

United Methodist Herald

August 2023



Cardinal eggs in the church courtyard.
Photo credit: Sandy Vesledahl

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August Worship

August 6

**What do Christian gardeners reap?
Cultivate, Plant, Grow, Harvest and Rest
Celebration of Holy Communion
Rev. Gordon Orde**

August 13

**Getting out of the boat
Matthew 14:22-33
District Superintendent Rev. Michelle Hargrave**

August 20

**When in Rome...
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

August 27

**When in Rome...
Romans 12:1-8
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 June 2023 contributions \$31,438.66

General Fund June 2022 contributions \$19,321.66

General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$182,170.96

General Fund YTD 2022 contributions \$172,782.42

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: Dave Wolf
Secretary and Communications: Carolyn Seas
SPRC Liaison: Sara Newberg

At-Large Members: Jessy Hoffer, Allie Lyman,
Warren Winkelman, Bruce Benson, Thalia Duffield, Crystal
Greenfield

**Pastor Rachel and Pastor Jerad will
be on vacation August 3-17.**

**If you have a pastoral emergency during
this time please contact the church office at
507-645-5689.**



Reconciling Congregations at the State Fair August 26

United Methodist congregations like ours, which affirmatively embrace LGBTQ+ persons in marriage and ministry, will be represented at the Minnesota State Fair on August 26. To join in the representation you can plan to volunteer at the Hamline Dining Hall on that date. More details will come.



Message from the Pastor

The first time I visited Northfield United Methodist Church was back in 2013 when I was a student at Carleton College. A few guys on campus decided to have a retreat and NUMC opened its doors to us. We stayed overnight Saturday and attended worship the following morning. We went to the contemporary service, yes, that long ago. I remember the warmth of the congregation and the way you all made space for college students who had just spent the night playing mafia throughout the church. I remember the curiosity and care you all displayed. That was my first and only visit to NUMC. Who knew I would return to Northfield to find another home and wonderful friends almost ten years later?

My favorite verse I inherited from my grandmother is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God and God will make straight your paths." This verse implies that our own insight gets it wrong sometimes, that we don't always see things clearly and may take the wrong paths. It is in acknowledging God that God makes our paths straight. It sounds so easy, doesn't it? It's not as easy as it sounds. Trust involves vulnerability, handing over control, taking steps when you can't see the big picture, leaving family and friends in North Carolina to return to Minnesota.

With every big decision I've made, I have learned to trust God. I place it all in God's hand. My life is God's, and the gifts God has given me are ones to steward and use wherever God may call me. God called me here and led my path to you. I am eternally grateful to God for trusting me and that you trusted me to "do good" in this area of God's vineyard. I have learned so much from you and especially our youth. It has been a blessing to witness a church called to their community and actively partner with God to slowly reflect Heaven.

As stated, my decision to move on was not made lightly. I had to place a lot of trust in God and trust this is the next step for me. After a lot of confirmation, prayer, and much discernment, I can say this move is the next step on the path. I pray we all have the courage to trust God with big moves, big dreams and hopes for our futures. Whatever paths we may be on, God blesses it and blesses you to walk the paths.

Church, I will miss you. Most of all, I will miss my youth. Wednesday nights with them were the best. I'm thankful for their parents trusting me to shepherd them. Thank you all for your love, hospitality, generosity, and listening to me whenever I had those difficult texts to preach. This is not "good-bye," but a "see-ya later." Please let me know when you're visiting and taking your kids or grandkids to Disney World. Disney will be in my backyard. I would be happy to see you.

On the Path,
Todd



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



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 info@northfieldumc.org).

Back To School Block Party August 26 2-7pm

Water games, food trucks, vendors, and representatives from organizations that children and youth can get involved with right here in Northfield will be on hand as we celebrate the beginning of the school year with a brand new sidewalk across the Maple Street lawn! Want more information? Interested in volunteering? info@northfieldumc.org. Find us on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

September 10: SALT Project - Paint the Gym

SALT youth will lead us in service as we prepare for the coming school year's programs to paint the lower half of the gym - wear or bring comfortable clothes that you can paint in and join the fun! Paint and equipment will be provided.

September 17: Celebration Sunday

We kick off our school year programs with Children's Church (5th grade and under) and finishing the SALT youth project preparing the gym for Wednesday night activities this fall.

