

United Methodist Herald

July 2023



When we say all are welcome here, we mean it...
(read inside for the saga of the Guinea Fowl)

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July Worship

**Summer Series - Family Ties:
The good, the bad...and the beautiful**

**July 2 - Siblings
Celebration of Holy Communion
Exodus 2:1-10
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**July 9 - Children
1 Samuel 1:21-28
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**July 16 - Descendants
Esther 9:24-28
Rev. Todd Campbell, Jr.**

**July 23 - Families of Choice
Daniel 1:1-21
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**July 30 - The Village
Ruth 3:1-13
Rev. Jerad Morey**



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.

FINANCE UPDATE

How to make tithes and offerings

You can make your tithes and offerings a few different ways:

1. Make automatic donations from your bank account.
Contact northfieldumc@gmail.com for a form.
2. Donate online using a credit card, by clicking on the GiveMN tab on the church website northfieldumc.org.
3. Drop a check in the offering basket during in person worship.
4. Mail a check to: Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St., Northfield, MN 55057

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving!

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Please consider electronic giving.

Authorization forms are available on our website northfieldumc.org or by emailing northfieldumc@gmail.com.

General Fund May 2023 contributions \$29,608.66

General Fund May 2022 contributions \$29,786.66

General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$150,732.30

General Fund YTD 2022 contributions \$153,460.76

NUMC Board

The governing body of the church is the NUMC Board. The members of the board are duly elected at an annual meeting, or "Charge Conference," open to all membership. Share any concerns with the NUMC Board here: info@northfieldumc.org

Co-Chairs: Kevin Dahle and Pierce Follansbee-Delong

Treasurer: John Stull

Secretary and Communications: Carolyn Seas

SPRC Liaison: Jody Friedow

Stewardship and Finance Liaison: Tim Goodwin

At-Large Members: Sara Newberg, Jessy Hoffer, Allie Lyman, Warren Winkelman, Bruce Benson, David Wolf, Bruce Dalgaard

Northfield UMC Leadership Board

Wednesday June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bruce Benson, Carolyn Seas, John Stull, Warren Winkelman, Kevin Dahle, Pierce Follansbee-Delong, Jody Friedow, Tim Goodwin, Dave Wolf, Jessy Hoffer, Ruth Kruse, Pastor Rachel McIver-Morey

Not Present: Bruce Dalgaard, Allie Lyman, Sara Newberg

Meeting Called to order: 5:30 pm by Kevin Dahle

NUMC Prayer

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Tim Goodwin to approve the April 19, 2023 NUMC Board minutes. Dave Wolf seconded. **Approved as read.**

Approval of Agenda: Two new items were added to the agenda. Warren Winkelman moved to approve the agenda. Pierce Follansbee-Delong seconded. **Agenda Approved.**

Continued on next page

Continued from page 2

Board Missional Responsibilities: UMC Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. NUMC Mission Statement: We are called, nurtured, and sent out for this purpose: To glorify God by acts of or devotion, worship, compassion, and justice.

Agenda items

Fiduciary Items:

SPRC: Closed Session

Finance: stewardship update and treasurer's report, disbursement for mission trip/summer cash flow.

General Fund - The balance in the CRB checking account, as of April 30, 2023 was \$33,453.64, Giving was up in April 2023. March apportionments were paid in April. Other monthly expenses were much the same as last year. We finished the month \$1,781.81 in the black and YTD we are \$36,743.15 in the red. Giving appears to be back on track in May, although the complete financials for May were not available for the June meeting.

Physical Plant - Physical Plant income was mostly from support from the General fund. For the month income was less than expense by \$758.52.

Endowment Funds - These funds now total \$928,065.98 including the amount we owe ourselves, which is \$334,802.54. This is \$15,162.04 more than the first of the year due to market gains, although it should be noted that April showed a loss of \$13,892.81.

John informed the committee that there are several major expenses pending. The church needs to replace the kitchen freezer, which should cost approximately \$3,500.00. The Youth mission this summer will cost approximately \$9000, with fund raising only covering about half the cost, so far. The church also has four high school graduates who have applied for Sather scholarships. He also reminded the board that our endowments were created for the preservation of our church.

John Stull made a motion to take the rest of the previously agreed upon 6% endowment disbursement for approximately \$28,000.00 This would cover current and future maintenance needs, mission trip and scholarships. Bruce Benson seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Warren Winkelman then made a separate motion to approve a \$1,000.00 scholarship for each of the following graduates: Ella Hegland, Ruby Holman, Savannah Newberg, and Megan Snyder. Jodi Friedow seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Pierce Follansbee-Delong also suggested that we start a monthly reminder to the congregation about increasing pledges and giving.

Facilities: As noted before, the kitchen freezer quit completely and needs to be replaced immediately.

Report of nominations task force: The following people have agreed to serve on the Leadership Board for the coming year: Linda Davis, Crystal Greenfield, and Thalia Duffield. Their appointment will be approved at the charge conference on June, 25, 2023.

