



United Methodist Herald

December 2021/January 2022



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December Sunday Worship

First Sunday of Advent: November 28

Luke 21:25-36

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens: Setting the Stage

Rev. Jerad Morey

Second Sunday of Advent: December 5

Luke 3:1-6

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens: The Ghost of Christmas Past

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

Third Sunday of Advent: December 12

Luke 3:7-18

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens: The Ghost of Christmas Present

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 19

Luke 1:39-55

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens: The Ghost of Christmas Future

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey

(Christmas Eve worship and special event information found on page 2)

Special December Christmas Events and Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 1
Hanging of the Greens
5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 15
Childrens Christmas Pageant
5:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24th
3:00, 4:30 and 10:00 pm
Luke 2:1-20
"A Big Year"
Rev. Jerad Morey

Sunday, December 26 - ON LINE WORSHIP ONLY

northfieldumc.org

Worship with the Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church
9:30 am

December Super Wednesday Menu

December 1 - Chicken and biscuits, jello and apple crisp

December 8 - Cheesy broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, fruit salad, bread and cake

December 15 - Roast beef, potatoes, carrots, raspberry fluff, bread and baked apples





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.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE UPDATE

The stewardship and finance committee submitted a budget for 2022 that was approved unanimously to the Administrative Council on Tuesday, November 16. We are closing out the year on a strong note financially. Everything is relative of course. Throughout this pandemic giving has remained stronger than we anticipated and had adjusted the budget for, and we have had reduced staff costs due to unfilled positions and reduction in other operating costs. Therefore, we move into 2022 with sound financial footing. This has allowed us to do two things. First, we have fully funded the youth and family coordinator position which has been unfilled for a while now, kept all other positions fully funded even if currently or soon to be vacant, and have raised the salaries of the pastors and staff, which had not been done for a while.

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
The church mail is checked daily.

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 October 2021 contributions \$23,534.66
General Fund October 2020 contributions \$30,215.66

General Fund YTD 2021 contributions \$289,174.60
General Fund YTD 2020 contributions \$290,356.60

Advent Service of Peace and Healing Sunday, December 19, 4:00 pm

As the darkest time of the year approaches with the Winter Solstice on December 21st, St. Peter's Church and the United Methodist Church will hold an Advent Service of Peace & Healing on Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 pm with musical prelude at 3:45 pm. The service will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 418 Sumner St. E., Northfield.

Marking the turning of the year from dark to light, this service is intended for anyone who has had loss during the year, grief, difficult memories of the season, or just desires an oasis of peace and calm before Christmas. Individual candles will be lit for oneself or others. Beautiful music will set the tone for the service fifteen minutes before worship begins. Music will be provided by Rose Sorenmann on cello, Randall Ferguson on guitar, Richard Collman on Celtic harp, and Mary Kay Bougie as cantor. The worship will include poetry, silence, meditation, and optional healing with laying on of hands. Pastors Rachel McIver Morey and David Weeks will lead us.

This event is open to all persons of the community. It is part of the Grief Coalition events in Northfield. For more information, contact the United Methodist church office at 507-645-5689 or St. Peter's office at 507-645-8252.



Message from the Pastor

On December 20th, I will have surgery on my left leg - this is (prayerfully) the final piece of recovery from the car accident I was in this summer. We are arranging pulpit and emergency care coverage now - I scheduled it at this time because, weirdly enough, by the end of December church life slows most; families are focused on other things, and we close the church office between Christmas and the new year to give staff a well-deserved break.

On the other side of the surgery, I will be unable to bear weight for a little over a month; this means that I will be a bit more scarce in the office after the turn of the year until I am able to navigate icy driveways and the like without unnecessary risks. I will be set up in my home office, though, so I will still be available by phone, text, email, and to whomever drops by the parsonage with any tasty treats (hint, hint. .!). Pastor Jerad will pick up more office duties and emergency care responsibilities during this time.

Also after the first of the year, staffing will change with the departure of Wendy Smith - our worship and music coordinator who has served and blessed this community richly with her remarkable gifts. We will be working on new position descriptions for what the next chapter in our worship ministries will call for. Wendy's work during the pandemic to create

recorded worship experiences and then to move us toward streaming this year has been critical to addressing the changing landscape in which we find ourselves, and all of that was on top of her lauded musical talents and band leadership. We bless this transition as she moves to a different role in the church family and seeks new adventures.