September 20th: Super Wednesdays are BACK!

Wednesdays are SUPER at NUMC, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back for our school year programs.

3:30-5:30pm - KC3 (Kids Creating Community Through Christ) for our grade school kids, K-5th grade. To sign up or for more information, email Children's Ministry Coordinator Gregory Ennis: Gregory.ennis@gmail.com.

5:30-6:30pm - Community Meal (ALL are welcome - free will donation)

6:30pm-8pm - Youth Group (6th-12th grade) in the youth room. . .fellowship, games, and deeper exploration of what it means to follow Jesus. To sign up or for more information, email us at info@northfieldumc.org.

We sent 19 folks (15 kids, 4 adults) off to Alamosa, Colorado to learn more about the "food desert" (defined as an area with limited access to regular grocery and produce items) there and to assist with building a community garden July 23-28. We blessed them in worship on July 16 - thank you for holding them in your daily prayers the week of the trip!





BACK TO SCHOOL WATER PARTY HOSTED BY
NORTHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!
CELEBRATING OUR NEW PATHWAY!

SPLASH

into

THE SCHOOL YEAR

AUGUST 26TH

2PM-7PM

FREE EVENT, LOCAL VENDORS,
FOOD AND DRINKS!

ACTIVITIES

SLIP N' SLIDE, WATER BALLOON GAMES,
MUSIC, BOUNCE HOUSE, MEET AND GREET
WITH OUR LOCAL POLICE AND FIREMEN
AND SO MUCH MORE!



NORTHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1401 MAPLE ST. NORTHFIELD, MN 55057

Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)

As we've been learning from the summer sermon series, telling family stories is powerful and hearing stories is critical to our understanding of ourselves. In the same way, stories about people, place, and history can be powerful tools. They broaden our perspective, introduce us to new ideas and experiences, and increase our empathy. They can even be healing. According to the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) "Stories heal because they make invisible pain visible. The listener and storyteller are both healed by their acts."



In an effort to create healing through story-telling, the MCC offers Sacred Sites Tours, which provide an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective. The tours are led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota); they start in St. Paul and include visits by car to Fort Snelling State Park, Dakota Internment Camp following the Dakota-U.S. War, and Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground. Tours are free, with a free will offering appreciated, but space is limited. The next available dates are September 21 (3pm – 7pm). For more information, visit <http://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/healing-minnesota-stories>.

The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) offers a similar immersive experience called, "Learning from Place: Bdote," which visits "sites of great significance to Dakota people in the Twin Cities." Registration costs \$75 and the tours, which are offered every other month, fill quickly. MHC periodically offers other Learning from Place events as well, including St. Paul's Little Africa, North Minneapolis, and LGBTQ+ History in Downtown Minneapolis. For more information, visit <https://www.mnhum.org/events/>.



"To abandon politics means leaving the structuring of society to those who are most concerned to serve their own interests. It means letting the Pharaohs and monarchs and Caesars and domination systems, ancient and modern, put the world together as they will. In a democracy, politics in the broad sense does include how we vote. But it also includes more: what we support in our conversations, our contributions, monetary and otherwise, our actions. Not every Christian is called to be an activist. But all are called to take seriously God's dream for a more just and nonviolent world."

Marcus Borg, in *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*.

In late June, I was one of 150 ISIAIH leaders who gathered at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul to celebrate legislative actions taken by the Minnesota legislature in its 2023 regular session. Many justice actions were enacted. Some, such as restoring the vote to persons who have served time but are still on parole, will be implemented immediately. Others, including the MNCare Public Option will first require a few years of study and planning before implementation. ISIAIH advocates were instrumental in achieving these legislative decisions.

At that June meeting, we also began to discern "Our Compass and Path to 2025" shape a caring economy that allows everyone to thrive and a democracy that honors every person's dignity.

The first step in this discernment is a season of deep listening to the needs and yearnings of our friends and neighbors. Thus, I ask you to share what is in your heart and mind with me during the next two months. I will be making some contacts, but there is no need to wait for me to reach out. Give me a call (507-581-4684) or email me (evelynburry@hotmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Evelyn Burry, ISIAIH-NUMC, Team Leader



IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

Photo Archive

Did you know that NUMC has a digital archive? We are collecting photos of church events and activities, some of which show up in the monthly Herald Newsletter. To contribute to the archive, simply email your photos of church activities to photos@northfieldumc.org.