COVID Policy: Ruth Kruse suggested that the church remove Covid restrictions and signage, as the CDC has officially canceled the pandemic as of May 11, 2023. Pierce made a motion to remove the church's Covid policy and signage, Jessy Hoffer seconded.

Motion approved.

Ministry Items:

Daycare - Kevin Dahle suggested some members visit possibly three other daycare sites in late July or early August. The Northfield Nursery School board is willing to help with the licensing procedures, if we go ahead with plans. Pastor Rachel suggested we look within our own church membership for further leadership in running a future daycare facility.

Family event - Pierce has been working with Todd Campbell on the plans for the "Back to School" festival on August 26, 2023 from 2-7pm. They have about 30 possible businesses and sports associations who could be willing to participate. They are also hoping to have five food trucks available. They have an \$1,800.00 budget.

Super Wednesday/Community Schools - Our Super Wednesday programs will have no conflict with the public school programs, as they do not offer food within those programs.

Congratulatory Card - Rev. Kelly Figueroa-Ray, who worshiped with our congregation before becoming chaplain at Hamline University was commissioned as an Elder at the Minnesota Annual Conference. The Leadership Board members signed a card of congratulations to her.

Softball Team - The team made just enough money at their "Brat fest" to cover their dues for the softball program.

Next Meeting :July 26, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Pierce Follansbee-Delong to adjourn and seconded by Tim Goodwin. **Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Seas, Secretary

Message from the Pastor

My mother, brother, and I were looking for something to do on a stupidly hot July afternoon in Fayetteville, NC, outside of Fort Bragg where he was stationed in the early 2000s. We found our way to the county history museum (yup, we were that desperate) which at least offered air conditioning. We perused the history of a place not our own and browsed exhibits about people we had never heard of but which were important locally. We were stopped in our tracks, though, as we came to an exhibit showing newspaper clippings from before the Civil War. Everything you would expect - marriage notices, headlines about political events, local sheriff reports - was there, including a display devoted to ads for enslaved people to be bought and sold, or who had run away.

One of the "runaway" ads was submitted by a man who shared our last name - Mclver.

We had known, in the abstract, that there were Mclvers somewhere in the family tree who enslaved people on plantations in the south in Georgia and the Carolinas. We are still not sure exactly what branched where (records are murky when you look back far enough, and intermarriage and repeated names confuse who was where at some points), but my father used to tell a story about discovering a Mclver on a platoon roster at an army base he was stationed at, and when he went to the mess hall and asked for the person by name, a tall black man stood up. The sins of our kin are real and documented, in paper and ink in Fayetteville, as well as a last name applied to folks who had no other choice.

Our summer worship series is all about family ties and relationships - to those who came before, to those we share life with now, and to those who will inherit whatever legacy we leave. It is an invitation to consider not only the relationships themselves - family can be fraught, funny, fragile, fantastic, frightening, and a thousand other things - but also the stories we share that MAKE us family to each other. As followers of Jesus, we are in Paul's words, "grafted into the tree" of God's family, offering us an even wider set of stories and complexities in Scripture to excavate for grace, meaning, and hope.

In 1850, Isaac Mclver (son of a Methodist minister, Rev. Isaac Mclver, in Cumberland, England) and his family came to the US, stopping first in Pennsylvania and Illinois before homesteading in Reno County, Kansas, on land that had been taken for the railroad by the US government (in large part by slaughtering the native bison that had served as the mainstay of the indigenous people who had lived there). When Isaac signed up to fight in

the Civil War, he signed up on the side of the Union: fighting against the very structures and states that had perpetuated the wealth of their Mclver brethren in the south on the backs of enslaved Africans. Settling on lands taken by force while fighting for freedom for those their kindred exploited: we can bless what they got right without absolving them of what they got wrong.

Like so many stories in Scripture, this ultimately points to the good news that something new is possible with each generation, although none of them would pass any sort of modern moral test: in Genesis, Abraham would discard one son and his son's mother in the desert in favor of another one; Isaac (NOT Mclver this time!) would have two sons, one of who was the tricky Jacob, who would go himself into exile after fooling his brother out of his birthright; Jacob would have 12(!) sons, and 11 would sell the 12th into slavery in jealousy of their father's blatant favoritism toward him. Amongst the twelve sons of Jacob, they would at long last be reconciled to each other - mostly - and their descendants would become a family, a tribe, and a people with continuing struggles, sins, and stories. Relationships can heal, stories can change, and God can bring about new ways of relating to each other - we don't have to repeat the sins of the past, and we can do better, "perfecting in love" our relationships and our behaviors. This is good news.

The good news only makes sense, though, when we tell the whole truth and the whole story. It's all well and good for me to pull out the blue Union uniform of Isaac to show which side of the war OUR family was on (depending on how broadly we decide to define "family"), but the truth of the story is much broader when we telescope out and ask, "How did we end up where we did?" We don't always like the answers to these sorts of questions, but they are healthy to explore and it is humbling to find new truths. We are better, more resilient, and less fragile when we do so.

