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July Worship

Faith of the Persecuted: Learning from Christians Around the World

July 7: North Korea
Celebration of Holy Communion Philippians 3:12-4:1
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

July 14: Laos
Colossians 2:8-16
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

July 21: Russia
I Thessalonians 2:13-20
Rev. Jerad Morey

July 28: Pakistan
I Corinthians 1:10-31
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

Summer Worship Schedule
Sunday worship 9:30 am
(No Sunday School or Adult Forum during the summer)

Nursery provided during our worship service.

Join us for fellowship and coffee on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall following worship.
Dear NUMC friends,

I am including here (see below) the information that was shared at the congregational meeting held June 9 to help clarify what is happening in the United Methodist global church regarding the General Conference 2019 decisions on human sexuality in the life of the church. At that meeting we opened a survey for the congregation to see where God has been speaking in your hearts: what is God calling the congregation to do, and in what direction are we called to go?

Included here are the survey results (see page 4). The numbers are overwhelmingly in favor of a public and intentional inclusivity of LGBTQ persons in all aspects of the life of the church. The Administrative Council had set a threshold of 80% as the needed support for any one direction - according to this survey, that clarity already exists in the congregation.

July 14th will be an opportunity for Northfield UMC to take the next step in regards to this question, which will be a charge conference to adopt an official welcoming statement that explicitly states that sexual orientation and gender identity are no barriers to God's grace and calling.

While the direction of the congregation is quite clear, there is also a recognition that there are some in our church family who are struggling with this. As invitations to general conversations and town hall-type forums have not been good spaces for these kinds of questions, Pastor Jerad and I will be clearing our schedules as much as possible for anyone who would like a one-on-one conversation - before or after July 14 - to study scripture, pray, or simply express frustration, pain, or confusion about the decisions that lie before us. Call or email us directly (mmorey@northfieldumc.org and jmorey@northfieldumc.org) to set up what works for you.

As I said at the June 9 meeting, this is not a decision everyone was asking for - but because the global body of the church and our regional body (or annual conference) find themselves at odds, each congregation will need to prayerfully consider where it is called to be moving forward.

The GC2019 Response Team has offered considered and prayerful leadership during this season of immense uncertainty, and I offer my heartfelt thanks for the team's heart for all people and for the work that has gone into discernment for our congregation, particularly the development and collection of the congregational survey. We welcome questions and pray for God's grace to meet each of you. Holy conversation will bind us in the days to come.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

Dear UMC friends:

Many of you have been following the news for the last few months and wondering where the United Methodist denomination is going. Some of you may not be fully aware of all that has happened, others have been paying close attention. The purpose of our gathering today is two-fold: To offer the same information to everyone, and to offer everyone an opportunity via a written survey to speak into this moment.

For the past 45 or so years, our global Methodist family has been living in tension around questions of human sexuality. In 1972, a phrase was inserted into our book of discipline - which is our governing document - declaring that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." Since that time, our church has struggled mightily, with two clear camps emerging, and many who felt uncomfortable being asked to choose a side.

After decades of wrestling with this unproductively, a specially called General Conference - or decision-making assembly of the church - was called for February of 2019 in St. Louis just to deal with issues around human sexuality. For the global church, this included questions of divorced clergy and polygamy. For the US, that specifically centered on whether same-sex marriages can be officiated within our churches, and whether LGBTQ persons could be ordained. To be clear, both of these things - weddings and ordinations - were happening already in many churches in defiance of the book of discipline, just as there have always been LGBTQ persons in our churches; the question was whether we could create doctrinal space in our global church family so we could stay together even with these differences.

The answer that came from the specially called general conference was no, we cannot stay together with these differences, specifically difference regarding same sex marriage and ordination – and the questions regarding divorced clergy and polygamy in conference outside the US were not addressed. By a 53%-47% vote, what is referred to as the "Traditionalist Plan" was passed: the current language of incompatibility was upheld, and - a first for our denomination for any issue - mandatory minimum penalties were instituted. Additionally, boards of ordained ministry were to be litmus tested around this one issue, and no other, before a person could be brought forward for ordination. Accusations or charges could come from anyone who had suspicions about someone's sexual orientation rather than via official self-declarations.

