

United Methodist Herald

November 2023



Photo credit: Sandy Vesledahl

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November Worship

November 5 - All Saints Communion Sunday

Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

November 12 - Confirmation Sunday

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Rev. Jerad Morey

November 19 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Matthew 25:14-30

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

November 26 - Reign of Christ Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

Hanging of the Greens
Wednesday, November 29
6:30 pm
Sanctuary



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

General Fund September 2023 contributions \$22,601.66
General Fund September 2022 contributions \$15,031.66

General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$259,614.94
General Fund YTD 2022 contributions \$249,503.40

Super Wednesday Community Meals

Food for the soul and the stomach!
5:30-6:30 on Wednesdays during the program year.

November 1st - Harvest Dinner!

Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Sweet Corn
Raspberry Fluff
Dinner Rolls
Pie
and
Entertainment!



Watch our Facebook page and our website for future menus and any cancelations due to weather. (NOTE: NUMC follows the policy of Northfield Public Schools for weather closures.)



Pastor Rachel Coffee Shop Hours

Pastor Rachel will be starting her coffee shop hours once again on Tuesdays from 12:30-2:00 pm. You will find her at Caribou Coffee located at 400 West 5th Street, Northfield on the following dates:

**No appointment necessary,
drop in to say hello!**

Tuesday, November 28th
Tuesday, December 5th
Tuesday, December 12th
Tuesday, December 19th

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

Northfield UMC Leadership Board

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bruce Benson, Carolyn Seas, Warren Winkelman, Kevin Dahle, Allie Lyman, Sara Newberg, Crystal Greenfield, Dave Wolf, Jessy Hoffer, Ruth Kruse, Kerry Hanson, Pastor Rachel McIver-Morey

Not Present: Thalia Duffield, Pierce Follansbee-Delong

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

NUMC Prayer

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Benson to approve the Sept.26, 2023 NUMC Board minutes. Dave Wolf seconded. **Approved as read.**

Approval of Agenda: Warren Winkelman moved to approve the agenda. Bruce Benson seconded. **Agenda Approved.**

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: The trustees will hold the fall facility clean-up workday on Sept. 30th from 8 to 12 noon.

Facilities (Kerry Hanson) and Jesse Steed - Fellowship Hall/Rotary proposal: Jesse Steed, representing the Northfield Rotary Club, presented a proposal to the board to install a new projector system and screen to be mounted on the west wall of the fellowship hall. The Rotary Club would pay the up-front cost of approximately \$6,500 for the system and the church would gradually pay back the cost over the next several years. He suggested one payment per year, with no interest costs. Kevin suggested we could offset some of the cost by not charging the Rotary club rent for their meetings.

Jesse also pointed out that the current projector is on a cart, that is moved around to various locations. There are also many cords running along the floor, causing a tripping hazard. The new system would be wireless.

Further discussion concerned the need for conditions to be in place to protect the equipment from misuse/damage by all groups that might use it. The board felt there would be a need for a team of certified operators of the equipment. Jesse agreed to put such a team in place.

Allie Lyman made a motion to respond to the proposal, with the following statement: The board has a positive interest in the proposal and would like to move forward with more detail on the conditions of repayment and usage of the equipment. Jessy Hoffer seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Jesse Steed will go back to the Rotary Club to gain more detail on a written agreement for the proposal.

SPRC: Pastor Rachel asked for suggestions on where else to post the open position for the Youth/family director position. The annual clergy evaluation for the Minnesota Conference is due by De. 1, 2023. Sara Newberg will send an email out to board members, which all members must respond to in a timely manner.

Finance: stewardship update and treasurer's report

Dave Wolf presented the Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2023:

August 31st marks the two-thirds point (8 of 12 months) of the church's fiscal year.

General Fund: The balance in the CRB checking account at the end of August was \$53,610.03.

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General Fund monthly income was \$37,841.99 for July and \$18,411.50 for August. YTD Actual Income for the General Fund at the two-thirds point of the year was \$262,430.59, \$19,084.53 more than YTD last year. Monthly Offering Income was \$36,475.66 in July and \$18,366.66 in August. YTD Actual Offering Income was \$237,013.28, \$2,538.54 more than YTD last year. July offering income was up since it was the beginning of a new quarter where charitable giving transfers from IRA accounts are typically received. We hope to see a similar quarterly offering income pattern for October and November; and, the end of year giving increase in December.