Where are the gaps in your family stories? What sorts of stories get repeated at family events, and what mysteries are there that never seem to be explained? Are you estranged from your family of origin and do not feel connected to any sorts of ancestors or predecessors? What can you bless, and what deserves examination in the stories you do carry? This is a summer to consider these spaces, and to be thoughtful about what God is calling you to pass on to the next generation - what wounds need healing, what sins need forgiving, what truths need telling.

Let's let these ancient stories from Scripture speak to us - if we listen deeply, we will hear how those who went before us knew God and grace. Things can change, and we can write new ways of doing life together. The Bible tells me so.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

For children, youth, and families, we will have opportunities for fun and faith development this summer. More information and pre-registration information will be available as each date approaches; join the family ministries or NUMC all-church email list to stay up-to-date (need to join? Email us at youth@northfieldumc.org)

July 2 - Confirmand Covenant Discipleship Group Meeting

The Confirmand Covenant Discipleship Group will meet in person in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

July 9-12 - Trailblazer Camp (ages 8-12)

Northfield UMC will provide transportation to/from camp this summer and our youth will enjoy the great outdoors in community. If there are any kids who could use scholarships, we do have fund available to assist with that.

Blessing of Youth Trip Attendees - July 16

We will take time in worship to bless all those attending the youth trip as they prepare to do good work in Alamosa, Colorado the following week.

July 23 - 28 - Youth Mission Trip

Youth will travel to Alamosa, Colorado to help with food insecurity and sustainability.

July 30 - Confirmand Covenant Discipleship Group Meeting

The Confirmand Covenant Discipleship Group will meet in person after worship.

July 30 - August 3 - Vacation Bible School

Northfield UMC will partner with Little Prairie UMC (2980 130th St E Dundas, MN 55019) to offer our young students a memorable VBS.

2023 Graduation celebration!

On June 11th we celebrated seniors graduating from high school. Four of our graduates applied for NUMC scholarships, and each was awarded \$1,000 for the upcoming academic year. We bless their journeys ahead! They led us in worship and our parish nurse, Ruth Kruse, offered a blessing to this class, all of who are entering health care related fields.



Continue to hold these graduates in prayer:

Savannah Newberg
Ella Hegland
Megan Snyder
Ruby Holman
Sarah Ripka
Audrey Sorenmann



Exciting Choir News!

Some exciting news to share! Debbie Miller - spouse of band leader, David Miller - is joining the ranks this fall to bring a choir together for worship! Debbie has years of music teaching under her belt, and she is excited to invite choral voices into worship leadership again at NUMC. See the note from her below, and how to get in touch before we get started in October.



Do You Love to Sing?



If your answer is "Yes!", then plan to join the new NUMC Choir in the fall! Starting in late October, there will be an adult choir that rehearses on Wednesday evenings weekly, and sings for worship monthly.

Please let us know if you are interested by emailing: Choir@northfieldumc.org



IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

From the Streamdesk

Have you noticed what's new at the streamdesk on Sunday mornings? Eagle-eyed worshippers may have noticed my 10 year old son helping run the broadcast recently. With his help we were able to implement a change recommended by the streamdesk team at a recent meeting of the minds.

We've started using a new technique to show the song lyrics on the livestream. Chroma keying, commonly known as a green screen effect, allows us to bring in text and images over the video background, providing an experience to the home viewer that is a big step toward feeling like "actually being in the sanctuary", according to recent comments from our own church office administrator.

Watch a recent video of a Sunday worship service to see the new effect in action.

Mission Sewing Project

Mission Sewing is busy getting quilts finished so we will be able to donate many different places. Some of the places we donate to are Masonic Children's Hospital, Emma Norton Services, Operation Joy.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, July 26th to tie quilts. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.

We always welcome new members.



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on July 17th at 9AM in the church library. We are continuing our study of the "Boys of the Bible Quilt Block Series." In July we will be studying David, Solomon, and Isaiah.

New members and guests are always welcome.



Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)

During a GCORR webinar called, *White Allyship: What It Means to Be an Antiracist* (find it on [YouTube](#), dated 5/17/2023), The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey defines an antiracist ally as “someone actively making choices to challenge the systems of racism that all of our lives are embedded in and that are embedded in all of our lives.” The DRT members shared stories of white, Christian, antiracist allies from the past and present at a recent adult forum session. These are the people we highlighted and the active choices they made to be allies:

- Benjamin Lay (early 1700s) – used dramatic stunts and “outside the box” tactics to campaign against slavery within his own Quaker faith community.
- Elizabeth Heyrick (early 1800s) – recognized that inaction is the same as support for the oppressor and, using the written word and a sugar boycott, risked her reputation to push for the immediate abolition of slavery in the British colonies.
- Eleanor Roosevelt (mid 1900s) – consistently used her public platform, as the first lady and afterward, to challenge and change racist laws and structures because she believed that “everyone has the responsibility to oppose racial injustice.”
- Sara Lee Creech – believed that Black children deserved to have dolls that accurately represented them and gathered the resources and right people to create the first commercially-produced black baby doll in 1951.
- Allan Burry – used his position as a campus minister during the 1960s to steer students towards racial justice initiatives and to make connections among them that would influence their later life choices.
- John Stull – recognized the biases that could potentially threaten the comfort and safety of his Ugandan exchange student and proactively reached out to his neighbors; he also chose to act in response to a negative experience the student had at a school event.

