December Worship Schedule

December Worship

December 1
Celebration of Holy Communion
Isaiah 2:1-5
Rev. Jerad Morey

December 8
Isaiah 11:1-10
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

December 15
Isaiah 35:1-10
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

December 22
Isaiah 11:1-10
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

December 29
Luke 2:21-40
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

**DECEMBER 24**
CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION!
Worship at 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm
(nursery available for afternoon services)

Worship Schedule
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Discovery Zone Children's Church
9:45 am
Discipleship Hour
10:45 am
Nursery provided during worship. Join us for fellowship and coffee on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall following worship!
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 1 – 9:30 am, Advent worship/Hanging of the Greens
Monday, Dec. 2 – 7:00 pm, UMW Christmas Cheer
Wednesday, Dec. 4 – 6:30 pm, Super Wednesday/SALT Project
Sunday, Dec. 8 – 9:30 am, Advent worship
Sunday, Dec. 8 – 10:30 am, Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday, Dec. 11 – 6:30 pm, Children’s Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 15 – 9:30 am, Advent worship
Sunday, Dec. 15 – 8:00 am, UMW Bake Sale
Wednesday, Dec. 18 – 4:30 pm, Advent Service of Peace &
Sunday, Dec. 22 – 9:30 am, Worship (no Discovery Zone)
Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 4:30 &
10:00 pm (nursery available at 3:00 & 4:30 services)
Sunday, Dec. 29 – 9:30 am, Worship (no Discovery Zone)

Dec. 24-Jan. 1 – Church office closed

January Worship

Epiphany

January 5
Celebration of Holy Communion
Matthew 2:1-12
Rev. Jerad Morey

January 12
Matthew 3:13-17
Rev. Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Guest Preacher

Who are we called to be?
“You have heard it said…”

January 19
Matthew 5:17-20
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

January 26
Matthew 5:21-26
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey
Dear NUMC friends,

So here’s the scoop: you will start January without me...nope, not leaving, just heading out on a pilgrimage.

An opportunity to go to the Holy Land came my way for January 3-12 2020, and it was simply too good to pass up. It is with the Society of Biblical Studies, which is an organization others in our congregation have worked with before. This specifically is a trip for pastors who serve churches who might be interested in sponsoring their own trips - given our MICAH (Methodists in Care and Action in the Holy Land) group and others in our congregation who have expressed interest, it seemed like a good fit for me and for NUMC.

For those of us who have spent our whole lives studying Scripture - and having the audacity to interpret it for others! - the chance to see these places in person is both irresistible and terribly important. You can read a person's memoir, but that's nothing like meeting the person in the flesh.

Coming into this Advent and Christmas season, we name and celebrate the incarnate Word - Jesus, in whom the expressed will of God enters human life and walks among us. The Holy Land is holy not because it is more at peace than the rest of the world (it demonstratively and definitively is not) or because it is set apart from the rest of human life (it sits at the crossroads of empires ancient and modern). It is holy because God showed up there, and in so doing, God revealed that the divine will is not afraid of human strife nor does it stand far off from the complex reality of human existence.

The Holy Land today is scarred by violence and vitriol, and it is rent apart by disparate stories of ownership and entitlement. We lament the continued plight of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, who after two generations still have no legal status or who are relegated to refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank, or bordering countries, and we call for justice for those whose lives are at the mercy of powers not accountable to their voices and votes. We also reject antisemitism in all its forms, and we repent of the historic sins of Christians who came before us - sins that ghettoized and explicitly discriminated against Jewish populations in Europe and beyond.

The Holy Land remains a reference point for our faith and for fellow-travelers who would be peace-makers the world over. I don't know what I will learn or see there, but I will bring as much as I can back to you - and maybe we can travel there together to walk the places where God has gone before. We know, instinctively, that the whole of the earth is holy ground. A chance to see the Holy Land takes nothing away from that fact; it is an opportunity to bear witness to a geography of divine presence that forever marked the world and how we live. It is a chance, indeed, to more fully understand what is "holy" at all.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

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.
SUPER WEDNESDAY SHARED MEAL MENU

December 4 - Chicken noodle soup, egg salad sandwiches, salad bar, chips and assorted bars.

December 11 - Christmas Pageant - Beef roast, potatoes, carrots, raspberry fluff, dinner rolls and Christmas cookies.

December 18 - No Super Wednesday - Advent Service of Peace and Healing

December 25 - No Super Wednesday - Merry Christmas!

