

# United Methodist Herald

March 2024



Dunluce Castle, Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland - Photo credit: Paul Kluge

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## March Worship

### Lenten Series: Sacred Places

**March 3 - Celebration of Holy Communion - Mark 10:32-34**  
**Rev. Jerad Morey**

**March 10 - Mark 14:3-9**  
**Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**March 17 - Mark 14:32-42**  
**Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

### Lenten Services

**Sunday, March 24, 9:30 am - PALM SUNDAY - Mark 11:1-11**  
**Rev. Jerad Morey**

**Thursday, March 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**6:30-7:30 pm - Drop in Communion/foot or hand washing**  
**Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**Friday, March 29, 6:30 pm - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRAE**  
**Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**Sunday, March 31, 9:30 am - EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP**  
**Mark 16:1-8**  
**Rev. Rachel McIver 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://northfieldumc.org) or by emailing [northfieldumc@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldumc@gmail.com).

**General Fund January 2024 contributions \$28,525.66**  
**General Fund January 2023 contributions \$25,286.66**

**General Fund YTD 2024 contributions \$28,525.66**  
**General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$25,286.66**

## End of Year 2023 Financial Summary

Overall, 2023 was a good year financially. From the Consolidated Statement of Activities, 2023 income totaled \$660,829.94 while the expenses totaled \$646,713.52 resulting in a net income of \$14,116.42. In 2022 total income was \$417,545.90 while the total expenses were \$642,382.72 for a net loss of (\$224,836.82). 75% of the 2022 loss, \$169,857.74, was attributable to a \$131,786.60 decrease in the market value of the endowment funds plus a \$38,071.14 withdrawal from Physical Plant Savings fund needed to help pay for 2022 church and parsonage maintenance.

### General Fund:

The End of Year 2023 total Offering Income was \$373,253.92 which is \$9,984.04 more than the End of Year 2022 total Offering Income of \$363,359.88. The annual budget for 2023 was \$400,000. Other Income for 2023 totaled \$46,957.86 as compared to \$29,209.90 for 2022.

For the months of November and December 2023 the combined Offering Income was \$90,724.32. For comparison, the November and December 2022 combined Offering Income was \$88,342.32. Conference Apportionments for 2023 were paid in full. At the end of December 2023, the balance in the checking account was \$47,795.27.

### Physical Plant:

Total 2023 income was \$168,652.24. This included Support from General Fund of \$138,807.12; \$8,420 income from Building Campaign; and, \$21,425.12 from Building Fund Interest Income. Subtracting total expenses of \$155,586.64 yields a net income of \$13,065.60. Two larger than expected expenses were recorded in 2023:

- 1) Total insurance payments were \$18,346.21 versus an annual budget of \$16,000. This included a lump sum up-front payment for wind and hail damage coverage of approximately \$4,100; and,
- 2) Organ Maintenance expenses of \$15,663.13 (a large payment of \$15,380.00 was made in April) versus an annual budget of \$10,000.

### Endowment Funds:

At the end of 2023, the funds totaled \$941,047.78 which includes \$334,802.54 that we owe ourselves. This is \$28,123.84 more than the first of the year due to retained earnings of \$71,965.92 and annual disbursement of \$43,842.08. Two disbursements totaling \$7,036.96 were taken during June: \$1,539.40 from Sather Missions Fund and \$5,497.56 from Sather Scholarship Fund. In addition, two disbursements totaling \$36,805.12 were taken from the Building Maintenance Fund: \$15,380.00 in April for Organ Maintenance and an annual fund interest distribution of \$21,425.12 in June.



# Message from the Pastor

By now, you have likely heard that a new pastor will be coming this summer. This is not the first time NUMC has walked through this transition - far from it! - but each time has its own dynamics and its own story.

One of the unique elements this time is that the transition coming is of my choosing. Normally, a pastoral change in the United Methodist Church comes by way of a call from the Bishop or superintendent to the pastor saying, "guess what? Time to move on! God has a new call for you!" In our system, we aim to build strong congregations that are not dependent on any given clergyperson; ours is a model of "shared leadership" that doesn't leave any one pastor in a place so long that it becomes completely shaped around the gifts (or deficits!) of that particular pastor. I have the things I am good at, as does Pastor Jerad - and other pastors have their own gifts and graces. This movement is healthy for the church overall because it allows many congregations to work with different pastors and "shake up" patterns that might not be useful or helpful.

