilderness (wilderness is where we find ourselves at times uncertain what direction to go and from where our provisions will come) if not exactly exile. This newness brings excitement and also some nervousness as we stand at the threshold of change. In a few months the sanctuary refreshment should be mostly complete. It's not exactly new, but it will be new enough that we will need to live into this long-time familiar and comfortable worship space in new ways. It's going to take some getting used to because, well, it is going to feel new.

This week Abigail Cunningham begins at NCC as the Director of Faith Formation following the two-decade ministry of Ronda Grant. Newness. Change. A different person stepping into a role that we knew well, following a person we came to know and love. Familiar, comfortable, long-established patterns will be broken open, (sometimes) thoughtfully evaluated, accidentally and/or intentionally changed. We will surely feel excitement, disruption, even some displacement. Those of us who want and need things planned out, neat and tidy controllable and predictable are going to feel uncomfortable at times.

Of course, that is just here at NCC. Change, disruption, newness are happening all around us in ways that cannot be denied. Newness is all around. Some changes going on in our culture we may like, and some we surely do not. Yet, here we are. Here it is. It mostly doesn't matter how we feel about it, what matters is how we navigate the change and live and behave faithfully in the midst newness we neither chose nor have under our control.

More than 800 years after Isaiah, the apostle John wrote in Revelation, "See, I am making

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)— Duayne Meyer

all things new. Trust me!" (Revelation 21.5 rephrased). We surely can believe newness keeps coming: nervousness, disruption, excitement. Thus, it has always been. As people of faith we trust and believe God is to be found in the midst of newness and change, discomfort and disruption. God has a word for us while also being present with us. We may not know what the future holds, but we do know and trust the one who holds our future.

Ready or not, newness has arrived. ~Duayne



Messy Church

Messy Church returns Sunday, September 13 from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. There will be games, stories, crafts, and projects followed by a delicious dinner. It's fun and faith building for all ages! While we are in transition and welcoming a new staff member to NCC and Messy Church, we are in need of both experienced and new volunteers to assist with this vital ministry. Volunteers help welcome guests, prepare the dinner, and host at project tables. No experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided. All you need to do is show up with a smile on your face and a willingness to share God's love. If you are able to volunteer on September 13, please email the church office, office@northfielducc.org . Thank You!



August 23rd Release of Ronda Grant Bower-
God's blessings to you!





Fall Festival

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27!

"Can't you see? I'm doing something new!" Isaiah 43.19 (rephrased)

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 chapel with both the band and the Choir.

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

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

11:00 a.m. – An All-Church Brunch!

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!

Women's Sacred Rest and Renewal Retreat

When praying the Lord's Prayer do you often recite it automatically? Is there only one way to pray it? Have you realized the Lord's Prayer is all about relationships?

Then join us at the ***Women's Sacred Rest and Renewal Retreat*** (formerly called Illinois Conference Women's Retreat) where our theme is "Discovering New Insights to Pray the Lord's Prayer." ALL women are invited (and we mean ALL)!

The overnight retreat begins in the late afternoon on **Friday, October 2 with dinner at 6 pm, and concludes around 3:30 pm on Saturday, October 3**, at our beautiful Pilgrim Park where there will also be time for you to relax, refresh and renew yourself. Remember even Jesus went away briefly for the same reasons and also God rested on the seventh day! Gather with old friends, new friends, and even bring some friends with you! Our rooms will be in the Frantzen Upper Conference Center and Higgins Lodge. Ten Thousand Villages will be back and by popular demand our service project will be Linus Blankets!

Register by September 20th at <https://pilgrimpark.campbrainregistration.com/>. If you have any issues, please contact Pilgrim Park office at 815-447-2390.

Financial assistance is available, please contact Pilgrim Park at office@pilgrimpark.org.

Questions? Contact Carol Currier-Frighetto (815-277-6041 or ambsnana@aol.com)

Mission Connections

North Suburban Chicago Crop Hunger Walk: Sunday Oct 4

Following the stellar footsteps of previous NCC CROP Hunger Walk Captains: Jim Hutten, Christy Bobart, and Janet Jesse, Leeann Starr has joyfully accepted the baton for the 2026 event.



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.

And just as importantly, 25% of what we raise stays right here at home. This year, your generosity will support:

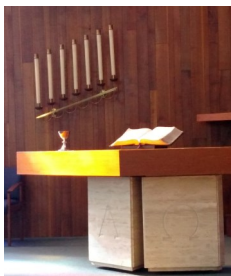
- Northfield Township Food Depository
- A Just Harvest
- New Trier Township Food Depository

Last year, these organizations received \$11,000 because of NCC's commitment. Let's come together and make that impact even greater.

Let's walk with purpose, give with compassion, and continue NCC's legacy of showing up for our neighbors in ways that truly matter.

NCC CROP Walk page: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/northfield-community-church-2>

Facilities Refreshment



The Facilities Refreshment project is well on its way! It's exciting to see the work that already has been completed. The Capital Campaign goal to accomplish the refreshment is \$700,000. Through the generosity of NCC's members and friends, this goal has almost been realized! If you have not yet had the opportunity to make your pledge, now is the time! Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important endeavor. You can make your pledge on Realm by using the following link: <https://onrealm.org/northfielducc/-/form/pledge/sanctuaryrefresh>

If you would rather, you can place a check or a pledge card found in the pew rack in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

If you would like to make an online donation to Northfield Community Church, you may use this QR code.



The Church Family

We mourn the passing of Joan Neil. Joan Passed away peacefully on July 19th. Visitation followed by a memorial service is on September 12th at NCC. Visitation begins at 10am, followed by the service at 11am.

We express our sympathy to Debbie Katz Knowles on the recent passing of her husband, Randy. A private memorial was held last week. Debbie's address is: 710 Cummings Ave, Kenilworth, IL 60043.

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.

One Worship Service on Labor Day Sunday

September 6th: One service at 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro is leading worship

Communion will be served

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.

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 **October Window** newsletter is **September 24th**.

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

https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

September Events

Sept 1st	Board of Trustees
Sept 4th	A Just Harvest
Sept 5th	Relevant Bible Study
Sept 8th	Board of Christian Education
Sept 10th	Mission Board
Sept 12th	Joan Neil Memorial Service
Sept 13th	Messy Church
Sept 15th	Board of Trustees
Sept 17th	Partners in Christ
Sept 19th	Choir Rehearsal
Sept 24th	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Sept 27th	Fall Festival
Sept 28th	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

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45 am Chair Yoga 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	2	3	4 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am A Just Harvest	5 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
6 10:00am Worship with Communion	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 	8 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	9	10 7:00pm Mission Board	11	12 10:00am Joan Neil Visitation 11:00am Joan Neil Memorial Service
13 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am Sunday School 4:30pm Messy Church	14 	15 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga 7:00pm Board of Trustees	16	17 10:00am Partners In Christ	18 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group	19 11:00am Choir Rehearsal
20 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:55am Sunday School	21	22 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	23	24 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	25	26
27 Fall Festival 9:00am Band and Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fall Festival Worship 10:10am Sunday School Kick-off 11:00am All Church Brunch	28 7:00pm Church Council	29 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Yoga	30	Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org		