The judicial council of the United Methodist Church met to review these actions in late April to determine if they were constitutional (for the constitution of the United Methodist Church, not the US). (continued on page 3)
(continued from page 2)

The plan was largely upheld, as was legislation allowing for a "graceful exit" for churches that felt called to disaffiliate from the denomination if they could not live within these new strictures.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, Methodists have been prayerfully discerning where we as an annual conference are called to go. The Bishop of the Minnesota annual conference, Bruce Ough, referred to this plan in an all clergy-gathering in early March as creating a "police state" in which people are empowered and rewarded for raising suspicions about others' lives, and he has indicated that - to the best of his ability - he will not operate by these new strictures. In doing so, he joins bishops across the country and globe who have rejected this plan, including a number of bishops and pastors who in doctrine agree with the traditionalist plan, but find the penalties - in their words - draconian and un-Christian. Additionally, our MN Board of Ordained ministry published a letter communicating their unwillingness to live by the new rules setting up sexual orientation as a unique barrier to ministry for clergy.

Perhaps you have seen Kansas, Nebraska, North Texas, Baltimore/Washington, Michigan, and many other conferences in the news recently for either passing resolutions at their annual conferences declaring resistance to the Traditionalist plan, or for ordaining openly gay clergy in defiance of it. That said, because of the new mandatory minimum penalties, there are limits to what any bishop can avoid or Board of Ordained ministry can do.

There are several possibilities that lie ahead; I will sketch out some of the emerging conversations here, but know that this is a landscape that is shifting rapidly, and new elements are certainly on the horizon that we can't predict today. To take this as a definitive list would be a mistake, and if you take these out the door as absolutes I will deny everything, but it would also be a mistake not to let you know what is happening.

Many of the conversation center on how we can remain together as a church in Minnesota across theological differences, essentially offering the freedom to do what each church needs to do to offer the grace of Jesus Christ to its community in fullness. This could include a separation of our annual conference- or regional body - from the global church, or a new alliance with other like-minded churches across the globe who don't see God's path forward in the plan passed at General Conference.

Other conversations center in a rapid exit of individual congregations from the denomination as they feel locally called to do so, allowing them to be independent entities with all the rights and responsibilities thereto. The issue with this is how many connectional ministries would disintegrate - camping, health clinics, disaster relief, schools and hospitals, recovery centers - all sorts of boards and agencies which we have collectively supported and which do the work of the kingdom of God, and which would be quickly shuttered under this scheme.

Other conversations center around legally dissolving "The United Methodist Church" as we know it, and allow for new connections to emerge locally and voluntarily from the legal ashes - or, to put it in Easter terms, from the empty tomb. This is being investigated and tested for financial implications for our connectional ministries and for what transitional structures would need to be in place.

What is clearly not on the table: continuing as we are. To stay with the direction of the global denomination would mean breaking with the annual conference as a legal and constituting entity. To stay with the direction of the annual conference would mean breaking with the global denomination as our highest legislative body and public witness.

Ultimately, any road demands decision from each congregation. Because the global church and the regional body - our annual conference leadership - find themselves at odds, our congregation and others will need to prayerfully discern where God is calling us to go. There is no default option anymore, nor is there any future in which we can simply ignore what is happening. By January 1, 2020, the new plan will take effect. We did not ask for this decision, but it is the one before us.

That said: Today, we are not voting – are we voting? NO. Rather, this survey we take today is a step toward our congregation's discernment of where God is calling us to go. Northfield UMC is not new to this conversation; indeed, the brass plaques around the church saying, 'Jesus Christ calls us to offer welcome, hospitality, and God's gracious love to all' came from the first iteration of the conversation back in 2008-9.

That said, our public witness - our brand, if you will - in Northfield is very muddy right now around this issue. It is all well and good to say, "we love everyone!". That does not answer the question of ordination or weddings, which now lies at the center of this conversation – what does "inclusion" mean for us?

So, our first step as a congregation is to clarify our values: when we look into our deepest heart, what is it that God is speaking to us about this? There are many possible paths forward, but until we are clear about who we are, we are at the mercy of what CNN reports about the UMC on TV.

This is not about whether we are "liberal" or "conservative." God save us from easy and idolatrous political positioning. This is a theological conversation, one about who God is and what God is about and who God loves and what God wills. It begins and ends with God, as all church questions do.

Pastor Jerad and I are clear about where we are. The administrative council has spoken as well. But this church needs to own fully where it is called on these questions. Today is our first step toward figuring out what this means. As this process, whatever it ends up being, unfolds, be gentle with each other. Holy Conversation will bind us in the days to come. And Jerad and myself are happy to meet with anyone struggling one way or the other with this.