This go-round, NUMC has time to prepare for this change in a different way. I made this choice intentionally, because we have had to walk through some intense years during my tenure. I don't need to list all of the big challenges we walked through during the Morey era - it has been an eventful time! - but I did want the congregation to have a chance to remember who it is, regardless of its clergy: an open, inclusive, forward-leaning and outward-facing gathering of the Body of Christ that has been about the Lord's work in Northfield for a very, very long time.

## So what happens now?

The NUMC Board has already begun meeting with our district superintendent, Michelle Hargrave, to build what is called a "church profile." Using survey data and current program and community needs, they compile a point-in-time snapshot of who NUMC is, who you are called to be, and who you are called to serve. This profile becomes the basis by which the Bishop and the Cabinet (the gathering of all district superintendents in Minnesota) begin the work of discerning names of active clergy who God might be calling to take up the mantle here. Sometime this spring, they will introduce clergy to the Board for an initial conversation.

Once the match is made, the announcement goes out to both the new clergy's current congregation and to NUMC itself. I and Pastor Jerad will meet with the new person to help introduce them to all things NUMC, but the expectation is that you all will work with the new person to begin this new era together once they arrive this summer - so you are not filling a "Rachel" or

"Jerad" shaped hole. Rather, you are collaboratively discerning what the partnership between laity and pastors will be.

## What can you do?

1) Pray for and support the work of the leaders on the NUMC Board: your chairs, Kevin Dahle and Pierce FollansbeeDelong; SPRC Contact Sara Newberg; treasurer David Wolf; Secretary Carolyn Seas; and at-large members Allie Lyman, Jessy Hoffer, Warren Winkelman, Crystal Greenfield, Bruce Benson, and Thalia Duffield. NUMC has a history of excellent lay leadership, and this Board is a fantastic group of leaders who are prayerful, clear-sighted, honest, and efficient. Lift them up in your prayers during the transition.

2) Pray for and support the remaining staff at the church: Ruth Kruse, our parish nurse; Sandy Vesledahl, our church administrator; Gregory Ennis, our children's ministry coordinator; Kathryn Steed and substitute Stephanie Ennis in the nursery; Arturo De Rosas, our custodian; Jesse Steed, our worship and communication technology consultant; David Miller with the band; Deborah Rae Miller with the choir; organists Joanne Rodland and Donna Paulsen; Kathy Szydlo, bell choir director. These folks are called and gifted in their work areas, and it has been a deep joy to serve alongside them.

3) Pray for the new pastor(s) and be ready to support them upon arrival. This could look like many different things, and there will be specific needs for this as we get closer, but I invite your open hearts toward what they will bring and what good things lie ahead at NUMC because they will help lead the way. My colleagues in the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church have remarkable and varied gifts across so very many ministry areas - I am excited for what you will do together.

The feelings that come with this kind of transition can be complicated - sadness, wonder, anxiety, confusion, and hope make a pretty sloppy muddy mix. And that's just what I am feeling! Allow yourself and others space to feel what they need to, and remember that God welcomes the whole of human experience in prayer. Let it be messy, and know that God makes beautiful things out of mud and dirt.

Beginning in April I will be around less as I take up my new position with Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul, but I will be supporting Pastor Jerad and our (spectacularly helpful!) retired colleagues during our remaining weeks in Northfield until we leave fully after Graduation Sunday. That will be a bit of a messy and muddy time - transitions always are - but we will make it through to the other side in our good God's time.

In the meantime, as we approach Easter, it is good to remember the disciples had absolutely no idea the resurrection was coming, let alone how it would change them and the whole world. God is at work in ways we do not see, and in people we have not even met yet. It is in this God we rest our hope for ourselves, the church, and the whole of creation.

Blessings, Rachel

# 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](mailto: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.

## No Super Wednesday March 27th (Spring Break)

## Playtime! - Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30am-10am

For children five and under with their caregivers - if you have a little in your life in need of some space to run and play this winter, we offer an open gym (with bouncehouse!) two mornings a week.