At the same time, we know the hiring market is tough right now. We can't simply expect to post a position and have it filled immediately - many of you in the workforce are experiencing this in your own places of employment, too, and the church is no different. What we should focus on, then, is working on growing our ministry in-house; the people we need might already be at hand in some cases. Do you or someone you know have interest or gifts in working with communication technology? Or choral music? Or older youth? Let's talk. We will keep moving forward, and when the right folks come along for these positions, we will be ready to go even farther with their gifts.

If you squint and glance sideways quickly, this Advent looks almost "normal" - Hanging of the Greens, Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve: all things that didn't happen or happened only online in 2020. But we can feel the difference, and it does no good to pretend otherwise. Keep your expectations flexible and your heart wide open. Jesus came to us in the flesh at Bethlehem in Judea as an infant in a stable. Mary and Joseph had to improvise that night, scrounging for a place to lay the newborn Christ. Let them be our guides as we prepare our hearts and homes to receive the Christ, whenever and however he arrives.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel

MUSIC News



Organists, instrumentalists, directors, vocalists, tech people, ushers, visual artists, readers, dancers, actors, Sunday School teachers, animal handlers, cooks, office managers, custodians, pastors, and you!

Wow, what a talented crew we have making worship here at Northfield United Methodist Church. It's been a joy to work with so many of you over the years. Thank you for your friendship and support.
Wendy Smith

Read the Bible in a Year: 2022



Are you ready to take the challenge to read the whole Bible in a year? It is a commitment, to be sure - but if you have never had the chance to do so, prayerfully consider if this is your time. We will have 5 day/week reading schedules available in the church office beginning in December, and we will offer occasional gatherings through the year for this year's readers.

Hanging of the Greens Service (December 1, 5:30pm, Sanctuary)

On Wednesday December 1, at 5:30 in the sanctuary we will hang the greens to decorate for Advent. Families are encouraged to come and participate with others in our Church community. Rachel and Jerad will be blessing those who are there with a simple ceremony to guide us, strengthen us, and give us joy this season. There will be dinner in the Fellowship Hall afterwards for those who wish to stay.

Grab Bag Pop-Up Christmas Pageant (December 15, 5:30pm, Sanctuary)

Children will rehearse on 12/1 and 12/8 after school during KC3 (if you have children younger than kindergarten who you would like to participate, please contact Children's Ministry Coordinator Gregory Ennis: gregorym.ennis@gmail.com). This pageant will look a bit different than years past. It will be what we are calling "A Grab Bag Pop-Up Pageant." What this means is that each time we practice, and on the day of the service, the children will grab a bag which will have an unknown costume and a script inside for the nativity performance. Why this style? COVID-19 is still with us, and we chose this format to make things more flexible in case of quarantines for any families. This way we can make sure that all parts are filled on the day of the pageant. There will be dinner in the fellowship hall afterwards for those who wish to stay. It will be an evening filled with joy and meaning.

MS/HS Youth

There will be an early December gathering for older youth that is still being scheduled; watch your email for details, or reach out to Jeremy Updike at: jeremyupdike@gmail.com

Sundaes on Wednesdays

December 8th, 6:30pm after the Super Wednesday meal, Sundaes on Wednesdays will gather for fellowship and formation with Amy and Kevin Allin.

10th Grade Confirmation: Covenant Discipleship

The 10th grade confirmands have formed a Covenant Discipleship group in which they have agreed together to strengthen their relationship with God and accountably live out their faith through acts of Compassion, Justice, Devotion and Worship. We will have biweekly remote check-ins as a group in December.

10th Grade Confirmation

January 9, 10:40am - 12:10pm

The 10th grade confirmation class will meet after Sunday worship on January 9.