January 1 - No Super Wednesday - Happy New Year!

January 8 - Chili, broccoli cheese soup, green salad, French bread, Angel food cake with strawberries and ice cream.

January 15 - Pizza pasta bake, Caesar salad, Normandy blend, French bread and assorted bars

January 22 - Pork loin, roasted potatoes, pasta salad, French bread and poke cake.

The Giving Season - Stewardship & Finance Team

In the midst of all the busyness of Christmas this year, ask God to help you keep Christ at the center of everything you do. For example if you shop at Amazon consider shopping at Amazon Smile instead and requesting that it donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Northfield United Methodist Church. While this isn't a significant amount of money and doesn't replace regular giving to the church it is a simple way to incorporate giving to the church into your life.

Some say that we give and receive presents at Christmas to remind us of the presents given to Jesus by the Wise Men: Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh. Gift giving is a way to show love and reflects the love God has for us and the gift of life given to each of us. Christmas itself is really about the present that God gave the world over 2000 years ago - Jesus! One of the best known Bible verses, John 3:16, says: 'God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life.' Let's offer our whole lives for the gift of God's kingdom this December and remember that Jesus is the reason for every season of our lives.

| General Fund October 2019 contributions $28,911.66 | General Fund YTD 2019 contributions $305,567.35 |
| General Fund October 2018 contributions $37,676.36 | General Fund YTD 2018 contributions $316,685.57 |

Joys and Concerns

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:
- Family and friends of Larry Jones
- Family and friends of Mason Jacob Follansbee Delong

Remembering Those in Military Service

Luke Erickson

If you have family deployed in military service, please let us know so that we can include them in our prayers.
Music Opportunities

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the Christmas hymn, Joy to the World. Interestingly, Methodist minister Isaac Watts wrote the piece in 1719, not as a Christmas song, but as an interpretation of Psalm 98 celebrating the second coming of Christ. It was later, in 1839 that American hymn writer Lowell Mason composed new music for the text incorporating elements of Handel’s Messiah to create ANTIOCH, the familiar hymn tune we sing today.

It is not clear how it is that Joy to the World became one of the most popular Christmas hymns in North America, but the celebratory nature and joy of the piece radiates the spirit of Christmas.

Joy to the World!

NUMC ADULT CHOIR
Sing great music with great people - the NUMC Adult Choir! We invite anyone HS through adult who would like to sing in choir to join us! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15 pm. The choir sings for worship most Sundays during the school year. Talk with director Randy Ferguson rferguson@charter.net or any choir member for more information.

Musicians Wanted!
We’d love to have you share your gift of music with our church! Please of all ages and abilities are invited to play for worship. Accompaniment is available if needed. Please contact Wendy Smith at church, by phone at 507-645-5689 ext. 23 or email wendynumc@aol.com.

Attention Student Musicians!
Please contact Wendy Smith about upcoming music opportunities!

Handbell Choir Rehearsal times for Dec./Jan.
December 4 - 7:00-8:00 pm
December 11 - 5:30-6:15 pm
December 18 - 6:15-7:15 pm
December 25 - no rehearsal
January 1 - no rehearsal
January 8 - return to normal rehearsal schedule
(6:15 - 7:15 pm)
These Kids are Doing God's Work!
News From Kids Creating Community in Christ (KC3) Discipleship

Things are really moving along in KC3 and I continue to feel blessed in my new role as I get to know the wonderful people at at NUMC. We have done a lot in this last month!

We have continued to focus on how we are called by Jesus and how children can be disciples just like adults. To emphasize this we read the story of Jesus blessing the children (Luke 18) and did some discipleship work by crafting very kind letters to children in a pediatric intensive care unit. We did another service project by raking leaves for people in our church neighborhood. Afterward we read about the boy Samuel listening to God (1 Samuel 3) which reminded us that God calls children to do great things—and these KC3 kids are doing great things!

We had a meaningful Wednesday just before All Saints Day. We read the story of Jesus raising Lazarus (John 11) and then we wrote about important people in our lives that have gone before us. We blessed these cross shaped notes and placed them on the baptismal font for All Saints Day.

On one Wednesday, in order to learn about people from a different part of the world, we talked about the country of Ghana. We looked at pictures, art and I played music on a djembe drum that I made when I studied there in college. That week we also read about Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4) and learned some calming skills that we can do when our lives feel stormy. We practiced deep breathing and centering ourselves in the moment in order to prepare our hearts for God and prayer.