## Weather Closings

Tis the season to watch for bad weather. . .NUMC policy is to follow the school district on any closures. So if the school closes, we do not have activities that day.



**Sunday, March 31st - Easter Brunch**  
Gather with your family in Fellowship Hall following Easter Service for brunch. Freewill donation, proceeds to youth programs.

Northfield United Methodist Church  
Community Easter Egg Hunt  
Sunday, March 17th  
2:00 pm

Meet in the south entrance parking lot





ISAIAH has issued its 2024 "Claiming Our Choices Agenda," calling upon all elected Minnesota officials to govern with the following principles at the forefront:

**A DEMOCRACY THAT HONORS EVERY PERSON'S DIGNITY  
and  
A CARING ECONOMY THAT ALLOWS EVERYONE TO THRIVE**

We are supporting legislative and executive actions that expand voting rights, shift from punishment to restoration and redemption, end Islamophobia and antisemitism, welcome immigrants, and fully-fund education that is equitable for all.

In addition, we are seeking a state that supports all kinds of families and their ability to care for each other, that promotes affordable, dignified places to live, work, retire and play, a guaranteed health care system, a system of finance where everyone can access wealth, clean air and water and responsible stewardship of the land, a just and equitable clean energy transition, and accessible, affordable childcare that honors the essential work of childcare professionals with dignified wages.

This is a broad agenda that cannot be accomplished quickly. But together we can take meaningful steps toward building the beloved community that we are called to by the mission Christ calls us to.

No specific actions to take at this time. Just be alert to news coming from the legislative bodies and prayerfully consider what the future might look like. Specific action alerts will be coming soon.

For more information and to join the NUMC-ISAIAH team contact Evelyn Burry ([evelynburry@hotmail.com](mailto:evelynburry@hotmail.com), 507-581-4684).



### Mugs and Muffins

Spring must be here! Mugs and Muffins will meet on March 18th. We took the winter months off and are now ready to continue our study of the "Boys of the Bible Quilt Block Series."

New members and guests are always welcome. We will meet in the church library at 9 AM.



### Mission Sewing Project

In February we packed 2 large boxes that will be brought to Midwest Mission Distribution Center. In the boxes were: 53 diapers, 10 receiving blankets, 5 layette jackets, 4 Cover Them with Love Quilts, 2 packages of underpants, 12 girl sets (top and shorts), boy sets (tank top and shorts) and 21 boy shorts.



We are always longing for more people to help meet our goals. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 27th to tie quilts and start other projects. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.

### Adult Forum: March 17

General Conference of the United Methodist Church is April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Since the specially called General Conference of 2019, there have been massive changes in the UMC: around 25% of the denomination's churches have "disaffiliated" over disagreement around human sexuality. While that percentage is much lower in Minnesota, this global rift has had local consequences. At the upcoming General Conferences, there are proposals on the table for how the global church should do life together moving forward. We will offer updates on these proposals, what it all means for NUMC, and take questions after worship on March 17.

**Pastor Rachel Lenten Coffee Hours**  
12:30-2:00 pm

**Goodbye Blue Monday**

**Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26**

**No appointment necessary, just drop in!**

### SUPER WEDNESDAY MEALS

**Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm**

For the weekly Super Wednesday meal menu visit our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthfieldUMC>

each week or call the church office at 507-645-5689.

**NO SUPER WEDNESDAY MARCH 27TH**



## Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)

During most of March, Muslims worldwide will be observing Ramadan, which begins this year at sundown on March 10 and ends at sundown on April 9. Most of us probably don't know very much about Ramadan. According to [Islamic Networks Group \(ING\)](#), Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims and is a time of intense spiritual rejuvenation. "In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate." During this month, Muslims spend extra time in prayer and reading the Qur'an. The last day is called Eid ul-Fitr and is a major holiday, celebrated with gifts, food, community gatherings, and special prayers.