How can you use your resources and position to be a true ally? What examples of active allyship have you witnessed or performed yourself?



PRIDE IN THE PARK

On June 3, Northfield UMC joined other churches in town who affirm, invite, and bless LGBTQIA+ persons as members of the family of God by hosting a booth at Pride in the Park. The weather was lovely, the company delightful, and the protestors kept largely at bay with little issue. As has become our custom, we offered rainbow pinwheels to all festival-goers, and celebrated a community that aims to be ever more welcoming. Thanks to all who helped host the table: Don Anderson, Bev Brumbaugh, Tracy Goodwin, Tim Goodwin, Thalia Duffield (members of our Reconciling Team). Our Reconciling Team will be hosting a pair of adult forums in the fall and spring in advance of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church to keep the congregation informed and offer opportunities for deeper engagement for anyone who is called to help us be the best and most welcoming church God has called us to be.



Notes from the Parish Nurse

Summer is here and children are busy with all of their outdoor activities. This time of year can be a first-aid challenge for parents as children may experience sunburn, bug bites, scratches and bruises, or playground and bicycle accidents. Many situations can be handled by parents, but occasionally a trip to the clinic or emergency room might be necessary.



The following situations might require urgent care.

- Head injuries need care if there is a loss of consciousness, excessive sleepiness, difficulty walking or speaking, vomiting, or any unusual behavior. Wearing a helmet can help prevent head injuries from bicycling, in-line skating, or skateboarding accidents.
- Cuts should be treated if the wound doesn't stop bleeding, is gaping, or won't come together easily. Stitches may be necessary in any of these situations, and should be done within six to twelve hours to help prevent infection and minimize scarring.
- Nail punctures require medical care because of a high risk for infection.
- Stings and insect bites will require immediate medical care if the child is known to have a serious allergic reaction to wasp or bee stings.
- Possible bone fractures or any injury that causes pain with movement should be checked.
- Bruises that are very painful or continue to expand should be checked. Otherwise ice the area for about 24 hours (15-20 minutes on and at least 40 minutes off each hour).
- Sunburn needs to be treated if large areas of skin are blistered, because of the chance of infection. For milder sunburn, cold compresses and Tylenol (acetaminophen) may be used. Prevention is the best treatment. Remember the importance of using sun screen.
- Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Symptoms include dehydration, confusion, nausea and vomiting, rapid pulse, absence of sweating, and hot, dry skin. Treatment is focused on immediately lowering the body temperature by wrapping the person in a cool wet sheet, pouring water on the person, or applying cold packs to wrists, ankles, groin, and armpits. Heat exhaustion, which includes symptoms such as mild headache, dizziness, and light-headedness, is usually less severe than heat stroke and can often be prevented by staying in a cool or shaded area and by drinking plenty of cool fluids.

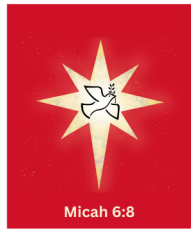
The American Red Cross recommends keeping the following items in a first aid kit to use for non-emergency situations:

- Various sizes of sterile adhesive bandages.
- 2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads.
- Triangular bandages.
- 2-inch and 3-inch sterile roller bandages.
- Scissors, tweezers, safety pins and a needle.
- Thermometer.
- Soap and antiseptic.
- Petroleum jelly or other lubricant.
- Tylenol (acetaminophen), antacid, laxative, and anti-diarrhea medicine.
- Keep ice packs in the freezer to use on insect bites, sunburns, bruises, etc.
- Keep the number of the American Association of Poison Control Centers accessible. It is 1-800-222-1222. Their website, www.aapcc.gov contains a lot of valuable information.



Prevention is the best medicine, but if an accident happens, it helps to “Be Prepared.”

Adapted from Windom Area Hospital “Beat”



**Methodists
Investing in
Care and
Action for the
HolyLand**

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8



Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian organic, fair trade, extra virgin olive oil.

500 ml/16.5 oz for \$20.00

750 ml/25.4 oz. for \$25.00

Now available in the church office

We are currently well stocked with olive oil.

MICAH passionately supports the Palestinian people who are suffering atrocities on a daily basis. We have learned firsthand about the struggles our sponsored Bethlehem family experienced during normal activities. As we look back on the history of mistreatment in the Holy Land, we look ahead to standing in solidarity with the growing number of voices speaking out against what is clearly indicative of an apartheid state in the Holy Land.

The First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897. On the second day of the congress the Basel Program stated: “Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine secured under public law.”

In 1947 the United Nations adopted Resolution 181 known as the partition plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

On May 14, 1948 the state of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory. 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and the territory was divided into three parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank(of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

The US gives Israel \$8 million per day.

The average US taxpayer gives Israel \$25.25 in weapons each year.

As of March 1, 2023 the US has given Israel \$158 billion since 1949.