We talked about our conflict transformation path this morning, and how it begins in prayer. Indeed, all should, so let's do that now.
Clarifying Values Survey Results

For each statement participants were asked to circle the number (0-5) that is closest to their values and beliefs using this key:

0=Absolutely not; I could not support this.
1=I am very firm in my opposition, but I can see where the other side is coming from.
2=I am clear about why I am opposed, but I am open to prayerful conversation.
3=I have big questions about this, but I think this is where God is calling us to go.
4=I am very firm in my support, but I can see where the other side is coming from.
5=Absolutely yes; I fully support this.

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*also circled 5s for Questions #3 & #4

91% (153 out of 168) believe it is important for our church to publicly state that we oppose the February 2019 General Conference decision

Question #2 (Support GC decision)

| 0 | 78 | 45 | 9 | 132 |
| 1 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 18 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 5 | 0 | | 5 |
| 4 | 3* | 2 | | 5 |
| 5 | 3* | 0 | 1* | 4 |

*also circled #5 for Question 1

92% (154 out of 168) oppose publicly stating that we support the February 2019 General Conference decision

Question #3 Reconciling - consistent w/ my faith)

| 0 | 1* | 5 | | 6 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| 2 | 5 | 0 | | 5 |
| 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| 5 | 83 | 48 | 11 | 142 |

*also chose 5 for Question #4

94% (157 out of 168) believe becoming a Reconciling Congregation is consistent with their faith

Questions #4 Reconciling - called as a church)

| 0 | 1 | 4 | | 5 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 0 | | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 15 |
| 5 | 80 | 47 | 13 | 140 |

94% (158 out of 168) believe that becoming a Reconciling Congregation is who we are called to be as a congregation

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ALL CHURCH GATHERING - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

There will be a charge conference July 14 immediately following worship, called by the administrative council to take the next steps toward God's future for NUMC post-General Conference 2019. This will include consideration of an official welcoming statement as an expression of the congregation's prayerful discernment as indicated in the June survey regarding inclusion of LGBTQ persons.
**LAWN SIGNS AVAILABLE**

Do you want to publicly show your personal support of being an inclusive Church? Lawn signs are available. Reach out to Marla and Jonie Erickson (members of our church’s Response Team) at 507-663-7952 to get yours. (free will donation)

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**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

Prayers of Sympathy with:
- Al and Jody Mousel Family on the death of Al’s mother
- Blake and Betsy Peterson Family on the death of Blake’s father
- Family and friends of Tom Aarsvold

Prayers of Celebration with:
- Al and Jody Mousel on the birth of their grandson Austin Mousel, parents Aaron and Amy Mousel

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

**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.

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**Celebrating Christmas in July - Stewardship & Finance Update**

Seasons in the Southern Hemisphere are in reverse to the Northern Hemisphere so summer falls in December, January, and February, and winter falls in June, July, and August. Because of this some southern hemisphere countries, such as Australia, Bolivia, Samoa, South Africa and New Zealand, observe Christmas in July in order to share a winter feel with the northern hemisphere. These countries celebrate Christmas on December 25, too.

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 a bit over 2000 years ago - Jesus! One of the most famous 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 July - and every month that Jesus comes to us!

**General Fund May 2019 contributions $22,954.16**
**General Fund May 2018 contributions $25,382.91**

**General Fund YTD 2019 contributions $160,382.43**
**General Fund YTD 2018 contributions $164,842.16**
FAMILIES FIRST MCC TEAM BEGINS!

A central focal point that emerged from our Missional Church Consultation Initiative process - which NUMC approved by a 96% margin! - was a complete assessment of our programs for children, youth, and families at NUMC. We are certainly not alone as a church in the journey of realizing that ministry with children, youth, and families has new challenges that did not exist even 10 years ago; changes in technology, school and extra-curricular demands, family economics, and other factors all point to this being a time ripe for a step back to look at the big picture: What is it we are called to do? What are the best means by which to do it? And who are the people God is calling into this ministry in a new way? We invite your prayers for the team, led by Lisa and Shelby Kobes, as they work with their coach and the team to prayerfully lead us in God’s new directions. Be prepared for a divine shoulder tap calling you into ministry in a new way; and pray for the children, youth, and families of our congregation on this new journey!

Summer Camping

Look for great camping opportunities for all ages at www.campminnesota.org. Horse camps, family camps, canoeing, water skiing, fishing camps, and much more! Booklets available in the Gathering Space at church. Check it out!