Any photos retained in the archive will be used by the church for digital and print media so only send photos that you have permission to share and are comfortable being used for promotional purposes.



Mission Sewing Project

Sewers Needed! For Mission Sewing Project

Mission Sewing is making shorts and tank tops for boys to be given to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. We have tops and shorts cut out, ready to sew. The tank tops are made with a serger. Let Dorothy Orde know if you can help with this 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, Ronald Mc Donald House, Emma Norton Services, Operation Joy.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 23rd to tie quilts. We meet at 9AM in Room 120. We always welcome new members.



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on August 21st at 9AM in the church library. We are continuing our study of the "Boys of the Bible Quilt Block Series." In August, we will be studying Hezekiah, Elijah, and Elisha.

New members and guests are always welcome.



Super Wednesday Community Meals Return: September 20th

Food for the soul and the stomach! 5:30-6:30 on Wednesdays during the program year. Watch our Facebook page and our website for menus and any cancelations due to weather. NOTE: NUMC follows the policy of Northfield Public Schools, so if they close, so do we.





"Skin cancer is one of the most prevalent types of cancer. Each year, nearly 1 million Americans are diagnosed with some form of cancerous skin lesions (sores). Fortunately, skin cancer also is one of the most avoidable and treatable cancers." (www.cancer.org) The three main types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma. It is thought that these types of skin cancer are often caused by long-term exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or tanning beds.

Basal cells, which produce new cells as the old ones die off, are in the outer layer of the skin. Basal cell carcinoma appears as a growth on the skin or a sore that won't heal.

It usually develops on the face, scalp, nose, eyelids, ears, legs, or arms. The lesions might have some of the following characteristics: a shiny, skin-colored bump; a brown, black, or blue lesion with a raised, translucent border; a flat scaly patch with a raised edge; or a white, waxy scar-like lesion.

Squamous cell carcinoma develops in the middle and outer layers of the skin. It is usually not life-threatening but can become aggressive if left untreated. Areas affected are the head, arms and legs, but also the tongue, throat, and stomach. Signs of this type of cancer include: a firm, red nodule; a flat sore with scaly crust; a new sore or raised area on an old scar; or a rough scaly patch on a lip.

Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. It develops in the cells that produce melanin, a pigment that gives skin its color. Common areas affected are the back, legs, arms, and face. Other areas include soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and fingernail beds. Melanoma skin lesions have uneven borders; appear in shades of black, brown, or tan; or are spots that don't heal. "The risk of melanoma seems to be increasing in people under 40, especially women. Knowing the warning signs of skin cancer can help ensure that cancerous changes are detected and treated before the cancer has spread. Melanoma can be treated successfully if it is detected early." (www.mayoclinic.org)

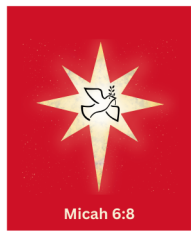
The A-B-C-Ds of Skin Cancer Prevention

- **A** is for "avoidance." Ultraviolet rays from the sun are most harmful between 10 AM and 4 PM. Avoid excess sun exposure during those hours. Also avoid tanning beds.
- **B** is for "bronzers." These products allow one to "tan" without sun exposure, so they are safer for one's skin.
- **C** is for "coverage." Remember to wear sunscreen when out-of-doors. Use at least a 15 SPF, apply it 30 minutes before going outside, and reapply it every 90 minutes.
- **D** is for "detective." Regularly examine your skin for moles or changes, especially if you have a family history of skin cancer, or if you have very fair skin.

The A-B-C-D-Es of Skin Cancer Detection

- **A** is for "symmetry." Suspicious moles or lesions are ones with irregular shapes or ones where one half differs from the other half.
- **B** is for "border." Have any moles or lesions checked by your physician if they have irregular or scalloped edges.
- **C** is for "color." Moles or lesions with many colors, changes in color, or variations in color should also be checked.
- **D** is for "diameter." Observe if the mole or lesion has a diameter greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, which is about the size of a pencil eraser.
- **E** is for "evolving." Have any mole or lesion checked if it looks different from the rest or is changing in size, shape, or color.