“There is no such thing as a Palestinian People...It is not as if we came and threw them out and took their country. They didn't exist”. - Golda Meir

“We'll make a pastrami sandwich out of them. We'll insert a strip of Jewish settlements in between the Palestinians, and then another strip of Jewish settlements right across the West Bank, so that in twenty-five years time, neither the United Nations nor the United States, nobody, will be able to tear it apart.” - Ariel Sharon in 1973

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(UCHA) has tracked deaths in the Palestinian Israeli conflict since 2008. Between 2008 and 2020 5600 Palestinians were killed and 115,000 were injured. In the same period 250 Israelis were killed and 5,600 were injured.

Israel has violated 28 resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, which are legally binding on member nations of the UN.

Since 1972 the United States has vetoed 53 UN resolutions critical of Israel.

According to Oxfam, because of an import-export ban imposed by Israel on Gaza in 2007, 95% of Gaza's industrial operations were suspended.

In April 2021 Human Rights Watch released a report accusing Israeli officials of the crimes of apartheid and persecution under international law. The US State Department did not agree.

On July 18, 2021 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution that refers to Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures.

On February 1, 2022 Amnesty International published a report, “Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity.” As of February 12, 2023, 12 Israeli human rights groups had voiced their support for the Amnesty report and condemned the European Commission's negative reaction.

On June 28, 2022 the US Presbyterian Church passed a resolution stating that “Israel's laws, policies, and practices regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid.”

Bruce Benson



United
Women
in Faith

Mission Rummage Sale June 16-17, 2023

United Women in Faith July Meeting Dates:

UWF Executive Board no meeting in July

Note Date! September 11, 2023 - Esther Circle – 1:00 PM

Kildahl Park Pointe, 888 Cannon Valley Drive, Northfield, MN

Mugs and Muffins – July 17, 2023 – 9:00 AM - Northfield UMC church library

Website: UWFaith.org – National UWFaith

mnconfumw.com – Minnesota UWFaith

Thank You! Mission Rummage Sale a Success!

It does take a congregation to complete a successful Mission Rummage Sale.

It was heartwarming to see so many of you responding to the need for sale items and for your help during the set up and sale. Thank you to groups who made changes in space and schedules such as the Rotary, Retired Men's Breakfast, youth, and others affected by the special needs the sale presented.

All your efforts contributed to a \$2,017 sale. This goes a long way to supporting women, children and youth here in Northfield, Minnesota, and in the world. When you work the sale and other events you are working for others. Northfield United Women in Faith maintains a yearly budget of about \$6,600.

Your work supports our own children and youth at NUMC through giving \$1200 to the programing, trips, and bus rental. Your work enhances the community by \$600 through our support of CAC programs (food shelf, operation backpack, and Christmas Joy). NUMC Mission sewing is included.

We are strong supporters of Emma Norton Services, a UWF national program here in St. Paul, Minnesota. We have given special gifts through a shower of cleaning supplies and welcome basket gifts. Northfield's UWF budget includes a \$750 donation to Emma Norton Services and an added donation to the capital campaign for the new building. Over 90 national programs are supported by the national arm of United Women in Faith.

Northfield supports the National UWF with a pledge of \$2,785. Through this we give a helping hand to thousands of marginalized, hurting, and poor women, children, and youth in over 20 other countries. National supports scholarships for many that would not have the funds to go to school in third world countries as well as here in the US. You can always do more together than individually. Response magazine, found on our Reading Program cart in the library, is the UWF resource of information on areas receiving monies. A National Annual Report can be found on their website: uwfaith.org. Lin Wolf, NUWF treasurer, has a copy of our local budget. When working for others, put a face in front of you.

My face is a Haitian woman holding two of her children out of the water raging through her hut during a hurricane in the late 1990's. United Methodist Women changed her life. Your work does that today.

Apple Pie Sale: Apple Pie Sale will begin in mid August. Pie making on September 12.
Pick up on September 17.

Alliance Stamp Ministry All types of cancelled postage stamps & **Stamp Collections** are accepted. Put them in the box in Fellowship Hall. This is an ongoing ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for fellowship and coffee in the Fellowship Hall following worship every Sunday!

For Sunday 9:30 am livestreamed worship service, visit our website: northfieldumc.org



Aluminum Cans for Operation Backpack

Collect your aluminum cans and place in the container behind the church kitchen. All proceeds from the cans go towards Operation Backpack.

Coffee Shop Hours for Pastor Rachel

Little Joy coffee shop patio is one of the best in town and Rachel will be there 12:30-2pm each Monday through July 31st. No appointment necessary - drop in to say hello!

Card Making with Margie

Monday, July 17th, 2:30-4:00 pm
In classroom #120

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



Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

August Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August issue of the Herald Newsletter is:

Noon on Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Please submit your items for the newsletter in a digital format (word document) to northfieldumc@gmail.com.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

NORTHFIELD NOONTIME ORGAN RECITALS 16th Season – Five Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their 16th season this summer Wednesdays, 12:15 to 12:45 pm.

July 12 – Richard Collman, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 Sumner St. E.