A program coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota provides the opportunity for non-Muslims to experience a little bit of Ramadan and learn more about it. Called Taking Heart, the long-running program brings Christians and members of other faith communities together with Muslims for food and conversation by sharing an iftar, which is the evening meal to break the daily fast. The two iftars being offered by mosques close to Northfield are:

- South Metro Islamic Center in Rosemount, March 26 at 5:30 pm
- Faribault Islamic Center, March 28 at 6:00 pm

You can find out more about these events and register for one of them—or one of the others offered throughout the metro area—at [mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart](http://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart).

If you want to greet your Muslim neighbors during Ramadan, you can say "Ramadan Mubarak" ("blessed Ramadan") or "Eid Mubarak" ("blessed holiday").



## IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

Join fellow NUMC folk for a series of online Zoom meetings to learn how to be more organized online using Google products like Drive, Calendar, Forms, and more! Learn how to use Google Workspace and premium features for free for nonprofits. Collaborate with fellow committee members to work efficiently in committees and teams and streamline project management and event planning.

**Google Basics. Workspace** - why your organization should have Google Workspace and what you can do with it. Accounts - how to log in and switch accounts, why can't I share a password with another person?

**Google Groups.** How to create a group of users and use the group as an email list. How to easily share content to groups of users in one fell swoop.

**Google Calendar.** Create a calendar event, invite people, include links to agendas. Include documents, locations, and more.

**Google Forms.** Make a signup, RSVP, application form, etc. Link the form to a spreadsheet. Share access to others.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

**When:** Every Tuesday for 4 weeks.

Mar 26, 2024 04:00 PM

Apr 2, 2024 04:00 PM

Apr 9, 2024 04:00 PM

Apr 16, 2024 04:00 PM



Register in advance for this meeting on our website in the Technology section <https://northfieldumc.org/technology> or directly here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYof-usrD4uHtAlg8HjNutok0cdouC8xv5O>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



# Notes from the Parish Nurse

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a growing public health problem. This disease affects more than 37 million American adults, with 1 in 3 adults being at risk for the disease. There are 600,000 people living with kidney failure and 100,000 people who are actually waiting for a kidney transplant. Most people do not know that they have CKD or are at risk for it. The leading causes of CKD are diabetes and high blood pressure. Chronic kidney disease, which has no symptoms, can be a life-threatening illness, but often goes undetected until very advanced. People at risk for CKD, “may be able to prevent the need for dialysis and kidney transplantation with early identification and a dedication to healthy habits.” Through simple tests, it can be diagnosed early, managed, and kidney damage can even be slowed or stopped. March is National Kidney Month. In preparation for this event, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) offers a 6-step primer for protecting one’s health. Listed below are the six steps in abbreviated form.



## Step 1: Know These Facts

**6 Things Healthy Kidneys Do:** regulate the body’s fluid levels, filter wastes and toxins from the blood, release a hormone that regulates blood pressure, activate vitamin D to maintain healthy bones, release the hormone that directs production of red blood cells, and keep blood minerals in balance.

**8 Problems CKD Can Cause:** cardiovascular disease, heart attack and stroke, high blood pressure, death, weak bones, nerve damage, kidney failure, and anemia.

## Step 2: Assess Your Risk

**4 Main Risk Factors:** diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and family history of kidney disease or diabetes or high blood pressure. Other risk factors include: over the age of 60 years, obesity, prolonged use of NSAIDS (pain medication such as ibuprofen and naproxen), and chronic urinary tract infections or kidney stones.

## Step 3: Recognize Symptoms

**8 Possible Trouble Signs:** fatigue or weakness; difficult, painful urination; foamy urine; pink, dark urine; puffy eyes; swollen face, hands, abdomen, ankles, feet; increased thirst; and increased need to urinate (especially at night). Poor appetite, difficulty sleeping, dry and itchy skin, and muscle cramping at night are other symptoms.

## Step 4: Get Tested

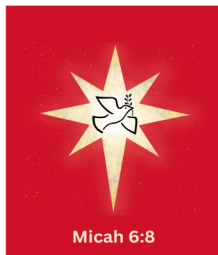
**4 Simple, Life-Saving Tests:** blood pressure, protein in urine (ACR or albumin-creatinine ratio), creatinine in blood, and glomerular filtration rate (GFR), which tells how well one’s kidneys are working to remove wastes from the blood.