"If you notice any changes, see your health care provider. Don't wait for the area to hurt or itch—skin cancer seldom causes pain. Most skin cancers are superficial, slow growing and highly treatable, especially if found early." (www.cancer.org)



**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.

How should the church respond to the oppression of the Palestinian people?

Regarding the recent massive destruction in the Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin, below are some excerpted suggestions by Palestinian-American Christian lawyer, Jonathan Kuttub (who has spoken at NUMC).

“Particularly disheartening is the response of the churches. We seem to be satisfied with offering “our thoughts and prayers”. We seem to be saying that there is “no balm in Gilead” for the broken children of God in the Holy Land.”

Elements of a proper Christian response

In order for Christians to have a clear and powerful message, our response must include elements that provide for hope, healing, and positive outcomes:

- A rejection of violence and militarism. As we encourage Palestinians to use nonviolent tactics, we need to communicate to Israelis that they need other forms of dealing with Palestinians than forever resorting to greater displays of force. We cannot accept positions or courses of action based on the defeat of or crushing the other side.
- A commitment to talking to each other. Negating or dehumanizing significant populations should be rejected.
- A commitment to justice, fairness and equality. We must reject practices that discriminate against one group at the expense of another. It requires rejection of anti-Jewish antisemitism as well as Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian bias. We must reject unjust structures and institutions which promote racism and apartheid.
- Recognition that we live in a broken, sinful world often means that we must champion positions that may be unpopular. We need to offer people a vision of peace with justice that runs counter to existing unjust realities.
- We must resist despair and hopelessness that allows the unjust status quo to exist and persist.

The Christian message is one of good news for all people. Both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs need to hear that message from Christians, loud and clear.

Jonathan’s whole article can be found at <https://www.fosna.org/the-fosna-blog/jenin>

Palestinian Mujadarah (Lentil and Rice Pilaf) with caramelized onions

1 ½ cup brown lentils	2 large onions , halved, peeled and sliced
1 cup raw long-grain rice	½ cup olive oil
3 cups chicken or vegetable broth	4 Tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper to taste.	

Cook lentils in 4 cups of boiling water until tender, 10-15 minutes. Drain. Place lentils in large saucepan, add rice and chicken or vegetable broth Bring to a boil and immediately lower to a simmer. Simmer until all liquid has evaporated and rice is tender. In skillet, saute onions in olive oil until dark golden brown. Add butter and heat to melt the butter. [The onions are the key ingredient, more is better. I half the recipe for the two of us and use 2 onions.]

Taste pilaf and add salt and pepper as needed. Pour onions over pilaf and serve immediately.



United
Women
in Faith

UWFaith chooses a new CEO! Apple Pie Sale August-September 2023

United Women in Faith August Meeting Dates:

August 7, 2023 - UWF Executive Board no meeting - 3:00 Fellowship Hall

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

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

Mugs and Muffins – August 21, 2023 – 9:00 AM - Northfield UMC church library

Website: UWFaith.org – National UWFaith mnconfumw.com – Minnesota UWFaith

United Women in Faith elected Sally Vonner as our new CEO!

“Ms. Vonner joined the organization’s national staff in 2010 as Assistant General Secretary of Membership and Leadership Development. With reorganization in 2018, she became the Transformation Officer, coordinating the organization’s visioning and strategic development to positively impact the lives of women, children, and youth. She oversaw an organizational rebranding that opened new ways for women to join, introduced program innovations and initiatives, and rolled out United Women in Faith as the new public-facing name.

“Sally is not just a woman who knows this organization but also a visionary who possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience,” said ‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, board president. “She is the kind of leader who understands where we’ve been, where we are, and where we need to go.” (UWFaith.org)



We thank Harriett Jane Olson for her 15 years of service as CEO of our organization.

Calling all Members, Friends & Neighbors!

The apple pie makers are at it again.

We aim to please that yearning for the yummy sweet taste of fall - fresh baked apples.

We make and freeze them, using the original recipe this year.

You bake them.

Seventy five frozen pies went home last year. Can we aim for 100 this year?

Ask your friends and neighbors if they will buy one or two for a good cause.

Emma Norton Services is our main focus for this mission funding.