Monthly expenses were \$32,407.37 for July and \$30,150.55 for August. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$298,715.35, \$70,135.72 more than the YTD Budget of \$228,579.63. We finished the month of August with \$11,739.05 in the red; YTD we are \$36,284.76 in the red. Most of the expense categories are on budget or slightly under budget with a few exceptions. As of the end of August, monthly Apportionments of \$4,576.02 had not been paid for the months of June, July or August for a total of \$13,728.06 due to cash flow. However, the church has actually paid June and July apportionments in September due to improved cash flow. The plan is to catch up on apportionment payments by the end of the year.

Physical Plant: Monthly income was \$10,721.07 for July and \$9,957.37 for August. YTD Actual Income was \$129,379.82 with \$102,329.70 coming from General Fund Support; \$21,425.12 from Building Fund Interest Income (received in June); and, \$5,625.00 from continuing contributions to the last Building Campaign. YTD Actual Expenses were \$112,785.11 which leaves a positive balance of \$16,594.71. Two larger than expected expenses recorded within the first 8 month of the year were:

- 1) Insurance payments of \$14,228.59 verses a budget of \$10,666.68; which included a lump sum up-front payment for wind and hail damage coverage of approximately \$4,100. This budget item is spread out over the year, so by year end will be within budget.
- 2) Organ Maintenance expenses of \$15,380.00 (a large payment made in April) verses a YTD budget of \$6,666.68; the annual budget is \$10,000. This budget item was spread out over a three year period.

Endowment Funds: At the end of August, these funds now total \$915,420.91 including the amount we owe ourselves, which is \$334,802.54. This is \$2,496.97 more than the first of the year due to overall market gains and annual distribution of funds. Two distributions totaling \$7,036.96 were taken during June; \$1,539.40 from Sather Missions and \$5,497.56 from Sather Scholarship Funds. As stated in the Physical Plant section above, a \$21,425.12 distribution was also taken in June from the Building Maintenance Fund.

The board accepted the treasurer's report.

Ministry Items: Daycare visits- report: Kevin Dahle gave a report on the three day care centers visited by members of the board and others on August 15th. They toured the Montessori facility, the Early Ventures program run by the public school system, and Little Village in Dundas.

The number one problem all three facilities faced was staffing shortage. There are state requirements for so many staff personnel per student/per age group. All facilities must also deal with providing required square footage, both indoors and outdoors, per student according to age group.

Discussion was held concerning a probable Capital Campaign, which will be needed to fund the endeavor of establishing a daycare facility within our church. No details of what the campaign would look like until a final decision is made as to whether or not to go ahead with this ministry. Allie Lyman agreed to have a further discussion with the owner of the Little Village, as to how she was able to establish her facility.

Back to School Splash - report: Kevin Dahle reported there was a good turnout for our Back to School event. Budget wise it was a great success, as many volunteered their time, while we reached out to around 120 attendees. It was a great first effort.

Dates of note:

September 17 Celebration Sunday (children's church kickoff)

September 23 MICAH BOB fundraiser

October 1st Youth Mission Trip presentation

October 25 Pumpkin Carving Party (6/6:30pm)

October 29 Trunk or Treat

November 5 – MICAH Anniversary dinner

Next Meeting

October 25, 2023, 5:30 pm.

A motion was made by Dave Wolf to adjourn. Kevin Dahle seconded. **Motion approved.**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Carolyn Seas - Secretary

Message from the Pastor

I very much liked to draw at one time. I had forgotten this until one of my trips back home to the farm in Kansas this year. One of my roles in our family system is to be the one who can throw things away - Ecclesiastes 3:6 offers these words: there is a "time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away." For me, it's almost always "throw away" o'clock. I like to travel as light as I can through this world, which gets harder and harder to do the older and more connected we become. This native predilection, plus the fact that I live farther away and am overall less connected to the artifacts of the farm, means that mom and brother leave it to me to do the deep cuts and cold-hearted sorting that is required.

Anyway, as I gave a cursory glance through yet another stack of poorly organized bags and boxes, I came across a picture I drew sometime in middle school. I don't remember the circumstances at all, but it reminded me that at one time, art had been a source of joy, something that I actively sought out time to do.

For once, I decided to keep something. Most of my papers, music, notes, and writing have gone straight to recycling or to the dumpster. This one came back to Minnesota with me.

