

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community



Looking Over the Pulpit — Duayne Meyer

NOVEMBER
2025

*Let us not
become
weary in
doing good.*

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After last month's article in which I wrote about the polarization of our society and the alarming lack of civility, I figure I should reign things in a bit to speak of matters closer at hand and, therefore, within our grasp, that we might affect positive change. After all, the folks at NCC are generally a kind and cordial lot, a quality as present today as it was 25 years ago when Beth, our children and I arrived. And speaking of 25 years ago, thank you for recognizing the anniversary of our ministry with you. It's been a fast two and a half decades, to say the least! Blessings upon you for your good nature, forbearance and faithfulness.

Reading time three minutes...

The annual financial enlistment campaign gets underway this month. The Budget Committee, Trustees and Council have done their best to put together a budget that reflects the values and vision of the congregation while staying within our financial means; no small task.

About vision and values: the Council recognizes NCC has entered a time of transition as our beloved Pastoral Associate, Ronda Bower, plans to retire in August. Even as there are big shoes to fill, the church's leadership has the opportunity to look strategically at the gifts and needs of the congregation and envision ways to move faithfully into the future. Strategic planning will be on the congregation's agenda in the coming year.

The sanctuary refreshment project remains on the Trustees agenda each month as we discern next steps. The solar panels and the parking lot moved ahead of this project, and for good reasons. The solar panels have reduced our electric bill significantly and the parking lot and sidewalk have been safety and aesthetic improvements. The Trustees are now focused on sanctuary improvements, working out funding and a timeline for the remediation of the tile floor, improving accessibility, installation of nave seating and AV/Livestream improvements.

In September, Sarah Paige joined the NCC staff team as part-time Director of Teen Ministries. Sarah has been a great addition and has already lined up where the 2026 Youth Mission Trip Team will be going. Do pitch in to support our Teen Ministry as you can. NCC has a great group of children and teens whose presence and

(continued on the next page) —→

Looking Over the Pulpit (continued)—Duayne Meyer

participation enliven and uplift us all. They also give me hope for the future of our world.

As much as I am discouraged by what is happening in our broken world, and in our much divided nation, I am heartened by the day-to-day decency of the people I am privileged to be around: my family, our staff, our lay leaders and our Northfield neighbors. Innumerable good and decent things happen all day, every day in our community. Most of the time you do these good things without giving them much thought and with little if any notice. Doing your part. Caring for your neighbors. Standing up for justice. Being kind and generous. Thoughtfully, intentionally and sometimes sacrificially committing yourselves to being peacemakers. These things matter. Perhaps in the aggregate these small, everyday acts of decency and humanity change the world. I sure hope so. Individually, and in our community of faith, such everyday grace and goodness has the power to change us. That's what we must lean into, and hold onto, at a time like this. This is the message the church is to bear unto the world.

Then "let us not grow weary of doing good. For there will a harvest if we do not give up (Gal. 6.9)"

~Duayne

Ronda's Remarks—Ronda Bower

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." ~Hebrews 13:1-2, 8

You probably notice that in almost all of the advertising I do for events at NCC, I add something like: "This is a great time to invite a friend or neighbor." Inviting others to come to church is important to me. Some of you know that growing up, my family did not go to church. When I was in high school, a friend from school invited me to go to youth group at her church. I accepted and it was the first time I had been inside a church. I found a place where I was loved and accepted by the teens and the congregation. That invitation started me in a life of church work.

Years ago I shared a story in one of my newsletters articles that I heard from a speaker at a conference. It went like this: An older woman, we'll call her Ann, was a long-time member of her church. One day a new family moved into the house next to hers. Ann took over a plate of cookies and introduced herself. She met her new neighbors, a man and woman, 5 children, and another child on the way. Ann enjoyed her time with this family. Through conversation, Ann learned the man and woman were not yet married and the children were from each of their previous marriages. As Ann walked home, she thought of how wonderful it would be for this family to go to her church. Ann went to her pastor and asked him if she could invite the family to church. The pastor encouraged her to do so. Ann asked how she should start and the pastor let her know that she had already started with her plate of cookies. A few days later, Ann took over another plate of cookies to her new neighbors' house and told them about her church and asked them if they would like to go with her to church on Sunday. The woman was very hesitant saying that she was afraid that they wouldn't be welcome because they were not married. Ann reassured the woman that this would not be a problem, and on Sunday morning the family went to church with Ann. The family was welcomed into the church and as time passed, the family became a very active part of the congregation. Their children brought friends to church, and the parents talked to others about what the church meant to them. Years later, at Ann's memorial service, the neighbor was one of the people who spoke about Ann. The woman said how thankful she was that Ann had brought over the cookies and had invited them to go to church with her. Not only had this family that Ann had invited to church become active members of the church, they also had invited many others to church. All from a plate of cookies and an invitation to go to church.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