As you can see, these children have been busy learning and serving God and our neighbors. We will continue to learn and serve and I am looking forward to some fun Wednesdays as advent and Christmas draw near. Look for news of this in the next Herald!

Peace and God bless you,
Gregory Ennis
KC3 Coordinator

Family Ministry Calendar

This year has seen so many changes and transitions in our family ministries - we have much to celebrate in these early months, and much that lies ahead. Continue to pray for our Families First MCCI team, chaired by Lisa and Shelby Kobes, as they discern the next faithful steps in this area; if you want to join in the fun, contact the church office at info@northfieldumc.org to get connected! In the meantime, prepare your hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ. He will come at an inconvenient and unexpected time - may it be so, and may it change us for the good.

Called to teach? Here’s your chance!
Our Discovery Zone children's church has been a wonderful newly formatted Sunday morning opportunity for our younger kids (5th grade and under) to experience worship in a space and way that speaks to them specifically. This fall has been our pilot season, and we are pleased with what we have seen God do - so now is the opportunity to join the fun as a leader/leader’s aid for our children. If you would like to hear more about joining this team, contact the church at info@northfieldumc.org.

Christmas Pageant - "An Ordinary Night"
Our NUMC Christmas pageant is a yearly opportunity to share the ancient story of God's coming in the voices of our youngest disciples!
Wednesday December 4, 6:00pm - rehearsal
Sunday December 8, 10:30 (immediately following worship) - technical rehearsal
Wednesday December 11, 6:30pm - Christmas Pageant

Hanging of the Greens Advent Worship: December 1
Our annual Hanging of the Greens worship service will happen on Sunday December 1, during our 9:30 worship. We will prepare our hearts and our church for the coming of Christ this season.

Calendar continued on next page...
Family Ministry Calendar - continued…

SALT Project - Operation Joy: December 4
Our confirmed youth leading the SALT (Serving and Learning Together) project will lead making an angel tree for gifts for Operation Joy - a project of the Community Action Center offering gifts to families who would otherwise struggle to afford Christmas. Each ornament will represent an opportunity to shop for a gift, which can be turned in anytime between Wednesday December 4 and end of day December 8th. For the whole church family - beginning 6:30pm.

Final 2019 Super Wednesday - Christmas Pageant and 9th grade Confirmation: December 11
Celebrate Pastor Jerad's birthday (oops! who put that in here? - editor's note) by joining the celebration of our Christmas pageant in the sanctuary at 6:30pm! 9th grade confirmation will meet immediately following the pageant - all others who are able to stay afterwards are invited to help re-organize the costumes and sets for next year.

Discovery Zone's last day of 2019 will be December 15th (no DZ December 22, 29, or January 5.)

KC3 and Wednesday Bible Playdate's last day of 2019 is December 11th (no KC3 or WPD December 18, 25, or January 1).

(Flip the calendar to . . .JANUARY 2020!)

Super Wednesdays (KC3 and Wednesday Bible Playdate) begin January 8th.

Discovery Zone (Sunday mornings for pre-k through 5th grade) begins January 12th.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30am-10am: PLAYTIME for toddlers!
Our gym (and our hearts!) open for Northfield’s youngest kiddos who need some running room in the colder months. For kids 5 and under, under parent/guardian supervision. We provide space, a BOUNCEHOUSE!, and other large muscle toys to play with. January 7-March 19th. Interested in being a host for this vital ministry? Connect with us - info@northfieldumc.org.

SALT Project - Blankets for the KEY: January 8
Our confirmed youth leading the SALT (Serving and Learning Together) project will lead making tied fleece blankets for our partners at the Key, our Northfield youth drop-in center. For the whole church family - beginning at 6:30pm.

Sundaes on Wednesday/Parent Fellowship/9th grade Confirmation: January 15
Join in fellowship of Sundaes on Wednesdays (MS/HS youth in MS room), 9th grade confirmation (HS room), or in fellowship with other parents still trying to remember the right date to write on checks after the turn of the year (just kidding! Who writes checks anymore?!) in the welcome area. All start at 6:30pm.

PEPPER (Pray/Prepare for Mission) night: January 22
Today is the deadline to register for the July 19-25 mission trip to the Wisconsin Dells! High school and middle school youth and adult chaperones can sign up here: http://bit.ly/DellsMission All MS/HS youth planning to go to our July 2020 mission trip for long-term flood recovery in Wisconsin (along with a side trip to the Dells) are invited to gather to plan, prepare, and pray for the upcoming trip.