There's not much to it: a stump with some barbed wire, a barn, a windmill, a silo, some patchy grass. It's a set of objects so familiar to me that when I found the picture, I spent some time trying to figure exactly WHICH farm this was. It could literally be one of hundreds of homesteads around my hometown. I still haven't figured out where it is, actually.

Coming into the month of November, we do a lot of remembering: All Saints Sunday. Confirmation Sunday, Thanksgiving week, and the Hanging of the Greens. We revisit stories of saints that have gone before, we consider our own membership commitments as our youth make their own promises, we offer thanks with those nearest and dearest, and then we keep to the old English tradition of decorating the sanctuary with greens in advance of Advent. It's a calendar so deep with remembrance and tradition I gave up long ago trying to put any other sort of worship series or theme into the space. There's just no point. If November was an attic, every box would be filled with yellowed paper and pictures and keepsakes that we're not quite sure what to do with, but we don't necessarily want to throw away either.

And it's okay not to sort everything every year. There is, as the writer of Ecclesiastes notes, a season for everything. If this is a season of sorting for you, take a breath and take some breaks, too. November, and December with it, is packed way too full of meaning and moments and memories to handle all at once any given year. Some boxes may need to stay untouched this

go-round. Let your eyes fall on what they need to see and your ears be open to what they need to hear - trust that anything that you miss has its own time for discovery.

I have my old drawing up in my office, across the room from Heron's preschool art, a kind note from a mentor, and a photo of a bluegrass band I use to play with. It, too, is a space dense with remembering and meaning. I don't dwell on it most days, but some days my eyes find something to rest on and rest in along these walls, reminding me of seasons past in life and ministry. May this coming season be kind to you, be it one of keeping - or one of throwing away.

Blessings, Rachel



**Charge Conference
Sunday, November 26th
10:30 am
(following worship
in the sanctuary)**

Agenda items:

- Approve inactive/unresponsive membership
- Approve pastoral compensation
- Receive additional reports

FAMILY ministry

For September-May, we invite our youngest disciples into both Sunday and Wednesday opportunities for fellowship, faith development, and fun. For more information: info@northfieldumc.org

Sundays

10:00am - **Children's Church** (5th grade and under) in Nursery immediately following the children's message.

Super Wednesdays

3:30-5:30pm - **KC3** (Kids Creating Community Through Christ) for our grade school kids, K-5th grade.

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

6:30pm-8pm - **Youth Group** (6th-12th grade) in the youth room.

10th & 11th Grade Confirmation

November 5, 10:30am - Noon

Confirmands will put the finishing touches on, and rehearse for, the November 12 confirmation worship service.

Confirmation Sunday

November 12, 9:30am

We will celebrate and welcome affirmations of faith from our 10th and 11th graders who have spent the last year studying, learning, building community, praying, and discerning.

NO SUPER WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOVEMBER 26

Hanging of the Greens

November 29, 6:30pm

We prepare our homes, our hearts, and our sanctuary for the coming season of Advent by decorating with greens and colors for the season. The service will conclude with our traditional Household Blessing - each family or household will be invited forward to receive an Advent blessing as December comes!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

November 29 and December 6, 3:30-5:30pm (during KC3)

For all children 5th grade and younger who would like to participate! If you have a student who doesn't want a role but would like to participate by playing an instrument, singing, or dancing, let children's ministry coordinator Gregory Ennis know: gregory.ennis@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - December 13, 6:30pm (following Super Wednesday meal)

Youth 6th grade and up will meet at 6pm in the youth room to prepare for their role in the pageant.



Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)

Many residents of Viking Terrace manufactured home park are struggling to stay in their homes in the face of rising lot rental fees imposed by their corporate landlord, Lakeshore Management. Since acquiring the park in April 2022, Lakeshore has increased the rent amount by 30%. As a show of support for legal action recently initiated by some of the residents, Pastor Rachel and other Northfield leaders have planned a **prayer walk at 1:00 pm on November 19**. This event, held on the grounds of Viking Terrace, is a way for faith communities to come alongside the residents, some of whom have already faced eviction. We also have beloved members of our own NUMC church family in VT, and we always have. We hope to have a strong showing from Northfield UMC for the prayer walk. Please join us in this tangible opportunity to “walk the walk” and show your love of neighbor.