IDAHO MISSION PROJECT

July 7-13

Our youth have spent the last year planning for the Idaho Mission Project, wherein 19 youth from NUMC ranging from grades 5-12 will be working in service to the people of the Spokane River Valley.

Whether accompanying developmentally disabled people on nature adventures, performing yard and house maintenance for the elderly, restoring a riverbank or stocking a food shelf we are excited to learn what God has in store! Please pray for the youth as they stretch their service muscles and grow in their faith in God and each other.

Thank you. Your generosity made a difference.

Idaho Sponsor Appreciation Social

August 14

For those people who have gone the extra mile to ensure a youth would be able to participate in the trip by donating $300 or more to defray travel expenses, the Idaho missioners will show their thanks with an ice cream social, stories and testimonies from the trip.

Confirmation Overnight: Adult female volunteer needed

August 24-25

The current confirmation class of students entering 10th grade will enjoy a lock-in at church. We will explore the building, our spirits, and our relationship with God. One adult female volunteer will ensure that we can maintain a safe and friendly space.
“Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability,” so says Sam Keen, author, professor, philosopher.

Keeping that idea in mind, the library committee has set out books which should fit in just fine with summer laziness (otherwise referred to as “light reading,” or “easy reads”): The Patchwork Quilt series, all 20 volumes minus one (might it be on your bookshelf?) is one example. With each book you have an old-fashioned “Whodunit,” which reveals the hope and motivation of personal dreams and shows that “faith in God always triumphs over anxiety and fear,” as a reviewer put it.

Should any time spent in warm sunshine find you prone to dozing off before you get through a first chapter, check out one of the collections of short stories.

Perhaps summer offers you a bit more Time than you normally have. This may be the summer for catching up on that nonfiction book you have heard about, Hot, Flat, and Crowded, Thomas Friedman, author or The Social Animal, by David Brooks.

As always, the library committee will try to provide resources relevant to the sermon themes and event within the wider church. And, keep in mind that books “have whole worlds inside of them,” Neil Gaiman.

Music Opportunities

Music of the Persecuted: Learning from Christians Around the World
Each week in July, as we continue with our summer worship series on the persecution of Christians and other faith groups around the world, we will sing a hymn chosen from the countries we are discussing: North and South Korea, Laos, Russia, and Pakistan. Sing as one with Christians around the world!

Sunday, July 14. Meet at 8:45 am. Sing for 9:30 am worship.
Do you love to sing? Have you been wanting to sing with a choir?
Second Sunday Drop in Choir is a great opportunity to give it a try, with no commitment. Come once, or as often as you like. Just show up in the Choir Room at 8:45 on Second Sunday mornings to rehearse an easy anthem that we will sing for worship that day. No experience or music-reading ability is required.

- Each 2nd Sunday. July 14, August 11, September 8.
- July 14 director will be Randall Ferguson
- Meet at 8:45 in the choir room.
- No robes necessary; we will have music for you
- No expectations of long term commitment--just come and sing as you are able.

Wanted! Technical Volunteers
Wanted occasional technical volunteers for Sunday morning worship. Must be comfortable with Windows operating systems, presentation software, external display settings. Please contact Wendy Smith at wendynumc@aol.com.
Southern Minnesota ISAIAH Launches Faithful Listening Campaign

On June 15, three members of ISAIAH-NUMC’s core leadership joined other ISAIAH leaders from Rochester, Owatonna, Faribault, Red Wing and New Prague for a day-long strategy session at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Rochester.

- We were reminded to love one another and act with compassion for racial and economic justice for all Minnesotans.
- We shared what we’ve been doing in our local communities in four areas: housing, immigration, climate and education.
- We trained to become faithful listeners in an intention listening campaign over the next five months.

Through this campaign we intend to achieve:

- Deeper relationships with 2,000 of our neighbors throughout Southern Minnesota
- Clarity about the struggles people are facing in our community
- A shared vision for the future where everyone can thrive
- An agenda, framework and real steps we can take together to improve our communities
- Stronger, more connected, more responsive community institutions

If you would like to learn more about this faith-based issue-oriented listening campaign, be someone who is listened to, or be a listener either contact Evelyn Burry (evelynburry@hotmail.com or 507-645-7481) or sign up on the ISAIAH clipboard at the Welcome Table.