Apple Pie Sale: Apple Pie Sale begins Sunday, August 13th.

Sales continue through Sunday, September 10th.

Cost will remain at \$10 if we can obtain donations of ingredients from local grocery stores.

Pie making on Tuesday, September 12, 9:00 AM set-up/10:15 AM making.

Pick up pies 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.

NORTHFIELD NOONTIME ORGAN RECITALS

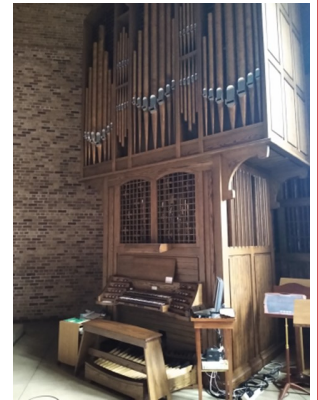
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their 16th season this summer Wednesdays, 12:15 to 12:45 pm.

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.

For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkollman@msn.com



Card Making with Margie

Monday, August 21st

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.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Is your family curious about other cultures and countries? Northfield Rotary is seeking families to host high school students coming to Northfield for Youth Exchange. Any family can be a great host family. Many NUMC families have hosted in the past and this could be your year! This is a 4 month commitment to host one student for the winter or spring term. This year's group of students arrives in August from Belgium, Germany, Brazil, Spain, and Poland. Learn more at northfieldrotary.org or contact our own Jesse Steed at 507-301-6785 or jessested@edinarealty.com.



Headed to the State Fair?

Our own Brittany Brown (partner of youth director, Todd - she has danced with us on Easter and for All Saints as well, so a very recognizable face!) will be dancing with her company, COLLIDE Theatrical Dance Company, at the State Fair. If you are headed to the Fair, here's where you can find her:

August 24th at Grandstand Plaza 9:30am, 10:15am, 11:45am, 12:30pm

August 25th at Grandstand Plaza 9:30am, 10:15am, 11:45am, 12:30pm

FREE **2** *GREAT options for*

INDOOR WALKING

NO cost & NO registration required

1 **NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.**
 Walking hours are 6:00am-7:00am and 3:30pm-5:00pm on school days.
 Must enter the building before doors lock at 4:30pm
 Enter Northfield High School at Door 1

2 **NORTHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
 1400 Maple St, Northfield
 Walk the Methodist Mile!
 Walking hours are 12-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

sponsored by

Creating an
Age-Friendly
Northfield

THE METHODIST MILE ADDED TO AGE FRIENDLY NORTHFIELD RESOURCES

We are so excited that Age Friendly Northfield has included us in their resource list for seniors seeking places to stay active!

There are two corrections to the flier they released above: 1) our address is 1401 Maple Street (1400 Maple Street is Spring Creek Elementary School across the street) and 2) our open times are 2-4, not noon-4. Opening this fall!



When a Cardinal Appears...

Time for another episode of “all creatures great and small” or otherwise known as “the animals of NUMC”. Seems a lot of critters like to call the NUMC campus home, and I think that is such a blessing. In fact, as you probably guessed, I love that! NUMC has over the years been the residence for a variety of God’s creatures including ducks, fox, bats, rabbits (lots of rabbits), Guinea Fowl and now as you see on the front cover of this issue we have a pair of cardinals who have decided to build a nest and raise a little family in our courtyard. There is a pair of cardinals who can regularly be seen hanging out in the trees just outside the office window. I’m not sure if this is the same pair with a nest in the courtyard, but odds are pretty good that they probably are. This photo was taken of the beautiful male cardinal just outside the office window one day. After being notified of the nest and eggs in our courtyard well of course I had to go on a quest of knowledge to share regarding these beautiful birds.

Cardinals are among the most popular backyard birds in the United States. In fact, they are so popular that seven states declare it the official bird (the most for any species): Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The male “redbird” has a distinctive crest and vivid red plumage while the female’s plumage of brown with red accents is more subdued. Cardinals are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.



Photo by Sandy

The Northern Cardinal received its name from early European settlers who thought the bright red plumage reminded them of the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church, high ranking bishops who wear red robes and caps. The pair of cardinals in our courtyard just happened to land at the Methodist Church, but I’m sure they’ll find it a welcoming place.