If you're interested in learning more about the events that have unfolded at Viking Terrace over the past eighteen months, as well as at other manufactured home parks in Minnesota, we recommend the podcast called Not Mobile. Written and recorded by Cait Kelley, a local young person working for KYMN News at the time, the three-part podcast “highlights the residents, lawyers, community leaders, and local and state officials who are fighting back against Lakeshore and fighting for the right of everyone to have a safe, affordable community to call home.” You can find it at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/not-mobile/id1659120417>.

Finally, we have a new way to support our Latino neighbors, wherever they may live in the Northfield area - soon we will be able to patronize the Mercado Local, which, according to a September 27th Northfield News article written by Mar Valdecantos, will soon be opening a storefront location at 108 Fifth Street E. The Mercado Local, with support from the nonprofit Rice County Neighbors United/Vecinxs Unidxs, serves as a hub for Hispanic businesses “to showcase their art, crafts, creations, and artisan products from their respective countries.”



Local ISAIAH leaders have been engaging their friends, neighbors and fellow church members in intentional conversations during the past few months. We've heard what our community still needs to thrive. NUMC members shared their concerns at the Adult Forum on October 8th.

Saturday, November 11, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at the UCC Church on Union Street, we will join other Northfielders who have been having conversations on to help prioritize a set of issues to push for during the next few years. We'll also discuss with our state legislator, Rep. Pursell, how to partner on these priorities. We will also strategize next steps to make this agenda a reality. These might be such as research visits with local decisionmakers to learn what concerns them, a healthcare listening session, and issue campaigns on the city/county/state levels! This is an opportunity for your voice to shape the future.

Register at https://secure.everyaction.com/nOE3hQeLck2PqyH_hBdjXw2

Or contact Evelyn Burry evelynburry@hotmail.com; (507- 645-7481) who can answer questions and/or complete the registration for you.



Notes from the Parish Nurse

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. "Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, deadly brain disease for which there is no cure, and is not a normal part of healthy aging. Researchers are still working to discover the root cause of the disease, but it's widely believed to be due to the buildup of misfolded proteins between nerve cells, which causes brain damage." (www.hopkinsmedicine.org) Six million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and there are three million new cases of the disease diagnosed every year. Ten signs of Alzheimer's are:



- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning and solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Change in mood and personality

Families facing a dementia-causing disease struggle with disbelief, isolation, embarrassment, fear, anger, and/or guilt. "An accepting, reassuring, and uncritical attitude from an informed church community can make a difference. For many families—the church community is the last available social contact, source of meaning, respite, refuge, and identity. It's the place that is expected to welcome everyone, to be a sanctuary...a safe place where one is known and welcomed with unconditional love." (www.alz.org)

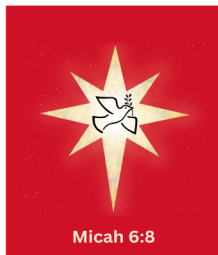
We can help persons dealing with memory loss feel more welcome in the church by:

- **Recognizing the signs and symptoms of memory loss and dementia.** With knowledge we can better understand the challenges and frustrations our friends are facing and the social isolation they might be feeling.
- **Welcoming persons with memory loss or dementia into the congregation.** Help them feel welcome. Take it in stride if the person is restless or has a memory glitch. Don't let the person feel embarrassed or "put on the spot." Allow time for responses and show your appreciation of the person.
- **Making eye contact and using the person's name as you converse.** Introduce yourself, speak in warm tones, and give the person time to process what you are saying.
- **Knowing the disease the person has,** but also take the time to know and appreciate the unique person who has the disease. Acknowledge the person's contributions, talents and gifts.
- **Focusing on the person's strengths and abilities, not on his or her deficits.**

We can also encourage families to stay connected to the church by:

- **Acknowledging the changing needs and abilities of their loved one** and continuing to offer them a warm welcome and acceptance.
- **Providing transportation or respite care for the caregiver who may need a break from care giving.**
- **Making home visits when the individual finds it too difficult to go out in the community.** Maintaining your normal friendship which will give balance to the person's life. Offer to pray or read scripture, play favorite music, enjoy nature, reminisce, look at old photos, or take a walk or drive.
- **Offering specific help.** Ask for a "to-do" list or notice what help is needed and tell them you will do it.

Do try some of these suggestions so we can continue to be a welcoming and loving church community, especially to persons and families struggling with memory loss.



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



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.

“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

Thank You!

To the Brick Oven Bakery for hosting our fall fundraiser on Saturday, September 28th.