## Step 5: Stay Healthy

**9 Things Everyone Should Do:** exercise regularly, control weight, follow a balanced diet, quit smoking, drink only in moderation, stay hydrated, monitor cholesterol levels, get an annual physical, and know your family medical history. Kidney-healthy snacks include: unsalted nuts (peanuts, almonds, and walnuts), fruits (both fresh and dried), fiber bars, and vegetables (grape tomatoes, carrots, bell peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, and cucumbers). Reducing salt intake, keeping blood sugar levels under control (if diabetic), and maintaining a normal blood pressure are important too.

## Step 6: Learn More

Contact the National Kidney Foundation at [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org) or 1-800-622-9010 to learn more about chronic kidney disease.



**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*

**Look what our \$1,700 donation to the Shepherd Society has helped accomplish!  
(This donation was from funds raised at our Palestine Dinner last fall.)**

Dear Friends of Shepherd Society,

It has been a very busy month. Most of the work of the Shepherd Society has tripled and all as a result of this awful situation in Palestine especially in Gaza. The need is great and the beacon of hope has become so far away from us. Yet despite the despair, we through the Shepherd Society try to bring hope to the area. So far we have had many great achievements through the support of you, our friends, and donors. I am thankful for many of you who stood in solidarity with us.

**Accomplishments:**

**Gaza:**

1. 1000 food meals for individuals in Gaza.
2. Food support to the people who reside in the two churches in Gaza
3. Buying fuel (very limited amount available)
4. Medical support to Gaza (limited)
5. Support to the Anglican Hospital “Al Ahli” through the Jerusalem Office.
6. Personal needs through partners and volunteers by providing cash and other needs.

**Bethlehem:**

1. 250 medical cases covered
2. 750 food packages
3. 120 job opportunities for the people who were affected by the war.
4. Family to Family support for beneficiaries who are below the poverty level.
5. A basketball tournament to raise money for the people of Gaza and also to be in solidarity with those who are suffering, especially children – women, and families in General.

**The MICAH Team is thankful to the NUMC Board** for passing and adopting the United Women of Faith’s Call for a ceasefire in Gaza. (See this UWF call in the February Herald)

The Archbishop of Canterbury said on Feb 12 that the call for a cease-fire is "a moral cry for humanity," as he urged that the killings in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict "must" stop.

**The 2024 World Day of Prayer on Friday March 1st will be led by Christian women of Palestine.**

This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The program was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7. We reflected collectively on this theme from the context of our suffering as Palestinian Christian women. We hope to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times. Oakwood United Methodist Church in New Ulm is holding a live service.







United  
Women  
in Faith

**Palm Sunday Bake Sale March 24**  
**HOPE Center presentation April 8**

**United Women in Faith :Meeting Dates**

**March 4, 2024 – UWF Executive Board meeting – 3:00 Fellowship Hall**

**March 11, 2024 - Esther Circle – 1:00 PM**

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

**March 18, 2024 - Mugs and Muffins – Church Library – 9:00 AM**

Website: [UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org) – National UWFaith [mnconfumw.com](http://mnconfumw.com) – Minnesota UWFaith

**United Women in Faith of Northfield UMC has a full schedule in 2024.**

**Everyone is invited to be a part of our mission fundraising and women’s networking events.**

Wanting to be more involved in God’s work in Northfield? In Minnesota? In the world? Northfield’s United Women in Faith has a place for your compassionate heart, and hands and feet for Jesus. UWFaith Executive Board needs your ideas. First Monday of each month at 3:00 PM in NUMC FH. Questions? Contact Catherine Williams, [cwilliamsteacher303@gmail.com](mailto:cwilliamsteacher303@gmail.com) or call 507-301-5865-leave a message. Please mark your calendars and help wherever you can.

**Calendar of Events this 2024 - All caring souls are needed to help with any UWFaith event.**

**March 24**, 8:30 AM - Palm Sunday Bake Sale

**April 8**, 1:30 PM - Esther Circle invites everyone interested in learning about HOPE Center - Executive Director, Erica Staab-Absher speaking. Meet us at: Kildahl Park Pointe – 888 Cannon Valley Drive, Northfield, MN.