NUMC,
Thank you from the Community Action Center of Northfield!
Thank you for your continued support of our programs. We are grateful to be in a community of neighbors supporting neighbors.
CAC

NUMC Friends,
Your efforts for Operation Backpack are necessary and applauded. Our students greatly benefit from your tenacity and kindness!
Thank you!
Bridgewater Elementary School Staff

NUMC,
Thank you so much for awarding me with an NUMC scholarship. It means a lot knowing that you are supporting me and believe in my future. I am so excited to be attending Iowa State this fall majoring in Ag Business. Thank you again for believing in me and supporting my education. I have really enjoyed attending church and hope to continue in the future.
Sincerely,
Ryan Hegland



Notes from the Parish Nurse

“The COVID pandemic year was not a lost year, but rather a year of enormous loss, of all sorts.” (David Kessler, Master’s in Health Care Bioethics, foremost expert on grief, www.grief.com) And that year has turned into a second year. We are all still reeling in sadness, grief, and loss for what has happened in our country and the world because of the pandemic. Kessler says, “...We are grieving. Collectively. We are not used to this kind of collective grief in the air.” Our lives are full of uncertainty which is not healthy for mind, body, or spirit.

Grief is sorrow for a loss that we are experiencing. It is a process or journey that is different for every person. “Grief is about change - change without our consent – and change that we don’t want.” (Kessler) Response to grief is similar whether the loss is from the death of a loved one, or loss of a job or sense of connection, or uncertainty about the future. While grieving, most people experience the five stages of grief that Elisabeth Kubler-Ross defined so many years ago. They are denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, and acceptance. David Kessler has added a sixth stage of grief: meaning. He believes that people need to acknowledge the grief they are feeling so they can learn to manage it and thus find meaning in the experience. He says, “We will find meaning in the hard-to-fathom events and we will be stronger for it.” People don’t usually follow these stages in an orderly manner. Any stage may be present at any time and a person may re-experience a stage many times over. There is no “right way” to grieve.

Throughout this pandemic we are also experiencing anticipatory grief, which is a feeling we get when we are uncertain about what the future holds. Something bad has happened, (like the pandemic) we can’t see it, but our sense of safety is lost. Lynne Eldridge, MD (www.verywellhealth.com) says “rather than death alone, this type of grief includes many losses, such as the loss of a companion, changing roles in the family, fear of financial change, and the loss of dreams of what could be.” Symptoms of anticipatory grief include:

- Sadness and tearfulness
- Fear
- Irritability, being “on edge”
- Loneliness
- Desire to talk
- Anxiety or depression
- Guilt
- Anger at things that can’t be controlled
- Fatigue, and even exhaustion
- Forgetfulness or poor concentration
- Emotional numbness



“Anticipatory grief is a sense of deep sorrow that occurs...as you’re anticipating what will happen. Your feelings can be very confusing and may leave you lonely and anxious on top of feeling great sadness.” (Eldridge) Know that you are not alone in what you are feeling right now. And the good news is that there are ways to cope with anticipatory grief.

- Express your pain, don’t deny it
- Let yourself grieve
- Create moments of joy
- Take time for physical and emotional health
- Spend time with others
- Stay informed
- Enlist the help of professionals as needed
- Practice love, forgiveness, and letting go

Whether during a pandemic or at the time of a loved one’s death, the manifestation of grief can be unexpected and unpredictable. “It’s important to acknowledge that, in this difficult time, there are layers of loss going on around us. We need to be patient with ourselves and patient with others.” (Chaplain Pam Lazor, www.cedars-sinai.org)

Many thanks to Clare Mather for her gentle nudge to broach this topic of grief and loss as related to COVID-19. I am grateful for the thoughts, links, and websites she shared with me.

MICAH NEWS

Methodists Investing in Care and Action for the Holy Land - Based on Micah 6:8

“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

Bethlehem: Then and Now (excerpts) by Rev Dr. Mitri Raheb

“O little town of Bethlehem” is one of the most famous Christmas Hymns. Bethlehem has become almost a mythological place: Children imagine it with a few “huts,” a few camels and the holy family. At the time of Jesus, Bethlehem was a little town of 300-1, 000 inhabitants. What people might not know is that the city of Bethlehem today is not in Israel but in Palestine, and that it is a bustling city with 28,000 people. One third of them are Palestinian Christians.