Also for the support of NUMC members who visited the Brick Oven Bakery during this fundraiser as well as making donations to this project.



This year yielded our biggest result in our 4 years of holding this event. The Brick Oven Bakery gave us 10% of that day's sales, which netted \$290.00, and \$305.27 was received in donations. As a result MICAH is close to the total for our annual family sponsorship commitment of \$650.00. With warm and grateful hearts - The MICAH Team.

**Looking back with
Gratitude:
Looking ahead with
Hope**

*Marking 10 years of
sponsorship of
a Bethlehem family*

**Northfield UMC MICAH Dinner
November 5th, 2023**

Additional Thanks...

Micah appreciates our many NUMC friends who have purchased tickets for the November 5th Palestine Dinner and for the many who are helping to make this event possible.

Our new Bethlehem Family with two young children will be announced at the dinner. Look for a report and photos from this event in the December Herald.



Prayer requests from Bethlehem Bible College

- For an immediate cease-fire.
- For humanitarian aid to come into Gaza, and that it will be enough for all the people who are in need.
- For comfort and strength for those who lost loved ones.
- For a concrete international solution to the conflict, for the release of the hostages, and for wisdom for leaders on all sides.
- For us as a college to continue to be the voice of peace, a beacon of light, and support for those who are in need.

Note: Family Sponsorships in Bethlehem are a project of The Shepherd Society, which is the outreach arm of Bethlehem Bible College. These are part of the global United Methodist Church.



United
Women
in Faith

Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale - Dec. 3rd Being good stewards of \$ entrusted to us.

United Women in Faith Meeting Dates:

November 6, 2023 - UWF Executive Board meeting - 3:00 Fellowship Hall

November 13, 2023 - Esther Circle – 1:00 PM Happy Harvest!

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

Mugs and Muffins – November 20, 2023 – 9:00 AM - Northfield UMC church library.

Website: UWFaith.org – National UWFaith

mnconfumw.com – Minnesota UWFaith

A message from Sally Vonner, CEO of United Women in Faith

As part of a sisterhood of women committed to putting faith, hope, and love into action, I am reaching out with an important message. After much prayer and deep reflection, United Women in Faith is taking several steps to adjust to the organization's current financial reality and remain faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to the organization.

We are enacting a series of cost-savings measures, supported by the board of directors who met October 13-14. United Women in Faith will eliminate [7 staff positions]. Please join us in prayer for our affected colleagues, whose good work helped make us the nurturing and impactful sisterhood we are today.

We will move our headquarters by the end of the year to the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), which we own. This change will mean we will have minimal office space and our staff will work almost fully remotely.

These measures will help us adapt to a changing church and world, but it was still a difficult and hard decision. As you wrap your mind around this information, please do not lose sight of our mission. United Women in Faith is devoted to uplifting women, children, and youth. I know that in time, like generations of United Women in Faith before us, who survived church disruptions, pandemics, wars, and other societal unrest, we, too, will see brighter days ahead. We will continue to put our love into action.

Yours in Christ, Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO. United Women in Faith

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale.- December 3, 2023

Help United Women in Faith support our Wednesday KC3 (Kids Creating Community through Christ) to pay for the after school bus! We are looking for homemade items you are willing to donate. Here are some item ideas:

Sewing: Placemats, table runners, pot holders, eye glass cases or phone cases.

Needlework: Scarves, hats, mittens

Woodworking: Cutting boards, bookends, toys

Gifts for children, teachers, family, friends

So many possibilities – **Do these ideas whet your creative appetite? Would you consider contributing?**

Lin Wolf will collect Bazaar sale items anytime prior to December 3rd.

DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS AT CHURCH.

Baked items can be brought to church on Sunday, December 3rd anytime after 8:30 am.

Questions? Call or email Lin Wolf 612-532-1467 or lin_wolf@charter.net

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.



IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

Updates and Upgrades

Updates and security patches are coming out all the time for the operating systems of our devices. Our computers prompt us to update Windows, restart our machines, accept new terms of service, etc. While these are designed to keep our systems safe and humming along, sometimes the features change, icons move, and the cool stuff we liked about the old version goes away.