**May** - “Happy Hearts” Quilt raffle – Open to congregation and others. Proceeds will go to Emma Norton Residence operating fund.

**June 2** - Drawing for “Happy Hearts” quilt raffle.

**June 19-22** - Mission Rummage Sale - Set-up – Sale – and take down.

**August 18-September 8** - Apple Pie Sale – Depends on apple harvest and available helpers.

**September 21** - Saturday Pie Making Day – United Women in Faith members need assistance of our younger members from the congregation to complete this project. We cannot do it without more helping hands.

**October 12** - Ladies Retreat at River Bend Nature Center – A rejuvenating time for mind, body, and spirit is planned for up to 40 women from NUMC and friends. More information to follow.

**December 1** - Bake Sale and Home Spun Holiday Bazaar.

**Palm Sunday Bake Sale – March 24** –An all call for bakers. Bring items to the church at 8:30 AM to be priced and set out. Sale starts at 9:00 AM, continues through the morning. Purchase items for your Easter celebrations. Proceeds go toward UWFaith budget. Questions? Contact Catherine Williams.

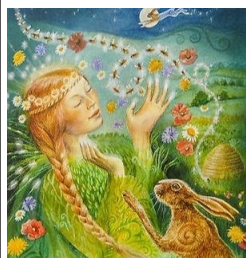
**Emma Norton Residence, Restoring Waters**, capital campaign is in full swing. There is a need for \$1 million yet to be raised to complete the project. You are called to help lift the response over the top. Contact Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Advancement Dir. at [snelsen@emmanorton.org](mailto:snelsen@emmanorton.org) or call 651-251-2632.

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

## The Easter Bunny - Where did it come from?

I once had a pet rabbit who lived in the house same as my two dogs and cat. It was a house full of animals (and a little chaos)! He was house broke, used a litter pan, just like my cat, and was one of the most intriguing pets I've ever had. He was a large black and white French Lop rabbit named Bandit. The dogs were terrified of him because he was much larger than they were when I first brought them home as puppies. This was comical considering they were Basset Hounds and Basset Hounds were originally bred to hunt rabbits. Bandit's best friend was the cat. They played together and chased each other around the house. I think Bandit actually thought he was a cat. Bandit got his name from the black fur around his eyes which looked like he was wearing a mask. His name also fit him as he could be a bit of a "bandit" if I didn't keep an eye on him when I would give him the run of the house outside of his kennel. He especially liked to chew through electric cords, phone cords, computer wires, etc. if I wasn't paying attention. Cords and his own toys was all he ever destroyed in the house however, and he always, faithfully, used his litter pan. He would go for walks on a leash outside with me and he had the largest personality. He was fun and cute as could be, but he was no Easter Bunny. He had an attitude and would snort when mad. Although Bandit was definitely no Easter Bunny I've often wondered where the Easter Bunny originated.

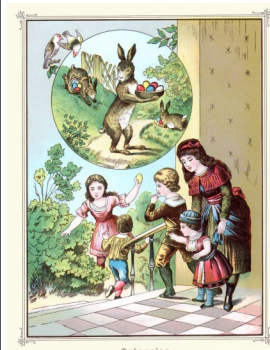
As a child I remember the Easter Bunny as a 6-foot rabbit, wearing human clothes, who snuck around the yard the night before Easter and hid colored eggs that it "laid". Hmm...I have questions. Where did this whole magical idea of the Easter Bunny originate? Why does he bring us candy and eggs? A rabbit that "lays" eggs? And most importantly, what does a bunny have to do with the religious holiday of Easter?



Easter is a time to celebrate the end of the Lenten season and the resurrection of Jesus. The Bible makes no mention of a mythical hare who delivers eggs to children on the day of Jesus' resurrection. So how has a rabbit become a prominent piece of one of Christianity's most important celebrations? After doing a little research on the topic, I discovered there are a lot of theories out there. One stems from an ancient pagan tradition called the festival of Eostre, which honored the goddess of fertility, spring and new beginnings. This ancient goddess of spring found a bird with an injured wing. She knew it wouldn't fly again even if she healed it. Instead, she transformed it into a hare but it retained its ability to lay an egg. To thank her, the hare lays a colored egg for her every spring on her festival day. The rabbit became the spirit animal of the goddess of fertility, spring and new beginnings.