Do you love your church? Please share that love. Invite someone to come to church with you – to a worship service or a special event.

Confirmation Prayer Partners are needed for the new confirmation class. If you would like to be a secret partner who prays for a teen and sends them notes or emails of support, please contact Ronda Bower.

Are you interested in learning, showing how to, or just **knitting or crocheting**, coming together as group together or with directions by yourself, making prayer shawls that NCC can give to those in need of comfort, love, and prayers that a prayer shawl can give when times are hard. If you are interested, contact Ronda Bower in the church office. A time to start will be determined if there is interest. We have 4 people interested so far.

Thank you to...

- October's Sunday school teachers- Beth Meyer, Kellie Cunningham, Josh and Tracey Buchman, and Carolyn Wiggins.

- All who supported and attended Messy Church Trunk or Treat – those who decorated car trunks; brought candy to church; volunteered with activities, parking lot duty, and the meal; all who attended; and all who brought friends. What a wonderful and fun event!

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES:

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

All Saints Sunday is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. The stories of these saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

POTLUCK STUDY – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – 11:45 A.M. “MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE”

Bring a dish to share for lunch and enjoy a wonderful presentation by Tim Lambert, Music Director, and Eileen Baumgarten, Organist, as they share their musical careers and interests as well as doing some demonstrations on the organ and piano, and maybe even some audience participation with singing. Don't miss the fun! Bring a friend to join.

MESSY CHURCH- “TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD!”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – 4:30 P.M.

We'll explore our wonderful Creator God using our 5 senses through activities for all ages like: a lollipop taste test, painting with spices, optical illusion tops, 5 senses scavenger hunt, and more. There will be a participatory celebration worship and a delicious dinner. Our mission activity will be making Thanksgiving cards for NCC's home-bound. Everyone, all ages, is invited. Invite friends and neighbors to this wonderful, fun event.

WHAT IS COMMUNION? A TIME FOR ALL AGES TO EXPLORE THIS AMAZING SACRAMENT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00 A.M. (with breakfast)

A chance to explore what we celebrate together here at NCC during worship the first Sunday of each month. This is a chance for people of all ages to gather together to dig into scripture, history, and present-day practices with discussion and activities, helping you understand more about the meaning and importance of this very special sacrament.

TEEN NIGHT– SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 4:00-7:00 P.M. “FRIENDSGIVING”

All teens, 7th-12th grade, are invited to November's Teen Night. There will be a time with friends, delicious potluck dinner, and creating flower arrangements to deliver to local firehouses, police stations, and elderly communities as a way to spread love and gratitude for the season. *To help with the Friendsgiving project, if you have any extra vases at home that you are willing to donate, please drop them off at the church office or youth room by Saturday, Nov. 15th.*

Vases of any size, shape, or style are needed.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 10:00-11:30 A.M. IN THE PARLOR

Women of all ages, you are invited to come and meet some wonderful friends, enjoy delicious food, participate in a short Thanksgiving Psalms Bible study, and find out all about NCC's Women's Bible Study that meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.

Hope to see you there!

Music at NCC - Tim Lambert

Our music ministry's new season is off to a wonderful start! October and November have already brought many exciting musical offerings to our worship services, reminding us once again of the joy and fellowship that music inspires in our congregation. We were delighted to welcome the world-class organist Eric Budzynski, who graciously filled in for Eileen while she was away in October. We are also grateful for the assistance of Helen Raymaker at the piano. She joined us for several choir anthems this month, including a rousing rendition of Richard Smallwood's famous gospel piece Total Praise. Our choir was also beautifully accompanied by guest flautists earlier this fall, and we look forward to feature-ing a variety of instrumental guests throughout the coming season.