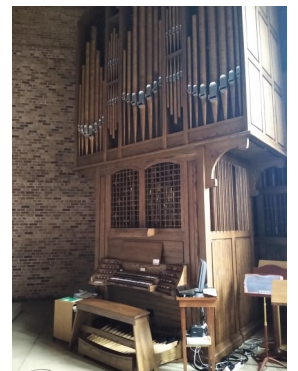
July 19 – Aaron Looney, Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College, 1523 Campus Dr.

July 26 – Noah Klein, Skinner Chapel, Carleton College, 405 1st St. E.

August 2 – Stephen May, First United Church of Christ, 300 Union St.

August 9 – Joanne Rodland, Organ & Donna Paulsen, Piano, Northfield United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses.



Church Office Summer Hours
Mon.– Thurs.,
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Holiday Hours

The Church office will be closed Tuesday, July 4th.
The office will have limited hours July 3-6, please contact the office in advance via phone 507-645-5689 if you are in need of in person assistance.

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Wednesday, May 31 to Thursday, June 1, 2023

The 169th session of the Minnesota Annual Conference was a two-day meeting. The Conference was held in the Convention Center at St. Cloud, MN. This year's theme was the Emmaus Experience: Encounter, Transform, Respond.

The next UMC General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 2024 the 170th MN Annual Conference will be held May 29-May 30 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, MN.

The Minnesota and Dakota Areas of the UMC have a new bishop, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, as of January 1, 2023. Bishop Plambeck opened the Conference with her Episcopal Address. The conference hall was packed to hear her preach.

After her address we received the Conference Trustees Report. The Conference Trustees chair, is our own, Pastor Rachel Morey. She led us through the last step of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church of fourteen MN UMC churches. They are:

Akeley UMC, Central UMC of Verndale, First UMC of Ortonville, Raymond UMC, First UMC of Windom, Hawick UMC, Hewitt UMC, Korean Evangelical UMC of MN, Money Creek UMC of Houston, Olivet UMC of Robbinsdale, Salem UMC of Pipestone, Sebeka UMC, Verndale UMC, and Villard UMC.

These 14 churches have completed the disaffiliation obligations as the Disaffiliation Agreement pursuant to paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline. This Disaffiliation Agreement for the processes and obligations of disaffiliation expires December 31, 2023.

The Resolutions submitted by these 14 churches were accepted by a vote of the MN Annual Conference on May 31, 2023.

Other Business of the 2023 UMC: Annual Conference

- Adopted: A Resolution to the 2024 General Conference in support of Creating a US Regional Conference of the UMC.
- Adopted: A Resolution to the 2024 General Conference supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies from the Book of Discipline through a set of 9 Petitions each referring to specific section in the Book of Discipline.
- These sections contain language describing actions that are currently prohibited by UMC churches, UMC Conferences and their ordained UMC leaders all dealing with those people who identify on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum.
- A Resolution for the MN Conference to work to support the banning of the sale, transfer, and manufacturing of assault weapons (as well as devices that change other type guns into an assault style weapon) was presented. The vote to adopt the resolution was 356 yes, 31 no, and 3 abstain.
- The conference action would be to lobby members of the Minnesota Legislature, the Governor of MN, the MN Congressional delegation, as well as the U.S. President and Vice President, to enact legislation banning such guns and devices.
- A Resolution was adopted to discontinue the West Concord UMC as of December 22, 2022 and gift the property to the city of West Concord.
- We adopted the 2024 MN Annual Conference Apportioned Budget. This budget was adopted for \$5,855,000. This was the same amount as our 2023 apportioned budget. This budget amount is the lowest since 2013.

As always, we celebrated new church development

The Minnesota UMC remains a church conference of 330 churches with 50,270 members who are active in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Minnesota UMC Annual Conference is very active in making disciples of Jesus Christ through new church development throughout Minnesota:

- **Germinating** (pre-launch phase) new congregations in Blue Earth, Inver Grove Heights, St. Michael, Worthington.
- **Sprouting** (path to sustainability) congregations in Cottage Grove, Minneapolis, Monticello, Richfield, Hutchinson.
- **Sustaining** (self-funded and ready for chartering or chartered): St. Anthony Park, Elko New Market, Lakeland, St. Paul, Anoka, Minneapolis.
- **Plus** Sixteen 2021-2022 Digital Campus Initiatives under development.

Submitted by: George and Linda Davis - Lay Delegates to the MN Annual Conference, Northfield UMC
June 13, 2023

Annual Conference

Each year, United Methodists from around Minnesota gather to prayer, listen, learn, ordain new leadership, make decisions, and otherwise discern God's direction for the church in the coming year. At this annual conference, we commissioned Rev. Dr. Kelly West Figueroa-Ray, who was a candidate for ministry sent by our church in 2021. This is an important milestone (only one more to go!) on the road to full ordination, and we celebrate her new ministry as the campus chaplain and director of the Wesley Center for Spirituality and Social Justice at Hamline University. Thanks to our wonderful lay members, George and Linda Davis, for faithfully representing Northfield UMC at this annual gathering! Below are a few photos from the 2023 Annual Conference.



A New Member of the Flock?

