With the health and safety of our community first and foremost in our hearts and minds, we have made the difficult decision to close to all in-person meetings at the church regardless of size. Given the unfortunate circumstances surrounding Covid 19 (coronavirus), we feel it would be irresponsible to in any way endanger or unintentionally compromise the well-being of our church family and larger community.

NUMC Administrative Council

For up to date COVID-19 information see the following websites:

health.state.mn.us

CDC.gov

There will be limited staffing of the NUMC building until further notice. Please call 507-645-5689 and leave a message or email northfieldumc@gmail.com if you need to arrange for building access.

You may also visit our website northfieldumc.org for updates.
NUMC WELCOME STATEMENT

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and, as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God’s love and grace, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, or age. We unreservedly support and affirm the full inclusion of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all facets of ministry at Northfield UMC, including ordination and marriage. Following Christ’s example, we open our hearts, minds, and doors to welcome all who come to us in God’s grace.

LAWN SIGNS AVAILABLE

Display your personal support of being an inclusive church.
Lawn signs available in the Narthex after Sunday services and Super Wednesdays. Free will donation.
Questions? Contact Marla or Jonie at 507-663-7952.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship has to do with the whole of who we are and how we care for our neighbors (see Mark 12:28-31). It encompasses all of the following:

- **GRATITUDE:** Stewardship is having the wisdom to understand that everything we have is a gift from God of which we are to be the absolute best caretakers.
- **LIFESTYLE:** Stewardship is a way of life, honoring God in everything we do with all His gifts. Living life God-centered rather than self-centered – thinking of Him first before our own wants.
- **LOVE:** Stewardship is having the heart to give back out of love a portion of every gift that has been entrusted to us by God.
- **FAITH:** Stewardship is a life-long faith journey that brings us ever closer to Jesus Christ; following the path He so perfectly laid out for us through His life example.
- **REWARDING:** Stewardship is life altering and its rewards last an eternity.

We are rarely called in such a public, specific way to support and be good stewards of each other as now during this COVID-19 public health crisis. Let us embrace our church community even while practicing social distancing.

Please consider electronic giving or mailing your offering when you cannot actually be in church.

| General Fund February 2020 contributions | $39,036.62 |
| General Fund February 2019 contributions | $22,863.21 |
| General Fund YTD 2020 contributions      | $68,536.19 |
| General Fund YTD 2019 contributions      | $52,623.38 |

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation during this time of COVID-19 response.

Please consider electronic giving.
Call the church office at 507-645-5689 and an authorization form will be emailed to you so you don't need to come in!
As the coronavirus, COVID-19, makes its way throughout the United States, Minnesotans can help to slow the spread of the disease. Prevention is very important. Our church has instituted many faith-based interventions, and the city and state have made government-based interventions. Now we as individuals need to do our part.

**Individual-based interventions**
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer (“hand hygiene”)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, which could transfer the virus to you on respiratory droplets
- Practice respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose with a bent elbow when you cough or sneeze
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet; avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Stay home if you are ill
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Healthy individuals do not need to wear a mask
- In case you need to be quarantined at home, make sure you have a 14 day supply of food, extra fluids, and medications available

**Know the Signs and Symptoms** (they can appear 2-14 days after exposure)
- Fever and cough (which are also common with Influenza A)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (significant with COVID-19)
- Symptoms may be mild to severe
- Older people with pre-existing medical conditions are more susceptible

**What you should do if you get sick**
- Call your health care provider BEFORE going to the clinic or the emergency room; you will be given instructions
- **Call 9-1-1 for immediate medical attention for the following symptoms:** difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face, a high fever (list is not complete so also call for help if you have other severe symptoms)
- Choose a room in the home for sick-bay, preferably one with its own bathroom
- Compile a list of emergency contacts: family, friends, neighbors, health care providers
- Have a supply of facial tissues and over-the-counter medications for pain, fever, and cough
- Get a lot of rest and keep hydrated with water, soups, and other non-alcoholic liquids
- Use a room humidifier or sit in the bathroom breathing the steam from a running hot shower to help ease a cough or shortness of breath
- Wear a mask if you are told to make a trip to your health care provider

Remember that most of the healthy adult cases of COVID-19 have thus far been managed at home with basic rest, hydration, and over-the-counter medications. **DO NOT** go to an emergency room unless you call first. Hospital beds need to be saved for more severely ill people who need oxygen, ventilators, or IV fluids.