Eggs have long been considered an ancient symbol of rebirth and new life. Possibly representing Jesus' resurrection and emergence from the tomb. A theory which dates back to the 13th century when eggs were considered a forbidden food during the Lent season, is that people would decorate them as the fasting period came to an end to make eating them a more celebratory way to feast on Easter Sunday.

Eggs have been a symbol of spring rebirth since ancient times. Engraved ostrich eggs were discovered in Africa dating from 60,000 years ago; decorated eggs were commonly placed in the graves of ancient Egyptians 5,000 years ago, early Christians of Mesopotamia dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Christ.



The two symbols of fertility, the egg and the hare, come together in an ancient German tradition of a mythical hare that laid colored eggs for children to find on Easter Day. This was introduced to America by German immigrants in the 18th century with the tradition of an egg-laying hare name "Osterhase" (hase means hare in German). Children would make nests where the bunny could leave his eggs and even sometimes set out carrots for him in case he got hungry. Remind you of any other holiday tradition? Such as Santa?

While Bandit, the house rabbit, was a beloved member of my family, I'm certain he would not have enjoyed the celebrity status of being the Easter Bunny. Not every bunny can be an Easter Bunny. It appears that throughout history the Easter Bunny was a very special rabbit indeed, but just like Santa and Christmas there is no confirmed religious origin to the Easter Bunny's association with Easter Sunday. Regardless of how it came to be, this beloved magical character remains a fun tradition bringing joy to children and families each year as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. - Sandy Vesledahl, Office Administrator



Modern day Easter Egg coloring with my great-niece and nephew.



# 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](http://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.

## Compost Volunteer

We are in need of a volunteer to help with plate scraping at Super Wednesday's meals. If you could spend 15 minutes once or twice a month, please contact Mary Ann Polley at [mapks@msn.com](mailto:mapks@msn.com), or 507-645-6271, or in person!



## Card Making with Margie

Monday, March 18, 2024  
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.



## DRIVERS NEEDED

For many years our church has had a list of individuals who were willing to drive others to church services or appointments. We no longer have a list of volunteer drivers but would like to build that ministry again, as we continue to get requests for this kind of assistance. Please let Ruth Kruse, Parish Nurse, know if you are able to join this ministry of offering rides to others.

You may put your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk, email Ruth at [info@northfieldumc.org](mailto:info@northfieldumc.org), or leave a note in her mailbox in the church office. Thank you!

## Is That Compostable?

Wondering what to do with your napkins or paper towels at the church? Well guess what, they are both compostable!

You can place your napkins and paper towels in the same green (or green bagged) container as your other compostable items.



Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

## April Herald Newsletter Deadline

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

**Noon on Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

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

Late submissions will not be accepted.



**Regular Church Office Hours**  
Mon.- Thurs.,  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Friday - 8:00 - noon



# Because every picture has a story to tell...



Boiler down? Bruce Paulson to the rescue! Thanks to Bruce, Kevin Allin and Perry Kruse for their quick response when our boiler acted up over the weekend of January 22nd.

What do you do when the sanctuary heat is out? (boiler down) We take a short walk to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday worship instead!