When Christians today sing “O little town of Bethlehem” they seldom think of the real city with the real people. When it comes to Bethlehem and to Christmas, Christianity has become so spiritualized and so commercialized. It’s all about Santa, the Tree, the gifts, and the food. But what happened in Bethlehem 2000 years ago was something real. Jesus was born as a refugee. His family was forced to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. Later his family had to flee the brutality of King Herod and go into hiding in Egypt for two years. Today Bethlehem has almost 20,000 Palestinian refugees who lost in 1948, when the State of Israel was established, their land, homes and belongings and came to Bethlehem seeking refugee. They are still living in three refugee camps waiting for a just solution.



Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus was a besieged city. Today Bethlehem is again a besieged city surrounded from three sides by a 25 foot high concrete wall. So what if Jesus were to be born today in Bethlehem? If Jesus were to be born this year, he would not be born in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph would not be allowed to enter from the Israeli checkpoint, and so too the Magi. The shepherds would be stuck inside the walls, unable to leave their little town. Jesus might have been born at the checkpoint like so many Palestinian children while having the Magi and shepherds on both sides of the wall.

The Gospel is that God became one of us, one like us. He came as a child, vulnerable, and weak. And yet through his vulnerability was able to overcome the empire. Christmas is God’s promise to us that we will have life, peace, and future. For us Palestinian Christians and citizens of Bethlehem the Christmas story of then is our story today.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, born in Bethlehem, Pastor of the Evang. Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and the President of [Diyar Consortium](#), one of the leading Christian Organizations in Palestine.

[Mitri has spoken in Northfield several times and his daughter graduated from St Olaf College.]

Please remember our church sponsored family, the Zreinehs, and all Orthodox Christians as they celebrate Christmas on January 7, 2022.



Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian organic, fair trade,
extra virgin olive oil.

500 ml/16.5 oz for \$15.00

750 ml/25.4 oz. for \$20.00

You may place your order for pickup or
delivery by contacting

Ann Richards at:

delightfulread@yahoo.com

or call 763-221-4823.

***Olive Oil will be available for purchase at the
church after the December 4th
worship service.***



United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW Circle Meeting Dates:

December 13, 2021 – Esther Circle - 1:00 PM; Celebrate Christmas

January 10, 2022 - 1:00 PM;

Kildahl Park Pointe, 888 Cannon Valley Drive, MN 55057

Program: Lead by Catherine Williams – Love, Hope, Peace, Joy - “Women of the Manger”

World Thank Offering

March 21, 2022 (no meetings December – February) – Mugs and Muffins – 9:00 AM;

Northfield UMC church library. Program: Women of the Bible in Quilt Blocks

Men of the Bible later in the year.

World Thank Offering will be dedicated at the December Circle meeting. For more than 135 years Methodist women have given to the World Thank Offering. This is an opportunity for us to respond to God’s abundant grace in the midst of change. Our contributions make possible the support of national and international work to meet the physical and social needs of women, children, and youth in our neighborhood and world.

Response Magazine is a key part of telling the UMW mission story, sharing what we do in service and advocacy with women, children and youth through educating on important issues. Copies of Response magazine can be found on the UMW Reading Cart in the NUMC Library.

Advent/A Season of Expectation: At this time of year we are reminded that Jesus came to us as a baby. A baby totally dependent on his parents, his family, his community, the society surrounding him. He grew through all the stages of childhood, teenage angst, young adult decisions facing all the “risks and wonders” of life, like us but different.

As we revisit the manger, what will we take away from it this year? Come to Circle. Meet three women at the edge of the manger scene: the inn keeper’s daughter, the wives of the sheep herder and the wise man. “Three bold women share their story, each from a different culture, and a different age of life. The three women were changed by their journey to the manger and God’s message for all people. This humble place calls us back to hear the story of miracles, mystery and its simple message. The love of a justice-seeking God is reflected in the face of the baby.” (Unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Reflection: How do you find your way to the manger? Are there manger moments in your life?

What Christmas event in your life has brought you close to God?

What signs today lead us to the manger? How can we transform the manger message into everyday life?