Meeting Night: January 29
Any MCCI teams or other small groups are invited to use this evening - intentionally left open! - to gather.
The Discipleship Forum takes place in the Reception Room at 10:45am after Sunday morning worship. The 45-60 minute sessions dig deep into our faith and community. Youth and adults are invited to participate.

Since September we have been focused on the question "Who are we?" In December we examine the question through the lenses of our community and our heritage.

**December 1: No Forum**

**December 8: Affordable Housing in Rice County**
Northfield has a huge need for affordable housing. Did you know that the rental vacancy rate in Northfield is less than 1%? Were you aware that Rice County is the third most expensive county in the state for housing? Who needs housing? What projects are underway? What is lacking? Are there laws and ordinances that need to be changed to address this need? Kathleen Doran-Norton, a member of the City Task Force on Affordable Housing, will present its findings and suggest ways to get involved.

**December 15: A Very Methodist Christmas**
Rev. Richard F. Collman, retired Elder from the Dakotas and MN Conferences, has served as minister and musician in MN, SD, NE, and now continues to practice his music ministry on piano, organ, and Celtic harp in Northfield and beyond. He and Katherine retired here in 2006. Richard relishes hymns and carols, old and new, and enjoys sharing them with others. With Charles Wesley, we shall always have a "Very Methodist Christmas."

**December 22: No Forum**

**December 29: No Forum**

In the first part of the year we spent this time better understanding ourselves and our mission field through the question "who are we?" Now we will try to find ways in our Discipleship Forum to answer the question "Who are we called to be?"

**January 5: The global impact of the Reconciling Movement on U.S. UMC churches**
We voted to become a Reconciling Congregation last July, including LGBTQIA+ persons fully in the life of the church including performing weddings and welcoming them as clergy. We are one of thousands of congregations to have done so. Dave Nuckols, a Minnesota lay person and General Conference delegate active in global conversations within the UMC, will share his perspective.

**January 12: Habitat for Humanity - Ensuring that More People Have a Place to Call Home**
Learn from Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Dayna Norvold how Habitat partners with families in need to build decent and affordable housing in Rice County. Habitat has some big plans for 2020 in Northfield and is embarking on their first Faith Build. Learn how YOU can be a part of it.

**January 19: Northfield Union of Youth (invited)**
Youth homelessness in Rice County is a growing problem, but there are people working to fix it. Some families in our congregation already participate in what has been known as the Wallflower Project, welcoming homeless youth into their homes to provide safety and stability during an important time in their lives. Hear from Northfield Union of Youth about youth homelessness and how we can fix it.

**January 26: Living with Mental Illnesses**
Many of us and many people in our mission field live with mental illness diagnoses. How can we best support ourselves and our neighbors? Eric Lundin is a psychologist who sees underinsured and uninsured patients. He has worked with children, families and adults and will share his perspective as Outpatient Therapist with Rice County Social Services. (Rescheduled from December)
United Methodists and Civic Engagement in 2020

In December we begin the new Church Year with Advent, and in January we begin a new calendar year. Both offer opportunities to act with moral courage and Christian perspectives on important peace and justice concerns.

In the upcoming year when caucuses, primaries, conventions and a general election are on the calendar let us remember what our United Methodist Social Principles and Book of Resolutions has to say about our responsibilities as Christians, as quoted a*, a 24–page publication by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

“As United Methodists, we understand that our personal piety is not separated from our social commitments. It is lived out and has been lived out for 250 years in a way that connects faith and life, church and society, and justice and peace.”

“While declaring our ultimate allegiance is to God, Scripture recognizes that faithfulness to God requires political engagement by the people of God….

“The attempt to influence the information and execution of public policy at all levels of government is often the most effective means available to churches to keep before humanity the ideal of a society in which power and order are made to serve the ends of justice and freedom for all people. UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS, #5012.

“The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust. UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES…

“We recognize the right of individuals to dissent when acting under the constraint of conscience and, after having exhausted all legal recourse, to resist or disobey laws that they deem to be unjust or that are discriminately enforced.” UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES, ¶164.F

ISAIAH-NUMC seeks to incorporate these principles into the ecumenical work it shares with other faith-communities. Contact Evelyn Burry for additional information.