Some of you may have noticed the lone Guinea Fowl who randomly showed up one day on the church property. We have no idea how it got here or where it came from. We posted its picture on the Northfield Lost and Found Pets Facebook page and a few folks came forward saying they would give it a home if its actual home was not found. (If they can catch it.)

While Guinea Fowl are not something I would normally think about, (because why would I?) seeing this one show up at the church did bring back some memories as a kid growing up on the farm. Our neighbors down the road had a flock of Guineas. They were the strangest creatures, not very bright, they liked to wander the neighborhood and could at times be mean. The whole flock would stand in the middle of the road ignoring all vehicles and I can remember the school bus having to stop and wait for them to move. As kids on the bus, we thought it was funny, but I don't think our bus driver saw any humor in having to chase these odd birds off the road on a regular basis.

As you all know by now, being around animals is my "happy place" and the best therapy, in my opinion. The only photo on my desk is of my dog Fletcher and I keep a bag of dog treats in my desk drawer for any visiting pups. Watching this lonely bird wander the grounds of the church of course got me interested in learning more about Guinea Fowl. Yes, I am obsessed with learning about an animal when I see it. I'm the person at the party who spends the entire time petting and talking to the dog. What I discovered about Guineas, however, was for such an unusual animal their roots are very deep in symbolism. I found this fascinating. If you are not familiar with what a Guinea Fowl looks like, I can only explain it as a round bodied speckled bird, with a featherless head and a beak like a chicken. This bird looks like it was put together by a committee with left over parts. The saying "don't judge a book by its cover" really fits this creature.

Guinea Fowl originated in Africa and have been around for hundreds of years. There are even drawings of them on the walls of the pyramids. African tribes connected Guinea Fowl to many different meanings. It was a symbol of resilience, hard work, endurance, productivity, justice, cooperation, protection, care, and companionship. No wonder this bird ended up on the NUMC campus.

Guinea Fowl are very social within their group. They will all move around together, unlike chickens who are more independently minded. Because they are a flock bird, if one Guinea gets separated from the rest it will keep calling until the flock come to find it. Their call is loud and very distinctive with their double clack-clack sound. Guineas choose their partner and mate for life. They have a sense of loyalty to each other, and will protect each other and their flock. Reading this personality trait made me feel bad for Wesley. Did I forget to mention I named him? I was never good at following the rule my dad used to tell us as kids on the farm... "don't name the farm animals". Of course, I named them all. Anyway, I noticed Wesley sticks close to the building and will often peck at the windows. I believe he sees his own reflection in the window but thinks its another Guinea and is looking for companionship. I also on occasion hear his clack-clack sound from outside the office window. While maybe annoying to us humans, very sad for the lonely Guinea.

Since Wesley does stick close to the building, he is very visible at times and has become a great topic of conversation around the church. "What is that weird looking bird outside?" "Have you seen the guinea today?" "The guinea left an awful mess right outside the door." When I sent Pastor Rachel an email telling her about Wesley and that there was a "rescue" mission in the planning with some folks from the lost pet Facebook page, she responded with this somewhat adjusted version of Matthew 18:10-14. (She changed it from "sheep" to "guinea hen")



Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred GUINEA HENS and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost GUINEA HEN until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost GUINEA HEN.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

My response back was "the Guinea is going to end up in a sermon, isn't it?" Her response: "Of course, as all excellent stories do". So, this is your fair warning, be prepared on any given Sunday for the sermon of the lonely Guinea from Pastor Rachel.



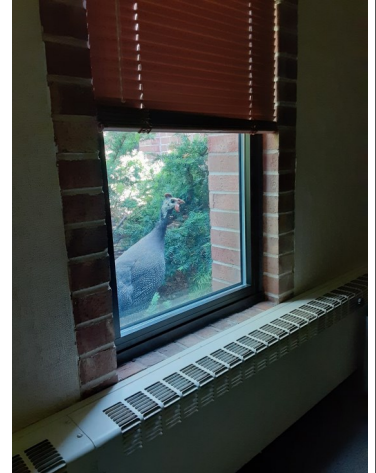
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Other than the mess Wesley leaves us on the sidewalk in the worst places at times, and the fact that he is probably lonely, having him on the grounds is not a bad thing. Guinea Fowl do a great job of pest control. They feed on various insects, bugs, ticks, fleas, beetles, crickets, worms, grasshoppers, and spiders. They are great for keeping these pests from eating gardens and flowers. Guinea Fowl protect the health of other animals and even people by eating dangerous pests. They are typically quiet(ish) but do make a raucous noise whenever they notice something unusual, which can be exceptionally useful — or a nuisance, depending on your priorities. It's this "watchdog" quality that makes them an asset, sounding the alarm to alert you and other animals to danger. Because of this trait, many farmers keep Guineas around to sound the alarm when a predator is near, thus protecting the other animals.

So, while Wesley may be a good addition for keeping pests away, it would be great if he were reunited with his flock or a new flock. Just like humans, he wants companionship. One of the folks who plans to try to "rescue" Wesley says the easiest time to catch a Guinea is at night as they have very bad eyesight in the dark. I'm hoping they are successful. He's been here for a while now and I do enjoy being greeted by him early in the morning when I arrive for work or turning around to see him sitting on the ledge outside the office window watching us, but hopefully by the time this article is published, Wesley will have been rescued and relocated to a new home. If not, I guess we become his flock.