Remember that rules for life activities are changing daily, even hourly because of the coronavirus. Following are several helpful websites that you can check for more information: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) (Center for Disease Control), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) (World Health Organization), [www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us) (Rice County Public Health Department), and [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) (the Minnesota Department of Health.)
Dear NUMC friends,
When the news came that CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines restricted gatherings to no more than 250, we thought we had a handle on things. That was on a Tuesday.

By Thursday, the COVID-19 infection rate had grown alarmingly, and alert congregants were asking what we would do for Sunday. By Friday noon, with further CDC guidelines and Department of Health information, the decision was obvious to our administrative council that there was only one safe decision: we had to pause all public gatherings.

When the administrative council made its decision, we already had three funerals – all private services – planned for the weekend. One service was for a member named Jere Dvorak. She had been a member for going on 20 years, and she had lived the last couple of years in Pathways Memory Care at Three Links. An artist, former flight attendant, mother, animal lover, and absolute free spirit, Jere was a delightful soul who saw beauty in ordinary things, color where most of the rest of us saw nothing much at all.

I won’t tell all of Jere’s story here – whose life could be contained on a single page?! – but I will say this: her story gives me hope for our current crisis.

When Jere needed some help in the last 10 years – getting to church or other errands, transitioning several times to better and more appropriate living circumstances – it was the NUMC congregation that stepped in to make it happen. Her one living daughter noted as much in a letter to a care team member: “Then she found Northfield United Methodist Church. THANK GOD.”

And Jere loved this church. Really. On the opposite page you will see one of the MANY drawings and colorings she made. This was given to me the day of her funeral. I wanted you to see it, too. I didn’t ask her to make this (you may note Jerad’s name and your pastors’ last name, is misspelled but if we are honest, most people misspell Jerad’s name!), but she made this and many others – her love letter to a congregation that walked with her to her last day.

I look at this and I see what love makes of us when we let it. A congregation shaped around care for people when they need it most is really in the best possible position in this unwelcome season of isolation (I Corinthians 12:12-26 speaks to this beautifully.)

We do this imperfectly, let’s face it. Sometimes we don’t know the need (please, folks – call!), sometimes we don’t have what is asked for; sometimes we run away from those who ask something of us, sometimes we try to help and instead make things worse. These things are all absolutely true and unavoidable.

But this also is true: sometimes the hammer hits the nail perfectly. And we can’t predict when or how that will be, but we keep swinging.

Jere’s picture will remain in my office for a long while yet – alongside my “Velocipastor” poster and signed photo of Esther the Wonder Pig. Each speaks to ministry in this moment: “Velocipastor” speaks to the need for ministry beyond the church’s walls (trust me), Esther the Wonder Pig reminds me that we need to “connect the dots” for each other when we can’t see the whole picture by ourselves, and Jere’s picture will be the standard by which I judge my own ministry: is what I do worthy of Jere’s loving art?

May it be so – for you, for me, for us all. We’re all in this together.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

Prayers for:
- Our world and its leaders
- Law enforcement and the communities they serve
- Victims of violence in our country and the world
- Places in the world where there is unrest and conflict
- Peace and understanding among peoples of different faiths

National and World Concerns:
- Those studying and working internationally
- Prayers for those serving in the military around the world

Prayers of Sympathy with:
- Mike Boehne on the death of Mike’s brother Marty Boehne
- Joan Franklin and family on the death of Joan’s sister Noleen Binder
- Family and friends of Joyce Gill
- Family and friends of Jere Dvorak

Remembering Those in Military Service
Luke Erickson
Andrew Nielsen

If you have family deployed in military service, please let us know so that we can include them in our prayers.
THE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

PASTORS
RACHEL MORY
and
GERARD MORY
Prayer in Times of Uncertainty

Hello everyone,
These are trying times for everyone as we deal with Covid-19 and the rapid changes. Please know that I am praying for this congregation and KC3 students and families everyday.