* The full document is posted on the web at https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/119

Despite the anticipated filled calendar page facing all of us in December, your Church Library Committee believes there will be snatches of time for reading. Holding to that belief, we have displayed seasonal materials and those resources which extend or supplement December and January sermon themes, Discipleship Hour topics or any focus issue of Northfield UMC. What follows are a few good “reads.”

We give you the Herdmans, the “worst kids in the world” who hijack the annual Christmas pageant in Barbara Robinson’s The Worst Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Abigail, the innkeeper’s daughter, might have been a centuries earlier relative of the Herdmans for “In Bethlehem there lived a girl, Abigail by name. Abigail was mean as mean, a dreadful little girl…” The Arch Books such as The Inkeeper’s Daughter offer bible truths in stories peopled by those whom young children will relate to or secretly relate to, not to mention Clem, the clumsy camel who managed to safely carry one of the Wise Men.

The Arch books have long been in the library and in the past, obviously used often, so we ask, Parents, if you would do the handling of these books and the page turning.

Not that the books already suggested don’t offer food for thought to adults - they do - but this may be the year you do find time to dig into what was a 2018 Adult Forum study of Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan’s book, The First Christmas, What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Birth. And, we librarians will search the shelves to find a quilting mystery befitting the season.

In closing out the old year and bringing in the new, let us really hear what Gladys (Herdman) is yelling at us: “Hey! Unto you a child is born!”
As we prepare our hearts and homes for the holidays, we are often overcome by the stresses of the season. I would like to share the following thoughts with you in the hope that as individuals and families we can truly prepare for the coming of the Christ Child and enjoy the holidays in good health. The holidays should revolve around the inner things. They should be seen as a time when we can relax our bodies, calm our minds, and refresh our souls. But society would have us focus almost exclusively on the outer things. And instead of encouraging us to do less, it begs us to do more. This year can be different. We can make a conscious decision to fill pre-Christmas days with thoughtfulness, leisure, and balance. Then our desire for a Christ-centered Christmas filled with warmth, harmony, and love will be realized. Here are some ideas on how you can make this your best holiday ever.

**BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

- You have the right to take care of yourself: to eat right, exercise, and get enough rest.
- You have the right to have mixed emotions: happy, sad, frustrated, guilty, afraid, thankful.
- You have the right to have solitude: for planning, reflecting, relaxing, or praying.
- You have the right not to accept some or all of your party/activity invitations.
- You have the right to ask for support from friends, family, church, and/or community.
- You have the right to give gifts that are within your holiday budget.
- You have the right to say no to alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, and a second piece of pie.
- You have the right not to ride with a drunk driver.
- You have the right to take away the keys of a drunk friend or relative and to call a taxi.
- You have the right to smile at harried salesclerks and angry drivers, and to give them a PEACE of your mind.

In the end, these things matter most: How well did you love? How fully did you live? How deeply did you learn to let go and let Christ live through you? Blessings for a Joyous Christmas!

Whether we write them out, or just think about them, most of us make resolutions because we can’t help but be inspired by the fresh beginnings of a new year. Making resolutions brings with it thoughts of past failures and guarded hopes for the future.

**HOW TO MAKE RESOLUTIONS “FAIL-PROOF”**

1. Keep goals realistic by setting ones that you can reach. Don’t set yourself up for failure!
2. Be specific about your goals. Say, “I will lose one pound per week until I reach my goal.”
3. Develop a plan for how you will reach your goals. Write down strategies and resources. Remember that prayer is a powerful resource.
4. Find a partner, as moral support can be a big help in reaching your goals. Don’t forget that Jesus makes an excellent support person.
5. Keep track of your progress so you can see changes a day or a week at a time.
6. Think of each day as a new beginning. Resolutions don’t need to be kept for 365 consecutive days, but for just one day at a time.
7. Do your best and leave the rest to God. Enjoy the knowledge that all things are in the hands of our loving Lord.

May the Lord bless all of our good intentions. And may you and your loved ones experience wholeness and joy in the New Year.

Free Blood Pressure Screening
Sunday, December 8 and January 12
10:30 am
UMW Silent Auction
Thank you to all who brought donations for the UMW Silent Auction. The number of donations and the quality was fantastic and contributed to a successful auction. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped keep the auction running. A special thank you to Lynn Gryc who headed the organizing and to her helpers, Maria Erickson, Merrell Thornton, and Lin Wolf.

Be sure to sign up to attend Christmas Cheer Monday, December 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
A special evening for ladies and their friends. You will be treated to many desserts, served with punch, coffee, & tea.