Our music director, Tim Lambert, with our choir staff singers and guests vocalists (from left to right): Stephen Miller (bass staff singer), Molly Snodgrass (guest vocalist), Tim Lambert, Emily Amesquita (alto staff singer), Abigail Arnold (soprano staff singer), Alec Fore (tenor staff singer), Tejas Gururaja (guest vocalist).

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to continue the annual tradition of a joint choral service with Winnetka Congregational Church. On Sunday, November 9, their choir will join us at NCC for our 10:30 a.m. service, and the following week, November 16, we will travel to Winnetka to sing alongside them in their worship service. Each year, we look forward to this opportunity to combine the talents of our music ministry and share our gifts both within and beyond our home congregation! As we move toward Advent, our choir and band members are already preparing a rich array of musical offerings to help lead us into this sacred season. We look forward to sharing these moments of beauty and reflection with the congregation in the weeks to come. Wishing you all the best as we move into the chill of the fall season!

Yours,
Tim (and the entire NCC music ministry team)

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>.

Mission Connections

Thank you NCC for your participation in the 2025 North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk! It was a great event with our neighboring faith communities. Team NCC had nearly 40 registered walkers. Their dedication along with the generosity of NCC members, families, and friends provides critical support to local organizations fighting hunger in our community as well as much needed funding to help our neighbors internationally. Local recipients are A Just Harvest, Northfield Township Food Depository, and New Trier Township Food Pantry. A final tally of the funds raised will be available at the end of the year. Our unofficial total shows we surpassed our goal of \$35,000. Donations will continue to be accepted for the next few weeks. If you wish to donate online, please go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/northfield-community-church>. Checks or cash may be placed in the offering plate or given to the church office. Checks can be made out to Northfield Community Church with CROP Walk indicated in the memo line.



The Church Family

Welcome and congratulations to **Sybil Schrems** who was baptized in Christ on October 26th. Sybil's parents are **Adam Schrems** and **Kelly Sanderson Schrems**. **Welcome Sybil!**

Bud and Mitzi Smith's new address is: 5007 Hickory Ln, McHenry, IL 60051-7685. They are staying with their son, Brian.

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, Mike Parker, Diane Peterson, Susie Shabica, and Pegeen Soare.

Office Notes

Sarah Paige has joined the NCC staff as part-time Director of Teen Ministries. Sarah, daughter NCC's Vice-Moderator, Kim Scott, grew up at NCC and has participated in youth ministry and as a devoted volunteer. Sarah was a young adult leader on NCC's last two youth mission trips and was the main mover and shaker for the mission trip to West Virginia in June. She is a graduate of Glenbrook South High School and holds a Bachelor's degree in Dance: Performance and choreography from Texas State University. We are blessed to have Sarah leading our ministry with teens!.

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, Mia Andrew, and Vijay Johnson** for serving as worship service livestream techs.

Are you interesting in running the sound at the 9:30 service? We occasionally need a substitute for Rob Orr. If you'd like to help out, please contact Lea Jones in the office: ljones@northfielducc.org. Thanks!

The submission deadline for the **December Window** newsletter is **November 19th**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

November Events

Nov 2nd	All Saints Sunday & Potluck Study
Nov 7th	A Just Harvest
Nov 9th	Messy Church
Nov 11th	Board of Christian Education
Nov 13th	Mission Board
Nov 16th	Consecration Sunday
Nov 18th	Board of Trustees
Nov 19th	<i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>
Nov 27th	Thanksgiving
Nov 28th	Office closed
Nov 30th	First Sunday in Advent

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

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 ALL SAINTS' DAY 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 	3	4 10:00am Women's Bible Study	5	6	7 11:00am A Just Harvest	8 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
9 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship with WCC Choir 10:50am Sunday School 4:30pm Messy Church 	10	11 Veterans Day 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Christian Education	12	13 7:00pm Mission Board	14	15 8:30am Relevant Bible Study 9:00am Communion Workshop
16 Consecration Sunday 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School 4:00pm Teens Friendsgiving	17	18 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Trustees	19 <i>Window Newsletter Deadline</i>	20	21	22 8:30am Relevant Bible Study
23 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	24	25 10:00am Women's Bible Study	26	27 	28 Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship and Praise 9:50am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:50am Sunday School	Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org					