It is important to be mindful of personal health, it is shown that lowering stress will actually raise our immune system so please think about eating well, exercising, sleeping well and taking time for prayer and meditation- all of which lower stress and boost our immune system. We are still planning to stay connected as a congregation so we can remain centered as a community that puts our trust in God and follows Jesus. I will be creating short videos for families to watch at home with activities that can be done together as a family. Also, although we cannot meet during this time I am available via phone or FaceTime if anyone wants to talk, my contact information is on the church website. If you care for spiritual support or prayer please contact me.

While we were still able to meet in person for KC3 we had some awesome sledding time at the Sibley hill. We began to focus on Lent and we all chose a spiritual discipline to practice during Lent. We had a great time burning the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service to use for the Ash Wednesday service. (see photo page)

Prayer has continued to be a focus of our group and we have looked at different models for prayer. We have made art projects and sung hymns that focus on prayer and practiced the Lord’s Prayer. I encourage everyone to continue to pray and to make it a central part of our lives during these very uncertain times. What better time to pray than now?

May God bless and protect you all,
Gregory

Wisconsin Mission Trip
This summer a dozen middle and high school youth and adult chaperones are headed to the Long-Term Recovery Project of Juneau County in Wisconsin to help flood-ravaged communities rebuild. While our days will be spent reconstructing and refurbishing housing, we get to decide how to spend our afternoon discretionary time. Options include:

- Serving a community meal
- Playing softball
- Learning to paint on canvas
- Going to Castle Rock State Park
- Attending community worship
- Organizing large-group capture the flag
- Going to the New Lisbon community pool
- Campfires

And more! As you continue to pray for the people of Juneau County - may they stay safe and healthy - pray for your own mission experience and ask God how you are called to lead and love.

Super Wednesday Videos
While to meet together would be unsafe for the most vulnerable people in our community, we are still in this together with the Holy Spirit. You won’t be coming to church for Super Wednesday this month but you can go to our website, www.northfieldumc.org, to watch a brief <10 minute video simulation of that evening’s Super Wednesday experience including KC3, other youth and family programming, and the Super Wednesday prayer. Watch it before dinner on Wednesdays!
Because every picture has a story to tell... (before social distancing became a thing)

Pastor Jerad and KC3 Kids burning the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service to use for the Ash Wednesday service this year.

Chicken fried rice coming right up! We are so blessed to have Maria and our kitchen volunteers each Super Wednesday!

Some of our youngest enjoy fellowship and a nutritious meal at a recent Super Wednesday.

During Lent we approach the intersection of Heaven and Earth - and every intersection is a crossroads with decisions to be made. What choices are you facing in this season of life?

The next HERALD NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is NOON on Wednesday, April 22nd for the May issue.

Please submit your items in a digital format to Sandy at northfieldumc@gmail.com.
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Phone: (507) 645-5689
Email: northfieldumc@gmail.com
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Offering Christ

E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Northfield United Methodist Church offers an electronic option for our monthly newsletter. By having our newsletter available electronically, we will save costs on paper, postage and copier usage. The newsletter will still be available to those who want to receive a hard copy in the mail.

For those that sign up, you will receive an e-mail directing you to a link to view the newsletter. If you have more than one member in the household that would like to receive this e-mail, please list them also.

Please cut out this form, fill in the information and place it in the basket in the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Please print clearly! Thank you!

Name _______________________________________
E-mail Address __________________________________

Name _______________________________________
E-mail Address __________________________________

Our Church Staff

Pastors
Rachel McIver Morey
Jerad Morey

Parish Nurse
Ruth Kruse

Office Administrator
Sandy Vesledahl

KC3 Coordinator
Gregory Ennis

Worship & Music
Wendy Smith

Child Care Provider
Kathryn Steed

Organists/Accompanists
Bob Henstein
Donna Paulsen

Handbell Choir Director
Kathy Szydlo

Adult Choir Director
Randall Ferguson

Projection Coordinator
Molly Peterson

Custodian
Arturo Rosas Avila

Building Security
Margie Brockton

Sunday School Superintendent
Diana Huseth
(Volunteer)

Treasurer
John Stull
(Volunteer)

Web Site
Jesse Steed
(Volunteer)

Retired Clergy: Wayne Abdella, Carl Caskey, Richard Collman, Jeanne Martin, Dick Waters, Mary Keen, Gordon Orde