“Today our society has chosen punishment over play and made the world unsafe for children, leading to high rates of punitive responses. Children deserve time to play and flourish and make mistakes and grow with care in a loving community. Let’s make this Christmas one where Jesus’ birth means liberation for all babies and children of God.” (UMW Program Resource book: **Healing and Joy: Our Journey to God**)

Jesus became a great teacher, a kind man, a cultural identity. “However, if when visiting the manger,...you find a God who gave up everything to come live with us and die for us so we could finally get a taste of grace, you’ll want to give that message to everyone you meet. Who we are after Christmas says a lot about who we found in the manger.” (**Live in Grace-Walk in Love: a 365 Day Journey** by Bob Goff)



Assembly2022.org - May 20-22, 2022 Orlando, FL - United Methodist Women is a dynamic, ever changing organization. We are renewing and updating and staying relevant supporting the needs of women, children, and youth as God calls us. Join us in person or virtually! Early Bird registration ends November 31.

Visit Assembly2022.org for more information.



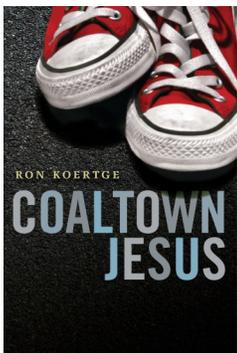
CHURCH LIBRARY *News*

An unexpected inheritance can be a wonderful thing. Your church library has been on the receiving end of just such a gifting. Especially exciting are books falling into the categories of Youth, and Young Adult

Ever been the “new kid” at school? *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio takes us on Auggie’s (August) journey of being that as well as being just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face.

Meet two teens, cousins, Johnny and Remember. That’s right, Remember, “who is what polite people call different and I call him weird,” declares Johnny. *Remember Dippy*, by Shirley Reva Vernick is full of characters and a summer you the reader won’t forget.

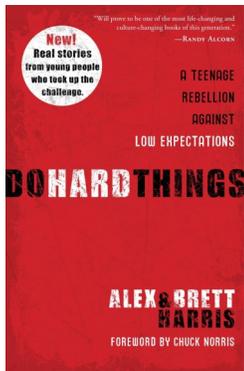
“Jesus was standing in the center of the room, between Walker’s bed and what used to be Noah’s. “You prayed,” said Jesus. “I showed up. I would have been here sooner, but traffic on I-55 was awful.”



And so author Ron Koertge introduces us to *Coaltown Jesus* and Walker who lost his beloved older brother, Noah, two months earlier.

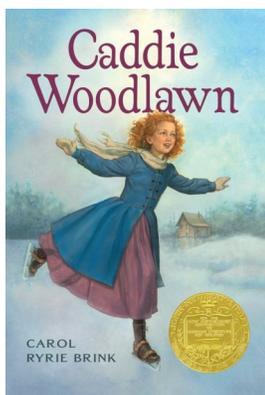
Another book taking a look at a serious topic is *Crazy*, which, author Linda Vigen Phillips explains, is loosely based on events and experiences of her own life. Laura, of the story, is a typical fifteen-year-old growing up in the 1960s, going to classes, developing friendships, even a new romance, but always carrying a secret: her mother is mentally ill. Adequate treatment for bipolar disorder was almost non-existent at the time.

Don’t let the look of a poem on the pages of both Phillips’ and Koertge’s works prevent you from enjoying the “prose story;” just in free-verse format, that’s all.



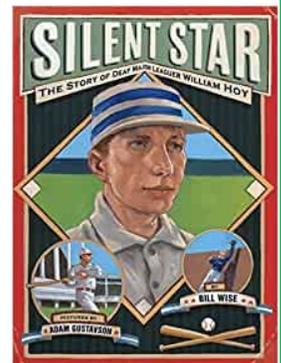
Twin brothers, Alex and Brett Harris, verging on their 20’s, advocate for a teenage rebellion against low expectations in their nonfiction book, *Do Hard Things*. One reviewer of their book sees it as a call to teenagers everywhere to channel their energy in world-changing activity with eternal significance.

Younger folks can take a look at the true story of the deaf major leaguer, William Hoy, in *Silent Star* by Bill Wise. Or, enjoy the adventures of red-headed tomboy, Caddie and her two equally red-haired brothers. This book, *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink, is based on the author’s grandmother’s childhood growing up during the pioneer days of Wisconsin.



Not bad reading for those of us beyond the “Youth and Young Adult” category.