We do need volunteers for table settings, wreaths and desserts.

Table Decorations for 12 tables: Sign up to decorate a round table with 8 luncheon place settings (plate, glass, cup/saucer, napkin, [church silverware], table cloth, other table decorations).

Wreath Decorations: Bring us one of your wreaths. It can be made in any style, with any material that is allergy free. Bring it on Sunday set-up, December 1st.

Free Will Donations: A free will offering to be given to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) general fund. This money can be used anywhere in the world for any disaster that has happened or will happen.

Christmas Bake Sale
Sunday, December 16, 2018, NUMC South Door
8:30 AM bring baked goods, 9:00 AM Sale starts
Baked Goods of all kinds needed and sold. UMW Mission for Northfield UMC children and youth.
Bakers, Start you ovens! The Christmas Bake Sale is almost here. Cookies and bars are sold in units of six or more. Specialty items like krumkake and rosettes are appreciated by those who do not make them. Quick breads, cinnamon rolls, small coffee cakes are purchased for a family Christmas gathering. Here is a chance to share your favorite Christmas goodies with others.

UMW Social Action 2019
The Minnesota United Methodist Women have taken on a campaign to “End Maternal Mortality” through a postcard mailing. The campaign is titled: “I want my MOMMY!”

The U.S. has the worst rate of maternal deaths in the developed world! (a Star Tribune article: dated May 12, 2017) “More American women are dying of pregnancy-related complications than any other developed country. Only in the U.S. has the rate of women who die been rising. Federal and state funding show only 6% of block grants for ‘maternal and child health’ actually go to the health of mothers.”

“Minnesota is one of nearly 30 states that have maternal mortality review committees. The committees on a national level, as a 2018 report, tell us (information reported by 9 states- Minnesota not included) that an estimated 50% of deaths were caused by hemorrhage, heart conditions and infection. Authors also concluded that about 60% of the deaths were preventable. An average of 20 of these deaths happen annually in Minnesota, according to state officials. “Patients lacked awareness about warning signs of serious complications. Misdiagnosis and ineffective treatments by medical providers were contributing factors.”

Minnesota UMW members are urging our State Senators and Legislators to fully fund the MN Mortality Review Committee Program (MMRCP) and support passage of SF #2294 which adds maternal morbidity to #145.901 and #4615.0800.

If you want to be a part of this postcard campaign, contact Catherine Williams, cwilliamsteach3r@aol.com or 507-301-5865 for 3 postcards. They get mailed to your MN Senator and MN Legislators.
MICAH NEWS
(Methodists Investing in Care and Action for the Holy Land) Micah 6:8

The support of the congregation for Pastor Rachel's trip to the Holy Land was amazing, with $1,441.00 raised in one week. Much gratitude for your generosity.

We invite you to cut out/print out this prayer and tape it to your refrigerator as a reminder to pray for Pastor Rachel while she is traveling in the Holy Land, January 3-12, 2020.

O God, may Pastor Rachel be aware of your nearness during her travels. We ask you to watch over her and grant her strength for the journey.

During this trip may she reflect Jesus’ love and compassion so that she will be a blessing to all those she meets along the way.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus who came that all may have life and have it abundantly.

Kairos Palestine annual Christmas Alert 2019 with messages for each week of Advent written by Christians in the Holy Land

This year the Christmas Alert sheds light on the importance of restoring a new hope for Palestine, the Middle East, and the World.

"We need new light and hope to come from the hearts of all believers in the Christmas message, to encourage churches around the world to act!"

Here is the link to the Alert: https://kairospalestine.ps/index.php/resources/alerts/kairos-christmas-alert-2019

“O Lord God, the message you sent to the simple shepherds in those days, send it today to those who have power. O Lord, change the hearts of the great of this world. Grant them light to see and to know that the Palestinians and they themselves are equally created in your image and have the same dignity you gave to all.”

H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Jerusalem

MICAH has Zatoun Palestinian Fair Trade Virgin Olive Oil for sale
These make great Christmas gifts!

Currently we have 750 ml bottles @ $20.00 per bottle. Also available are 150 g. packages of Za’atar @ $5.00. Za’atar is made with wild thyme and sumac mixed with roasted sesame seeds and salt. Recipe sheets are available with the Za’atar, but it is also great with olive oil for dipping. These items are available in the church office. Support the farmers of Palestine in the struggle for their livelihood and land.
(Zatoun = Olive)
The first Wednesday of each month, we worship and serve together! Beginning at 6:30 pm, we will gather in the gym/multi-purpose room for service and learning. This is for all generations – young and old, new to our church and seasoned hands alike. Make us ready, O God – our hands are yours.