While there are no adult forums scheduled as of this printing, we are still flush with opportunities to grow in our discipleship. The World Wide Web stands ready with testimony to help you draw closer to Christ and live out your call. Consider one of these faith-building activities.

- Read your Bible. You are under no obligation to finish it in a year, but every minute you devote to better understanding the word of God can be a blessing.
- Over a meal, ask someone about God. Don’t use it as an opportunity to share your own story, just be in an attitude of learning. Open-ended questions like “How have you experienced God?” “What were you raised to believe?” “How have your beliefs changed?” can open new doors in relationships and with the Divine.
- Be inspired to take action. Go online and watch this video of a graduated Northfield UMC confirmand being arrested alongside religious leaders while standing up for the stranger in our land: https://is.gd/LaNA22 (warning: vulgar language) Then pray about how God is calling you to make a difference. Attend a meeting of ISAIAH or the Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Pray for persecuted people, and watch videos to learn more about the Jesus-followers in the countries Rachel and Jerad have been preaching on. You could invite people over and to watch and discuss these videos.
  - Sudan: https://is.gd/JebUd1 (Nuba TV)
  - China: https://is.gd/o6eluP (Radio Free Asia)
  - India: https://is.gd/P5OpMV (Open Doors USA)
  - North Korea: https://is.gd/eIkBQY (Associated Press)
- If you’ve got a long drive this month, consider some interesting podcasts that look at following Jesus through a contemporary lens. These include The Liturgists, Darkwood Brew, or The Bible for Normal People.
- Take a prayer walk in your neighborhood. Ask God to walk with you and open your eyes in fresh ways to the people and places that have become familiar. Pray for the folks in each house and apartment as you pass. Listen for whether there is something the Spirit is calling you to.
- Do nothing. Not like "don't do anything," but actively do nothing. Set aside 20 minutes of nothing in your day. Reflect on nothing afterward.

There are hundreds of other ways you can foster your spiritual journey this month of which this is just a small sample. See if you can't pick two or three and try them on for a spiritual fit!
July is “Fireworks Eye Safety Awareness Month” and the American Academy of Ophthalmology reminds consumers to “leave fireworks to professionals.” More than 13,000 injuries and 8 deaths related to fireworks happen each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Over 4,000 injuries are head-related and of those nearly 30% are eye injuries. One-fourth of fireworks eye injuries cause permanent vision loss or blindness. These are sobering statistics.

“Children are the most common victims of fireworks accidents…” People often think sparklers are “safe” for children to use, but they burn at about 2000 degrees Fahrenheit, which can cause third-degree burns. Bottle rockets cause the most serious injuries because of abrupt trauma to the eye. These injuries include: corneal abrasions, retinal detachment, optic nerve damage, eye muscle damage, and complete blindness.

Please heed the following tips from the Academy: never let children play with fireworks, view fireworks from a safe distance (500 feet to ¼ mile), respect safety barriers of professionals and leave lighting fireworks to them, do not touch unexploded fireworks that you might find, and seek medical help immediately if you receive an eye injury from fireworks. More information about eye safety can be found on the following websites: www.aao.org or www.preventblindness.org.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety recommends the following safety tips if you choose to set off your own fireworks.

* Observe local laws for purchasing fireworks; buy from reliable sources.
* Always read and follow label directions.
* Have an adult supervise all fireworks activities.
* Ignite fireworks outdoors, away from buildings and vehicles.
* Keep a bucket of water handy.
* Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
* Light fireworks one at a time; never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
* Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
* Never throw fireworks at another person.
* Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
* Eye protection should always be worn by the fireworks shooter.
* No part of the shooter’s body should be over the fireworks.

Happy 4th of July! Enjoy the holiday. The safest way to celebrate is to watch a fireworks show. Northfield usually puts on a great production!

ATTENTION!
There will be NO Sunday blood pressure screenings during the month of July 2019. Please contact Ruth Kruse via email at ruthakruse@gmail.com or by phone at 507-645-8046 if you need to have your blood pressure checked in July.
Lentil Soup is NOT Humble Pie by Paul Kluge

Lentil Soup or Holy Land Chili? – that is the question . . .

In our calorie rich culture of smorgasbord eating, soup is often dismissed in these times. Why eat soup when there are double-burger-delights with cheese so handy and cheap? Have a coupon? Go for two! Still, the upscale dinner with five or more courses surely includes soup, although it will be as thin as Jezebel’s window shades. Of course, thin is good.