The books noted above are from a list put out by the national office of UMW. Many Methodist women have already had access, but they are now available to a much wider audience here at NUMC - from Methodist men to young adults to children, and to anyone not having yet read them.

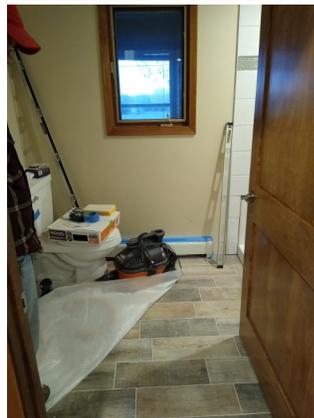


Parsonage Remodel Update

In January 2021, the NUMC trustees began replacing the floor on the main level at the parsonage. . . and noticed a few other items that needed some attention as they worked! As a ministry tool of the church, the parsonage is supposed to "encourage residence by someone with a disability" (UMC Book of Discipline 2016). Without a ramp or other accommodations, the parsonage was not a place where congregants or others needing wheelchairs or walkers could easily come. Over the course of the last 10 months, the flooring has been replaced on the main floor and in the hallway upstairs, a wall on the back of the kitchen was removed to make a wider entrance from the garage, a ramp was built in through the garage, and the bathroom on the main floor had a shower added to make a main-floor living unit. Additionally, at the fall trustee work day, folks removed vegetation and broken window well covers from the exterior of the house as well as in the "mini-woods" at the east edge of the lot (take that, buckthorn!). The bathrooms upstairs had fans installed, and the north bathroom was repainted and a new light fixture was installed. Top it off with a new paint job on the main floor, and these folks have been very busy.

While the pictures here show part of the story, the pastors will offer an open house as the weather warms up so everyone can see what was done. We will also celebrate these labors during worship in December, including the thousands of dollars saved by the labor of those in our congregation. We tried to capture some sense of who all did what, but no categories really cover the whole of what was accomplished here (and if we missed the names of any volunteers, please let us know!) - if you see these folks, thank them for their generous spirits and how they offered their gifts for ministry this year.

Kerry Hanson (Trustee chairperson, wood staining/carpentry, painting, design and small repairs)
Scott Rodning (remodeling project manager, tile work, flooring, trim, repairs and installation)
Dave Wolf (flooring and trim)
Bruce and Ruth Paulson (upstairs bathroom repairs, painting, and light installation)
George and Linda Davis (painting)
Mark Thornton and Linda Thornton (flooring and landscaping)
Bill Thornton (flooring)
Kevin Merkle (flooring and landscaping)
Brian Malecha (internal/external repairs)
Bill Hofer (external repairs)
Bruce and Diane Lyman (landscaping)
Gene Lyman (landscaping)
Clay Oglesbee (landscaping)
Arturo Rosas (painting)



Because every picture has a story to tell...