Family Fare Receipts
Our unofficial total is now $90,000 so we’re more than halfway to our goal to earn $1000 for youth activities (actually, we’re at 60% - yea!!). When your holiday shopping needs take you to Family Fare, please turn the receipts in. The box is usually located on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Like Super Wednesdays shared meal? Sign up to help!
We can’t put on the Super Wednesday meals without our volunteer help; so it’s again time to SIGN UP for assistance in December and January. We welcome volunteers to help on an occasional basis and this is an easy way to contribute to the ministry of NUMC. Find the clipboard for sign-ups on the table at end of Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Ellen Trotman at thetrotmans@gmail.com or Cindy Anderson at donderson@msn.com.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed
Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army in Rice County from November 22nd to December 24th. Northfield locations are again at Cub Foods 10:00 am to 6:00 pm in 2 hour shifts. Family Fare 9:00 am to 7:00 pm in 2 hour shifts. You can call the bell ringing hot line at 507-649-9134 or go online to northfieldbellringer@gmail.com to sign up. Dates are Monday thru Saturday each week.

Habitat for Humanity (Rice County)
Two houses are being built in Faribault at 300 Acorn Trail and they could use some help. They build on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays starting at 8:00 to 3:00. They are working inside so it will be warm. There is also a need for hot lunches or coffee break snacks. You can sign up for any of these by going to the Rice County Habitat for Humanity website and click on “Volunteer” and then click on Build Schedule Sign Up. The location and needs for each day are listed. You may also call Jodi Beach, the Volunteer Coordinator at 507-403-7868.
Dear NUMC Friends,

The MCCI Signature Ministry Team has been ‘out in the community’ talking with people about the most pressing needs facing the citizens of Northfield. I want to share with you those individuals and organizations with whom we've already connected. If there are other individuals and or community groups you think we should contact, please let me—or any member of the team—know.

Here are those with whom we have or will shortly meet:
- Sarah VanSickle, Nfld Public Schools and previously Project Friendship
- Emily Fulton-Foley and Meredith Stoltz at the Key
- Katie Lovrien, TORCH
- Laura Turek, Northfield Promise
- Scott Wopata, CAC
- Rafa Estrella, Nfld teacher and coach
- Philip Spensley, Climate Action Plan Advisory Board
- Alyssa Melby, St. Olaf Civic Engagement
- Chris Ellison, Fifty North and Age Friendly Northfield
- Betsy Spethmann, Northfield Hospital
- Kyle Nordine and Tom Nielsen, NRC
- Erica Zweifel, Nfd City Council
- Mar Valdcantos, Rice County Neighbors United
- Zach Pruitt, HCI
- Deanna Thompson, St. Olaf Lutheran Center for Faith, Values & Community
- Charlie Mandile, Health Finders
- Laura Tiano, Growing Up Healthy
- City Task Force on Affordable Housing
- Habitat for Humanity and Faith Build 2020
- Small Sums
- Age Friendly Northfield
- Laura Baker Services

On behalf of the Signature Ministry Team,
Bruce Dalgaard
bdalgaard@carleton.edu

The Signature Ministry Team members are:
Amy Allin, Kevin Allin, Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Ann Richards, Darla Delong, Jim Finholt, and Evelyn Burry and Carl Caskey.

The next HERALD NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is NOON on Wednesday, January 22 for the February issue.

Please submit your items in a digital format to Sandy at northfieldumc@gmail.com

The Church Office will be closed from December 24 - January 1st. We will return to our regular business hours beginning January 2nd. Thank you! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Composting Corner

Composting - Members and kitchen volunteers are doing a great job of getting compostables (ie paper towels, napkins, used parchment paper, food - even egg shells are compost - and church compostable plates, cups, wooden stir sticks etc.) in the proper container. If you are a member of a group that meets in the church, please help others know which containers to use when cleaning up after meetings.

Recycling - A gentle reminder that aluminum foil and pans are recyclable (and just as valuable) as aluminum cans. Please scrap major food chunks off (and into compost) and then place aluminum in recycling. Non glitter and non foil gift wrap paper can also be recycled.