Chili, on the other hand, now that’s a bowlful of substance—even by the cup! Why is that? What makes the difference? The answer may be in the dastardly tin can. OK, Cream of ‘Anything’ in a can will turn anything else in the fridge into hot dish. Or casserole—I can’t remember which word is proper in what setting. Canned soup is probably most often referred to as “all right,” just to be polite. If this is preaching to the choir, then where do we get decent soup? Yes, Paneras, of course! They have good soup! Other than that . . .

Another kick at the can is that many if not all of us make our own chili. We have a recipe that we can improve on—read ‘experiment’—each time we make it. The family gives us feedback, and with that comes family ethos. At last, family members have something in common, even if the cook is a bit sensitive, s/he is the ringleader in an old family recipe highly regarded by all, even if technically it is yesterday’s experiment.

By now the answer is obvious, I’m sure you agree. Please yourself AND the family: make soup! But maybe call it something else. Perhaps it will work best if each recipe has its own special name. Aunt Suzie’s Ironhorse Clam Chowder or Grandpa Fred’s Sausage Minestrone. OK, you get the idea, but work it, folks. Sell it with pride in a name that speaks to y’all.

How about a Palestinian Lentil Soup that could do well with a name other than Lentil Soup? Maybe it is best to try a batch first, in order to corral a proper name. Holy Land Chili? Try it.

~~~~~~~~

Into your soup pot over medium heat throw: 2 (T) tablespoons of that good Extra-Virgin, you know the one, Olive Oil, plus one good sized onion chopped up, plus ½ (t) teaspoon salt. Sauté about 5 minutes or until onion is translucent & soft.

Stir in ½ t cumin and a pinch of saffron if you have it. Also, ¼ t salt and maybe ¼ t or so pepper. Then ½ (C) cup split red lentils, a cube of chicken or vegetable bouillon with 3 ½ C Water. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover, simmer 15 minutes.

Add 1 T washed basmati rice, bring back to boil, simmer another 15 minutes.

Puree with hand-blender if you wish, transfer to serving bowl, stir in 1 T lemon juice and serve with a drizzle of olive oil and a sprinkling of ground cumin. Zatoun brand is over the top.

Annual Conference and Palestine Children

Last year at Annual Conference a resolution was passed asking that a study be done to see how to best educate the Minnesota United Methodist churches about the abuse and detention of Palestinian children by the Israeli Defense Force. A report on this will be given at this year’s Annual Conference.

The ill-treatment of children by the Israeli military goes against all that United Methodists believe in, according to scriptures. Also, United Methodist Women have historically been an advocate for just practices for women, youth, and children. In addition, The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church speaks of the rights of children, including the right to emotional well-being. It states that “children must be protected from physical and emotional abuse.”

Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum introduced H.R. 2407 on April 30 of this year. It is titled Promoting of Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act. If enacted, this will prohibit US funds from being used for the “military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment” of children.
United Methodist Women (UMW) Happenings

UMW Apple Pie Baking Fundraiser September 2019

Need Free Pie Baking Apples!

Do you have an apple tree that we could have some free apples for making pies? We will be selling tickets for pies in August. The baking will be done in early September. We need good pie baking apples that we could have for free. We are also in need of bakers. If you have apples to donate or wish to help with baking contact Catherine at 507-301-5865.

Emma Norton Services (ENS)

We have recently received an urgent email from ENS asking for donations for WELCOME BASKETS. These are given to new ENS residents and families and those moving to scattered housing.

BASKETS TO INCLUDE: Laundry basket, blanket/quilt, pillow, twin sheet set & pillowcase, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, bath/hand/wash towels, soap or body wash, coffee mug. OPTIONAL lotion, 4x6 pic. frame, journal, lint roller.

Contact Catherine Williams here at NUMC at 507-301-5865 or ENS, Victoria Virasy at 651-251-2662 or vvirasy@emmanorton.org with questions.

ENS partners with women, children and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. Without having to worry about the basic need of a safe, secure place to live, women and children can utilize and focus on supportive programs, life skills, services and opportunities available to accomplish their goals. ENS fosters stability and encourages personal growth at two locations: Emma Norton Residence in the heart of downtown St. Paul is home to 50 individual women. Emma's Place in Maplewood is home to 13 single parent families with three or more kids. Housing is permanent, the women and families we serve may reside at Emma Norton Residence and Emma's Place as long as they desire.

Up-Date from Barb Payne, UMW River Valley District Representative: In the past year 13 families were helped at Emma's Place with 12 more families placed in scattered housing. Emma's Residence helped 50 single women with an additional 30 placed in scattered housing.

The SOAR program (Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery Technical Assistance) increased its help to those in need from 16 to 56 applications in 2018.