Recently I was at a Rotary meeting here at church and the toolbar on the bottom of the computer screen was empty of icons. The icons are a handy way to quickly access certain programs and refer immediately to open applications. After doing a brief internet search of forums to try to troubleshoot, I felt restarting the computer might be worth a try, even though the Rotary tech assistant for the meeting had already queued up several applications. After restarting the computer, the toolbar was again filled with the correct icons for frequently used programs and the meeting proceeded as usual. It's amazing how often a restart or reset will fix wonky things we see on computers and cell phones. Perhaps there's a metaphor for life somewhere in there, but at least consider a restart one of your tools next time something goes awry with your computer or phone.

Mission Sewing Project

Help Needed for Operation Joy Quilts

Mission Sewing is busy getting quilts finished so we will be able to donate 30 quilts to Operation Joy. We have 22 quilts finished but need to get 8 more tied at our November meeting. We would welcome some help so we can meet our goal.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 15th to tie quilts. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on November 20th at 9AM in the church library. We are continuing our study of the "Boys of the Bible Quilt Block Series." We will be studying Thaddeus, Simon: The Zealot, and Malachi.

This will be the last meeting until March because we take the winter months off.

The Methodist Mile

These boots were made for walking, and that's just what they'll do. . .right here on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4pm! (except Thanksgiving and Christmas break) Need a place to get your steps in while the weather outside is still frightful? Our Methodist Mile is a 7 lap route you can walk (please no running!) inside our church facility. Just follow the signs with the feet!



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.



Meals On Wheels

Our church is responsible for our local community's Meals on Wheels November 6-11. This is a wonderful opportunity to help people

who are not able to get out to get a good meal. There are 5 routes so we need 5 volunteers/day Monday through Saturday to deliver the meals around the noon hour. You can do a route by yourself or it is nice to have a partner; one to drive and one to take the meal to the door.

Please contact Marie Beck at 608-322-3596 (text or call) or email : marieyvonnebeck@gmail.com and let me know the day(s) you would be able to help.

Card Making with Margie

Monday, November 20, 2023

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.



Church Office Hours

Mon.- Thurs.,

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday - 8:00 - noon



The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23-24 in observance of Thanksgiving.



NOW HIRING:

Youth and Family Ministries Director

We are hiring a Youth and Family Ministries Director to maintain momentum in our youth program. If you know someone with good administrative and interpersonal skills and a love of God and ALL God's children - especially middle school and high school youth - then please invite them to [apply for this position!](#)

Volunteer Needed

Someone to help with church laundry. The dishtowels and aprons need to be laundered after church events - ie Sunday coffee hour, Super Wednesday meals, and occasional other special events. Many hands make light work! So easy, but so helpful!

Contact Ruth Paulson ruthpaulson@yahoo.com to volunteer or for details.



Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

December/January Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the combined December/January issue of the Herald Newsletter is:

Noon on Monday, November 20, 2023

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

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Announcements...continued



LAURA BAKER SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 23rd
11am - 1pm
 at Millis Dining Hall
 211 Oak Street, Northfield
www.laurabaker.org
Look for the signs!

Everyone is invited!

If you are unable to attend in person we encourage you to take advantage of our meal delivery. Please call 507-645-8866 before Friday, November 17th to place your delivery order.

Viking Terrace Prayer Walk

Sunday, November 19th, 1:00 pm
 Entrance to Viking Terrace

On November 19th, members of Northfield faith communities are invited to join a prayer walk in support of our neighbors at Viking Terrace (see DRT article for details on why). Bring your walking shoes to offer prayer for this neighborhood of our Northfield family.

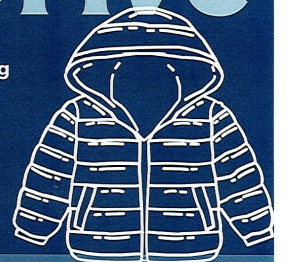


Rice County Coat Drive

Help keep teens and adults in our community warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats!

Oct. 15 - Nov. 15th

- Adult sizes XS - XXXL welcome!
- Men's/gender-neutral coats are especially needed!



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

FARIBAULT

Cable Connection & Supply
 Chamber of Commerce
 Community Action Center
 Faribault Middle School
 Faribault High School
 Faribault Schools' District Office
 First English Lutheran Church

NORTHFIELD

Chamber of Commerce
 Community Action Center
 First United Church of Christ
 United Methodist Church
 St. Olaf College Taylor Center



Operation Joy, a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center (CAC), is set to take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2023! Approximately 1000 Northfield area children from 400 households will receive gifts

through Operation Joy this year. At this time, the most impactful way the community can help support this goal is through monetary donations. Donations will be used to purchase gift cards, which will give families the opportunity to select gifts their children will enjoy the most. In keeping with tradition, families will receive a blanket, lovingly sewn by local volunteers. Children will also receive a new book, donated generously by Content Bookstore and their customers.