Thank you for taking good care as we celebrate all of God's blessings to us in this season.

Look for the bins around the church for:

**COMPOST** - food scraps, leftover, parchment paper, napkins, paper towels, soiled paper and cardboard, shredded paper, plant trimmings, and bio-plastic items (which are usually labeled compostable or have a green stripe).

**RECYCLING** - clean flattened cardboard, clean paper, rinsed glass containers, rinsed cans, rinsed hard plastic containers (look for the recycling triangle; please make sure caps/lids are put back on plastic containers) and aluminum foil wiped/rinsed clean of grease and food.

**LANDFILL** - items that are not compostable or recyclable or that are composed of more than one material (e.g. paper and foil, plastic and paper, plastic and foil).

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**Card Making with Margie**

Thursday, December 19 & January 16
6:30-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Cost: $10 to cover supplies.
Join Margie Brockton for a fun evening of making greeting cards.
She will have all the supplies needed.
Call 507-649-2324 for more info!

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**W.O.W. LUNCH**

(Widows or Widowers)
December 10 & January 8 - Noon
Perkins Restaurant - Northfield
The monthly WOW lunch meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All widows and widowers are invited to attend!
Join us for good fellowship!
Because every picture has a story to tell...

The Pumpkin carving and pizza party brought out several talented carvers!

Our Christmas pageant rehearsals kicked off with 30 kids ready to help tell the ancient story once again. Make way for the Camels!

KC3 kids named their saints for All Saints Day then placed them on the baptismal font in our sanctuary, a reminder that we share in the same baptism as those who have gone before us.

SALT youth led us in making soup for friends of the congregation.

Our youngest disciples talked about Matthew 25 and the difference between sheep and goats in Wednesday Bible Playdate.

The Bell Choir filled our halls with music and joy when they moved to a classroom for a temporary rehearsal location.

KC3 kids prepared to rake a neighborhood yard as a Random Act of Kindness—we filled 15 bags, and the kids were great workers!

Sundaes on Wednesdays for our MS youth offers fun and fellowship in conversation about faith!
Confirmation 2019

Confirmation Sunday found us in our fellowship hall as construction cleanup continued in our sanctuary - with the beautiful service brought by our confirmands, we could have been in an abandoned warehouse and known the Spirit moved among us! We bless the questions and the affirmations their journeys have brought so far, and we know grace will meet them on the road ahead. Congratulations to our confirmands, Julia Klein, Ryan Marks, Danielle McGeough, Greta Sorenmann and Calvin Weis.

Matthew 17:20b
if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Luke 17:5-6
The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”
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<td>Hanging of the Greens 9:30 Worship with Communion</td>
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<td>6:30 Families First Meeting 7:00 UMW Christmas Cheer</td>
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<td>9:45 Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:45 Discipleship Hour</td>
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<td>4:00 Care Team SUPER WEDNESDAY 3:30 KC3 &amp; Bible Playdate 5:30 Shared Meal 6:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:15 Mission Knitting 6:30 SALT - Operation Joy Angel Tree 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 Target Thursday 3:00-7:00 Thursday's Table</td>
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<td>1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl</td>
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<td>9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 SPRC Meeting</td>
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<td>9:00 Care Team Noon W.O.W. - Perkins SUPER WEDNESDAY 3:30 KC3 &amp; Bible Playdate 5:30 Shared Meal 5:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:15 Mission Knitting 6:30 Children's Christmas Pageant 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Confirmation</td>
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<td>9:00-12:00 UMW Bake Sale 9:30 Worship 9:45 Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:45 Discipleship Hour 10:30 Blood Pressure Screening</td>
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<td>9:15 Care Team at Millstream 10:30 Coffee at Millstream No Super Wednesday 4:30 Advent Peace &amp; Healing Service</td>
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<td>11:30-1:30 Target Thursday - Final 6:30 Card Making with Margie</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 4:30 and 10:00 pm. Nursery available for 3:00 &amp; 4:30 services. Church office closed</td>
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Regular Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday, 8:00 am - Noon

Winter weather reminder:
If Northfield Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions, the church policy is that the office will be closed and church sponsored activities cancelled. Check with your team leader for specific meeting schedules.
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Northfield United Methodist Church

1401 South Maple Street
Northfield, MN  55057

Phone: (507) 645-5689
Email: northfieldumc@gmail.com
Website: www.northfieldumc.org

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
Kathryn Steed

Child Care Provider

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

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 ________________________________