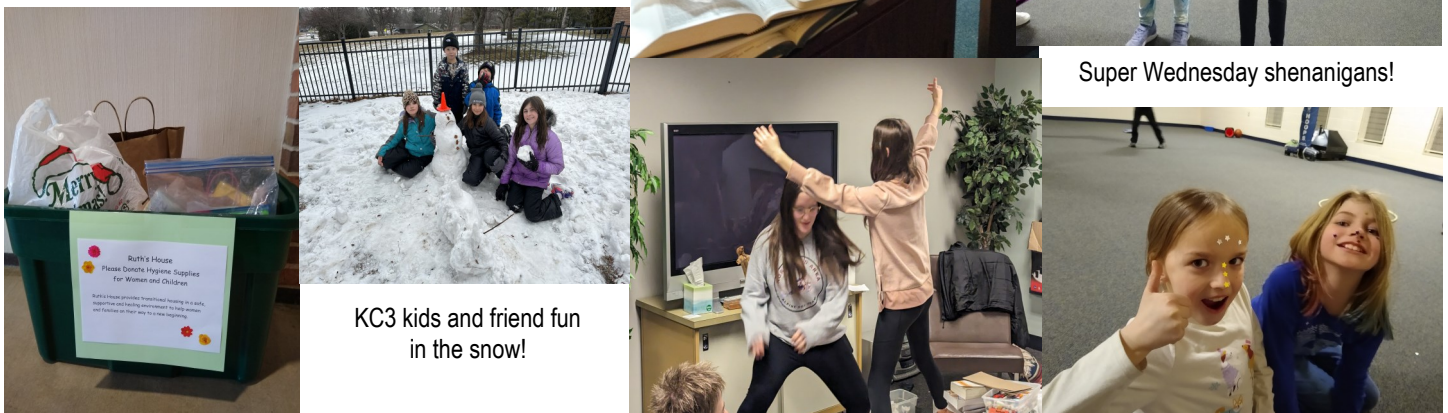
Pastor Jerad joins the children of KC3 to talk about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and burn the previous year's Palm Sunday palms to make this year's ashes.

Pastor Jerad leads the Ash Wednesday service, and invites us to consider what it is we are called to leave and what it is we hope to receive during this Lenten season.



Adults and youth heard from Ruth's House, an agency based in Faribault with programs in Northfield supporting women in crisis and their children. SALT team hosted the event and a subsequent hygiene item drive for the church.

Super Wednesday shenanigans!



KC3 kids and friend fun in the snow!

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 Men's Breakfast 3:00-5:30 Community Reservation	2 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
3 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	4 8:30 Community Reservation 3:00 UWF Board mtg 7:00 Community Reservation	5 6:00am-9:00pm Community Reservation 9:00 Bible Study 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Goodbye Blue Monday  <b>No Playtime for Toddlers or Methodist Mile walking due to Primary Elections, NUMC is a polling place</b>	6 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation <b>Super Wednesday</b> 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym	7 8:30-10:00 Playtime for Toddlers 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00-9:00 Community Reservation	9 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 2:00-6:00 Community Reservation
10 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation	11 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 7:00 Community Reservation	12 8:30-10:00 Playtime for Toddlers 9:00 Bible Study 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Goodbye Blue Monday 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile	13 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation <b>Super Wednesday</b> 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym	14 8:30-10:00 Playtime for Toddlers 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile	15 8:00 Men's Breakfast	16 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
17 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:45 Adult Forum - General Conference Update 2:00 SALT Easter Egg Hunt	18 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Community Reservation	19 8:30-10:00 Playtime for Toddlers 9:00 Bible Study 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Goodbye Blue Monday 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile 7:00 Facilities Team mtg	20 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation <b>Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>Super Wednesday</b> 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Open Gym	21 8:30-10:00 Final Playtime for Toddlers 12:00 Community Reservation 2:00-4:00 Final Methodist Mile 7:00 Renewal via zoom	22 8:00 Men's Breakfast	23 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
24 8:30 UWF Bake Sale 9:30 Palm Sunday Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	25 7:00 Community Reservation	26 9:00 Bible Study 12:30-2:00 Pastor Rachel Goodbye Blue Monday	27 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation <b>No Super Wednesday</b>	28 12:00 Community Reservation 6:30-7:30 Maundy Thursday, drop in communion, foot or hand washing	29 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Good Friday Service of Tenebrae	30 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
31 9:30 Easter Celebration Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Easter Brunch and coffee in Fellowship Hall	1 <b>Church Office Closed</b>					



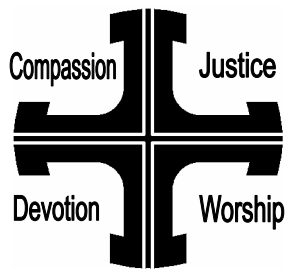
**NORTHFIELD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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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
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	