Share the Joy

To donate:

online: communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy

mail: send a check directly to:

Community Action Center

% Operation Joy

1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200

Northfield, MN 55057



Community Action Center in grateful partnership with:



40 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK
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Blessed are the Bees

Just when you think you've run out of the creatures of NUMC to write about, a subject presents itself. Bees!! It's a bit distracting when you're on the phone in the church office and you realize bees are circling above your head. Then a few days later Pastor Jerad is greeted by bees in the hallway outside his office and then numerous bees are discovered in Gregory's office window (inside). Who do we call? Well of course Bruce Paulson, man of many talents, including tracking down where the bees are entering the building.

Funny side story about bees... a few years ago my adult niece decided to take up honey bees for a hobby and set up a couple of hives at her parents farm. It was a great hobby until winter came along and she convinced her parents that the bees could be kept in the unfinished cool basement of their old farmhouse over the winter. As long as the temperature stayed below a certain level the bees would remain in a dormant state. Did I mention she does not live with them? Everything was fine until one winter morning her parents came down stairs from the second floor and were met by hundreds of bees clinging to a window *inside their house!* Seems some unusually warm days caused the bees to "wake up" and somehow escape their winter accommodations in the basement. Luckily the bees were drowsy and had all gathered in one spot. Needless to say she received a frantic phone call from her parents and had a quick lesson on gathering a cluster of bees and returning them to their hive. The honey bees were rehomed to another location that spring and her honey bee hobby came to an end.



Meanwhile, back at NUMC...seems a PVC pipe outside the church office was the perfect place for entrance to the building and in fact, these weren't bees at all, they were hornets. Yikes! So what's the difference between bees and hornets? Glad you asked!

Bees and hornets are fascinating little creatures of God. They may look alike and belong to the same category of insects, but they are different insects. Bees are vegetarians, collecting pollen to feed their young, while hornets are carnivores, feeding on other insects. But both are actually good bugs! (Seriously) Bees are often considered beneficial to humans and the environment because they make honey and pollinate flowers. On the other hand, hornets are typically considered a nuisance to most of us.

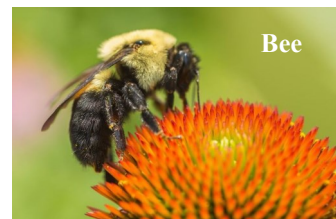


Hornet

While we may view hornets as pests with a painful sting, hornets do benefit the ecosystem. They are predators that serve a special function in controlling other populations of insects. Without hornets, insects like spiders, caterpillars, flies, and beetles would breed out of control and become a greater nuisance. Hornets control the populations of these pests by eating them – which is great unless you are the insects being eaten. Like the honey bee, hornets also serve an essential function to fruit and flowering plants. As they travel from plant to plant they pollinate the flowers. Despite their benefits to the ecosystem, hornets are still considered a hazardous pest when they make their homes in or

around places where people work, live or play. When disturbed or provoked, hornets can become increasingly aggressive, and cause a painful sting. Since hornets do serve an important function they should be left undisturbed unless posing a direct threat, such as moving into the NUMC church office.

Bees are vitally important to agriculture and thus humans. According to the USDA, bees of all sorts pollinate approximately 75 percent of the crops grown in the United States. One out of every four bites of food you eat is courtesy of bee pollination. In a single day, one worker bee makes 12 or more trips from the hive, visiting several thousand flowers. A bee can travel up to five miles from the hive. Bees are very intelligent and researchers have even suggested that studying the actions of bees could help experts develop evacuation plans for humans in an overcrowded situation or help scientists understand where changes are taking place in the environment.



Bee

Unfortunately, the number of bees worldwide are dwindling due to pesticide use and loss of their natural habitat. It is essential that we protect bees in order to maintain our own well-being. **What can you do to help?** Your backyard and garden can be a vital resource for bees. Growing native flowers and leaving weeds to develop can contribute to bee health and numbers by providing food and shelter. Reducing landscaping activities, such as mowing or pruning, can help bees by increasing the amount of vegetation available.