Also the planning of the $1.8 million much needed renovation of Emma’s Place is complete. Renovations will begin late this fall and be complete later in 2020.

Financial support has been approved from, Minnesota housing, Federal Home Loan Bank, Ramsey County and Metropolitan Council. There is a need to raise the remaining $81 thousand that will be needed in early 2020. Please consider a special missions offering or fundraiser in the next 9 months that could help in meeting this need.

Barb also received another thank you from ENS after delivering donations of paper products, personal care & feminine hygiene items that were collected at our UMW River Valley’s Spring meeting in Owatonna April 27. Thank You for your generous donations of products and cash. Barb’s pickup truck was FULL! Let’s do it again at the River Valley District Annual Meeting at Christ UMC in Rochester, MN on September 21, 8:30 AM registration!

There continues to be a growing need for housing and support services for women and children in Minnesota. ENS needs to continue to grow and expand their services to help those in need. Please keep ENS and staff in your prayers.
Last chance for church directory!
If you have not yet given us your information for the new church directory, now is the time to get it to us. The form is included below. Please complete it and drop it off in the church office or mail it to the church prior to **July 30th**.

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

If you do not return this form or have not filled out the form online, you will not be included in the new directory. **Return completed form to box in the office by July 30th.**

Do you want to be included in the new church directory?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered no, fill in your name only and turn in this form. If you answered yes, complete the entire form and turn in.

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Do you have a landline phone in your home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what is your landline phone number? ____________________________

**Cell Phone’s for adults**

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**Email’s for adults**

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The 2019 Annual Conference kicked off Tuesday June 18th with worship, an inspiring Missional Report highlighting how Minnesota United Methodists are making a difference, the Clergy and Laity Sessions, and the Celebration of Life in Ministry. Those present explored what it means to love boldly and reach new people for Christ, and they celebrated those experiencing milestones in life and ministry. Pastors Rachel and Jerad along with Linda and George Davis were on hand as Minnesota Methodists prayerfully consider God’s call on our conference.
August 1st is our next scheduled turn to set-up, serve, and clean up for the community meal at Community Action Center. We do this 6 times a year, the first Thursday of the month for even numbered months. This is an easy way to participate in a service project for the community. Sign up sheet at the Welcome Center at church. If you have questions, contact Jeanne Martin at jlimar34@yahoo.com.

At the May gathering of United Methodist Women, Laura Turek from Northfield Promise spoke to the group about their activities and goals. One of their challenges is to get books into the homes of children. Children who are read to at home, or who read at home, make significant progress in their reading skills. Northfield Promise is giving donated books to children through several outreach programs, and they are giving Operation Backpack recipients the chance to receive a book at this year's distribution.

Northfield Promise has books collected for the August 2019 distribution, but they would like us to help with the book collection for next fall. We will have a box next to the Welcome Center at church for collecting new or gently used books for children of all ages.

Remember that special feeling you had as a child when someone read to you or asked about a book you were reading?

THE LYDIA PROJECT
(or the purple scarf project)

The United Methodist General Conference will be held in Minneapolis May 2020. The United Methodists in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota have been asked to knit or crochet 10,000 purple scarves for this event. (purple because of the Minnesota Vikings and Prince) These scarves will be given to all delegates, dignitary, bishops and spouses as a welcome to Minnesota. Our congregation has knitted or crocheted around 50 scarves for this project. As the scarves were being created we asked that the creator pray for the 2020 General Conference and for the recipient of their scarves. On Sunday, June 16th these scarves were blessed by our congregation before they were sent on their way.
1/2 Way for Reading the Bible in a Year!
Many of you took up the challenge to read through the Bible in 2019! For those of you still plugging away - or who have ambitions to get back to it! - we will have a gathering immediately following worship July 7th to see how the experience has been for you, what surprises there have been, and what opportunities we may have ahead.

Grab your coffee and come to the Reception Room, and let's check in.

Monday’s at Blue Monday
Community office hours are back! You can find Pastor Rachel at Goodbye Blue Monday every Monday from 9:30-11:00 am. Drop in anytime for conversation through August 26th. No appointment needed!

Meeting Room Reminder!
Please remember when planning a meeting at the church you need to schedule your meeting space with the church office at 507-645-5689 or northfieldumc@gmail.com or your planned space may not be available!