As usual in my quest, I discovered something about this beautiful bird which I did not know and I found fascinating. Cardinals are monogamous and will remain together for several years. The male feeds the female as part of their courtship. The male cardinal will aggressively defend his territory during nesting season, chasing away intruders and even mistakenly attacking his own reflection in windows and other reflective surfaces. The female cardinal sings duets with her mate during courtship and while on the nest. Her singing tells her mate when to bring food and also when to stay away. This warning keeps the male’s visits to a minimum so his flashy bright red color doesn’t expose the nest to predators.

The cardinal is rich in symbolism. It is a symbol of joy, happiness and luck in many cultures and religions, especially in Native American mythology and folklore. It is considered a great omen to see one. I’ve always been told if you see a cardinal it is a sign from God to let you know your loved ones are with you from heaven. I love that thought and every time I see one of these beautiful birds I wonder just who it might be. I actually find it comforting to see a cardinal outside my window.



Photo by Sandy

Meanwhile back at the nest in the courtyard...I went on vacation after taking this photo of the eggs, and since their eggs hatch in 12-13 days and the young fledge (leave the nest) 9-10 days after that, I missed the big event. I was informed however by a person who was keeping a close eye on the nest that they witnessed the male and female cardinals perched on the edge of the roof in the courtyard one day making a whole lot of noise while the youngsters took what appeared to be their first flight. She reports that the baby cardinals were an adorable ball of fluffy pink feathers. A successful hatch! Could these cardinals be the next Frank and Marie? (Those were the names of the pair of ducks who for years raised a family in our courtyard.) We’ll have to see what happens next year. For now we’ll wait to see which of God’s creatures decides to call the NUMC campus home next. Stay tuned!

Sandy Vesledahl - NUMC Office Administrator

*“I saw a cardinal in my tree, the bright red color so beautiful to see.
Thoughts of loved ones brought a smile to my face, as I watched it flutter about with grace.
Visitors from heaven they are said to be, I feel blessed that you came to see me.”*

Author Unknown

Because every picture has a story to tell...



We had three campers off to Trailblazers at Camp Koronis in July! Counselor Jacob and Camp Director Dan Ziegler always look forward to this camp, bringing together 3rd-6th graders from United Methodist Churches from all over Minnesota. When you see Tanna Moldenhauer, Paige Franek, or Heron Morey, be sure to ask what their favorite part of camp was!



NUMC Youth had a blast hosting a summer "Super Wednesday" at Culver's. Grateful to all the Methodist who showed their support!



By now you have likely seen the work along Maple street to construct a new sidewalk across the church and parsonage lawns. As with every such project, ever, in the history of humankind, it will take longer than initially planned. . .BUT we look forward to welcoming walking families by the time we host our Back to School Party (August 26) and walking students on the first day of school, September 5th. We bless the new opportunities for ministry this will bring us when finished.



Bruce Paulson and Mark Thornton installed our new freezer in June. Many thanks to the two of them for wrestling to get the old one out and the new one in.





AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Community Reservation" designates a room reservation for a non-church related community organization.</p>		<p>1 9:00 Bible Study 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>2 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>3 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>4 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>6 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7 3:00 UWF meeting 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>8 9:00 Bible Study 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>9 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation 12:15 Noon time Organ Recital</p>	<p>10 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4:00-9:00 Community Reservation Church Office Closed</p>	<p>12 8:00-5:00 Community Reservation 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>14 10:00 MICA mtg. 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>15 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Facilities Team Mtg.</p>	<p>16 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>17 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom</p>	<p>18 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>19 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>21 9:00 Mugs & Muffins 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>22 9:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>23 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>25 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>26 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 2:00-7:00 Back to School Block Party</p>
<p>27 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>28 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>29 9:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>30 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>31 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>1 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>2 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>



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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

September Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September issue of the Herald Newsletter is: **Noon on Wednesday, August 23, 2023**
 Please submit your items for the newsletter in a digital format (word document) to northfieldumc@gmail.com.

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

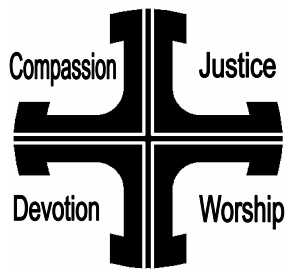
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**E - NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP**



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
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