I do believe there is a takeaway from Wesley's visit to NUMC. This creature of God's who doesn't necessarily look like we think it should, may be a little noisy, has a reputation for being not very bright or even a bit ornery, also has the ability to love, seeks companionship, is very loyal, wants to always protect its neighbors and is capable of living in harmony with flocks of other species. Hmm...a good lesson for us humans. I believe we can learn a lot from the animals. When it comes right down to it, don't we all seek the same things? Perhaps we are more alike than we think.

I will end this article with a quote I found in my quest to learn more about these birds: *"As a spirit animal, the Guinea fowl will remind you to be resilient and never give up. When you are in a bad phase of your life, the Guinea fowl reminds you that good times are waiting for you."*

Thanks for hanging out with us Wesley, it's great having you as a part of our flock...all really are welcome here at NUMC.

Sandy Vesledahl - NUMC Office Administrator and Church Grounds Animal Research Specialist

Sidenote: If you do see Wesley on the NUMC grounds please do not try to get close to him as we don't want to scare him away or make him more skittish than he already is as that will make it harder for his rescuers to catch him. Thanks!

Sidewalk to be Installed

"Where the Sidewalk Ends" is a beloved Shel Silverstein poetry book, but it also described the Maple Street yard of our church campus - sidewalks on either side ended at our property line. This summer the city of Northfield is building sidewalks to complete the walking access north-south along Maple, and we are excited for how this will positively impact our school kids at Spring Creek!

Stay tuned for dates to celebrate this new access way and how Northfield UMC can be in ministry well beyond its walls and front yard!

Photos: The City is beginning to mark areas for the sidewalk installment.



Because every picture has a story to tell...



Staff (and waste management consultant, Mary Ann) celebrated office cleanout day with pizza - great people doing great work, in and out of the building, all day everyday!



Todd may be removing the tongues of fire we had up for Pentecost, but we know that the fire in him never goes out.

It's a big day when you roll the recycling bin right into the conference room and start cleaning!



John Stull and Tracy Goodwin speak at the dismantling racism team adult forum on "How to be a good white ally," offering stories and good examples of how we can help break down systems of oppression using the tools we have at hand.



These three members of our church family, Stanley Ehlers, Robert Gill and Ross Stickley, all now with God, were recognized at Northfield's Memorial Day service.



Swing, batter batter, SWING! The NUMC Softball team split a double-header on June 11, traveling from Sechlar to Babcock fields to close out the night with a win. Watch our Sunday announcements for when/where each game is each week!



NUMC's United Women of Faith held their annual rummage sale in June. Proceeds from the sale go to the UWF budget to help women, children, and youth of our church and the world. Thank you to all who put in long hours organizing the sale and with the clean up! Also thank you to those who donated items.



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Community Reservation" designates a room reservation for a non-church related community organization.</p>						<p>1 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>2 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Confirmand Covenant Discipleship</p>	<p>3 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Coffee Shop Hours - Little Joy Coffee shop 3:00 UWF meeting 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>4 4th of July Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>6 12:00 Community Reservation 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>7 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation Church Office Closed</p>	<p>8 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation Trailblazer Camp</p>	<p>10 7:00 Community Reservation Trailblazer Camp</p>	<p>11 9:00 Bible Study Trailblazer Camp</p>	<p>12 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Trailblazer Camp</p>	<p>13 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>14 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>15 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>16 9:30 Worship - Blessing of the Youth Mission Trip Attendees 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>17 9:00 Mugs & Muffins 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Coffee Shop Hours - Little Joy Coffee shop 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>18 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Facilities Team Mtg.</p>	<p>19 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>20 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom</p>	<p>21 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>22 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>23 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>24 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Coffee Shop Hours - Little Joy Coffee shop 7:00 Community Reservation Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>25 9:00 Bible Study 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>26 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation 5:30 NUMC Board Mtg Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>27 12:00 Community Reservation Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>28 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>29 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 2:00-5:30 Community Reservation</p>
<p>30 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Confirmand Covenant Discipleship Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>31 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Coffee Shop Hours - Little Joy Coffee shop 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>1 9:00 Bible Study 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>2 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>3 12:00 Community Reservation Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>4 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

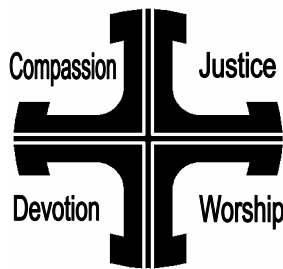
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**E - NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP**



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

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

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

Please print clearly! Thank you!

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Our Church Staff

Pastors	Rev. Rachel McIver Morey Rev. Jerad Morey
Parish Nurse	Ruth Kruse
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Youth and Family Ministry	Rev. Todd Campbell Jr.
Children's Ministry	Gregory Ennis
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Information & Worship Technology Consultant	Jesse Steed
Treasurer	John Stull (Volunteer)

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