Church Office Hours
Week of July 4th
Mon. - Wed., July 1st-3rd
9:00 am - noon
Thurs. - Fri., July 4th-5th
Closed

MICAH has Zatoun Palestinian Fair Trade Virgin Olive Oil for sale
Currently we have 500 ml bottles @ $15.00 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)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Northfield UMC,
Thank you for your generous donation of diapers and gowns to Midwest Mission. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world to the “least of these”. “The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”” Matthew 25:40 (NIV)
It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!
Yours in Christ, Chantel Corrie, Executive Director

Thank You!

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their 13th season with six recitals, all Wednesdays 12:15-12:45 pm.
Joanne Rodland, St. John's Lutheran Church, July 10
Brian Carson, Boe Chapel at St. Olaf, July 17
Noah Klein, United Methodist Church, July 24
Bill Peterson, All Saints Episcopal, July 31
Stephen May, United Methodist Church, August 7
Janean Hall & Larry Archbold, Bethel Lutheran Church, August 14

Some recitals will include a free-will offering.
For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or by email at rkcollman@msn.com.
Because every picture has a story to tell...

A blessed and bittersweet day, when we send graduates on their way - we pray for each one on their new adventures. We thank God for each one and the gifts that they are; may grace meet their feet as they go!

This year, PoPC club for kids - led by Michelle and Maurice Gibbs - used stories and media in pop culture to help teach Christian values: kindness and empathy. They used super heroes to explore origin stories, movies to talk about lessons we learn (and don't!) in our media environment, and invited kids into critical reflection on what they see and hear everyday. They ended the year with a"PoPC Prom" night!

Summer in Northfield means Sunday night church softball! Come out to the ballpark for fellowship and fun in God’s creation with our own NUMC softball team who has a current record of 3 wins and 1 loss! (as of the print date of the newsletter)

Mission Sewing made 131 diapers for Midwest Mission Distribution Center for distribution in Haiti. They also make quilts for Masonic Cancer Hospital and Masonic Children’s Hospital, Operation Joy and for NUMC children baptisms.

Some of the final cleanup from last fall's storm continues with Bruce Paulson and Bruce Lyman removing stumps left from all the trees that were lost to the storm.
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<td>9:30 Worship with Communion</td>
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<td>9:00 Women's Bible Study</td>
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<td>11:30 NRC Lunch</td>
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<td>Idaho Youth Mission Trip</td>
<td>Church Office Hours 9:00-noon</td>
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<td>8:45 Drop in Choir</td>
<td>9:30 Worship</td>
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<td>9:30 Worship</td>
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<td>9:00 Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline for August</td>
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**Don't Miss the DEADLINE!**

Weekly deadline for the Sunday announcement page is NOON on Wednesday each week.

The next monthly HERALD NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **NOON on Tuesday, July 23rd** for the August issue. Thank you!

**Summer Church Office Hours**
Mon.-Thurs. 8am - 4pm
Friday - closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, July 4th.
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!

**E-NEWSLETTER SIGN UP**

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**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

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<tr>
<th>Pastors</th>
<th>Rachel McIver Morey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jerad Morey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Nurse</td>
<td>Ruth Kruse</td>
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<td>Office Administrator</td>
<td>Sandy Vesledahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Family Ministries</td>
<td>Wendy Smith</td>
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<td>Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>Molly Peterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Provider</td>
<td>Kathryn Steed</td>
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<td>Organists /Accompanists</td>
<td>Bob Henstein</td>
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<td>Donna Paulsen</td>
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<td>Handbell Choir Director</td>
<td>Kathy Szydlo</td>
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<td>Randall Ferguson</td>
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<td>Projection Coordinator</td>
<td>Molly Peterson</td>
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<td>Custodian</td>
<td>Arturo Rosas Avila</td>
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<td>Building Security</td>
<td>Margie Brockton</td>
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<td>Sunday School Superintendent</td>
<td>Diana Huseth</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>John Stull (Volunteer)</td>
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<td>Web Site</td>
<td>Jesse Steed (Volunteer)</td>
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Retired Clergy: Wayne Abdella, Carl Caskey, Richard Collman, Jeanne Martin, Dick Waters, Mary Keen, Gordon Orde