Roman Catholic Bishop St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) of Geneva wrote *"the bee collects honey from flowers in such a way as to do the least damage or destruction to them, and then leaves them whole, undamaged and fresh, just as he found them."*

Bees are amazing and we humans can learn from them. They are found throughout the bible and in folklore. They are known for their intelligence, their hard-working spirit and in some cultures considered a messenger of Mother Nature. Whether bees are wise, messengers of God, or bringers of good fortune, they're a vital part of our world that we need to protect. As far as the hornets are concerned, whether we like them or not, they do have a purpose, just like all of God's creations. **Office hornet update:** Thanks to Bruce Paulson the NUMC office hornet situation seems to be under control. Sandy Vesledahl - NUMC Office Administrator

Because every picture has a story to tell...



On September 30th the Facilities Team held a fall work day, clearing brush, cutting tree branches and giving the kitchen a deep cleaning. Thank you to all who came out to help!



Since the horrifying Hamas attack and Israel's brutal offensive in Gaza, our MICAH team has offered a prayer station next to their table in the hallway.



We celebrated World Communion Day on October 1st with followers of Jesus the whole world over.



NUMC youth set up the new ping pong table (thanks to Brian and Connie Malecha).



NUMC youth offered an adult Forum October 1 to share with the congregation about the trip they took to Alamosa, Colorado in July.

NUMC youth kicked off the first Super Wednesday with a bonfire, fellowship, and games outside.



A friendly game of chess between Pastor Jerad and Aleah FollansbeeDelong after worship on October 22.



KC3 kids having snacks and learning with children's ministry coordinator, Gregory Ennis.

NUMC youth bring joy and life to the space on a Super Wednesday night.



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>As you can see by the calendar the NUMC campus is a very busy place. We already have room reservations scheduled out to November 2024!</p> <p>Planning a meeting or event?</p> <p>Reserve your space on line at northfieldumc.org. Click on "reserve a room" and fill in the blanks.</p> <p>Without a reservation we cannot guarantee the space you want will be available or will have the HVAC turned on.</p>			<p>1 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday Harvest Dinner 3:30-5:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym</p>	<p>2 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile</p>	<p>3 8:00 Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>4 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>5 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Confirmation 5:00-8:00 MICAH Dinner</p>	<p>6 3:00 UWF Board mtg. 7:00 Community Reservation Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>7 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>8 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30-5:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:00 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>9 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>10 8:00 Men's Breakfast Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>11 7:00-1:00 Community Reservation 12:00 Advent UMC Retreat Meals on Wheels</p>
<p>12 Confirmation Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 9:00-12:00 Advent UMC Retreat 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>13 10:00 MICAH mtg. 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>14 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile</p>	<p>15 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30-5:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym</p>	<p>16 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile 7:00 Renewal via zoom</p>	<p>17 8:00 Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>18 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 11:00-12:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>19 Thanksgiving Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 1:00 Viking Terrace Prayer Walk</p>	<p>20 9:00 Mugs and Muffins 2:30 Card Making with Margie Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>21 9:00 Bible Study 9:00-2:00 River Valley District Meeting 7:00 Facilities Team mtg. 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile</p>	<p>22 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation No Super Wednesday</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>24 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>
<p>26 Reign of Christ Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Church Charge Conference</p>	<p>27 4:00-8:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>28 9:00 Bible Study 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Coffee Hours - Caribou Coffee</p>	<p>29 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30-5:30 KC3 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 Shared Meal 6:30 Hanging of the Greens Service Handbell Choir and Adult Choir check with your leaders for rehearsal info.</p>	<p>30 12:00 Community Reservation</p>	<p>1 8:00 Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>2 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation</p>

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

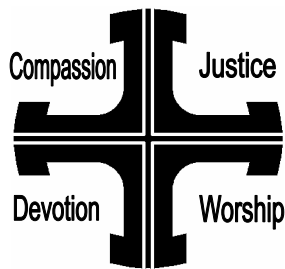
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Offering Christ

**E - NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP**



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

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

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

Please print clearly! Thank you!

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Our Church Staff

Pastors	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
NUMC Band	Dave Miller
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir	Deborah Rae Miller
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Information & Worship Technology Consultant	Jesse Steed
Treasurer	David Wolf (Volunteer)
Retired Clergy: Wayne Abdella, Carl Caskey, Richard Collman, Jeanne Martin, Dick Waters, Mary Keen, Gordon Orde, Clay Oglesbee, Melvin Henrichs, Dana Hauck	