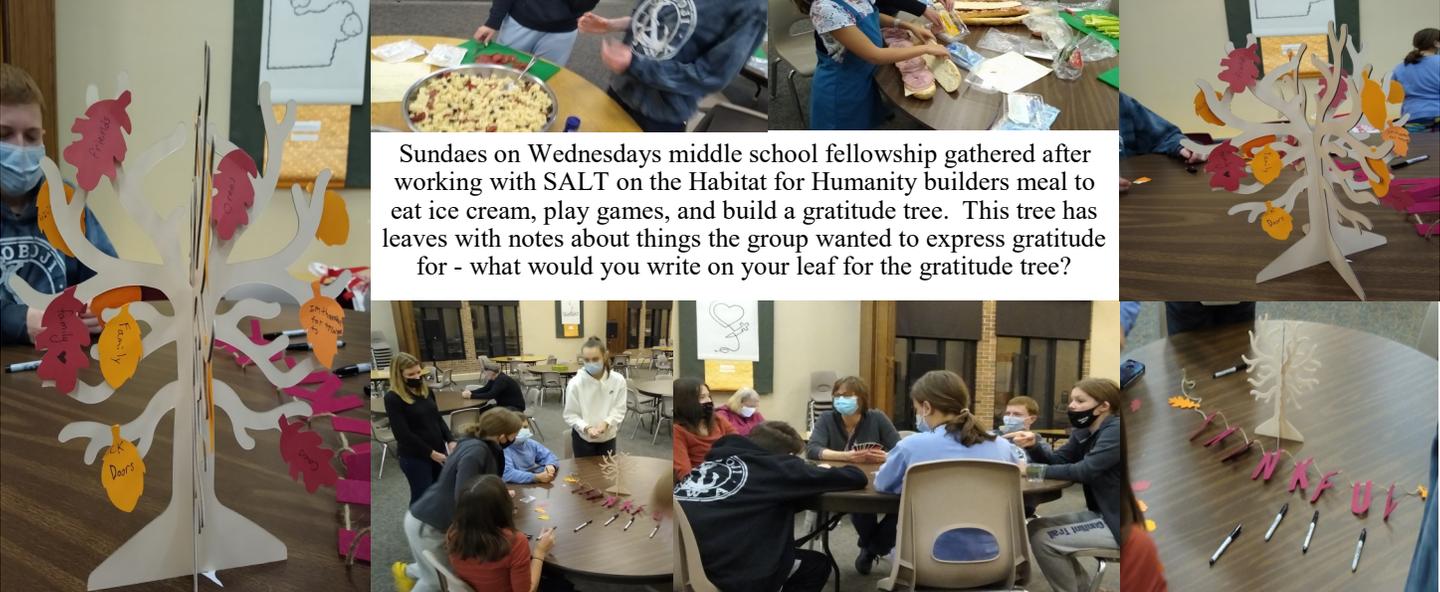
Our inaugural Trunk or Treat on October 31st was blessed with 61 children and beautiful weather! Thanks to all who brought cars and costumes for this daytime opportunity to share love and candy with children in our community.



SALT (Serving and Learning Together) team worked with the Sundaes on Wednesdays middle school fellowship (as well as a few younger friends!) Making lunch for the volunteer Habitat for Humanity builders on November 13th. Sandwiches, pasta salad, veggies, chips, and homemade chocolate chip cookies for 30 people - thanks to the leaders and youth for making it happen.



Sundaes on Wednesdays middle school fellowship gathered after working with SALT on the Habitat for Humanity builders meal to eat ice cream, play games, and build a gratitude tree. This tree has leaves with notes about things the group wanted to express gratitude for - what would you write on your leaf for the gratitude tree?



December

			1 9:00 Mission Sewing SUPER WEDNESDAY 3:00 KC3 5:30 Shared meal 5:30 Hanging of the Greens 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	2	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast	4
5 9:30 Worship	6 3:00 UMW Board Mtg	7 9:00 Bible Study	8 9:00 Mission Sewing SUPER WEDNESDAY 3:00 KC3 5:30 Shared meal 6:30 Sundaes on Wednesday/SALT 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast	11
12 9:30 Worship	13	14 9:00 Bible Study	15 9:00 Mission Sewing SUPER WEDNESDAY 3:00 KC3 5:30 Shared meal 5:30 Children's Christmas Pageant 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 Renewal via zoom	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast	18
19 9:30 Worship	20	21 9:00 Bible Study 1:00 Card Making with Margie	22 9:00 Mission Sewing NO SUPER WEDNESDAY	23	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship 4:30 Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Church Office Closed	25
26 9:30 Worship online	27 Church Office Closed	28 9:00 Bible Study Church Office Closed	29 NO SUPER WEDNESDAY Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed	

PLEASE NOTE: Many other non-church related community events/meetings are scheduled at the church facility on a daily basis. For scheduling purposes you must contact the church office for availability and reservation of space. **NOTE:** The room reservation form may also now be found on our website northfieldumc.org.



The church office will be closed December 24-31

For emergency Pastoral care, please call the church office voice mail (507-645-5689) for instructions. Thank you to Rev. Mel Henrichs and Rev. Gordon Orde.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Don't Miss the **February Herald Newsletter Deadline**
DEADLINE!
 The deadline for the February issue of the Herald Newsletter is **Noon on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022**
 Please submit your items in a digital format to northfieldumc@gmail.com by the deadline.



Rice County Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign Bell Ringers Needed!



Dates: Ringing began November 19th. Every Friday and Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm.

Ringng Locations: Cub, Walmart, Family Fare, HyVee, Fareway & Mackenthun's

Shifts: Select 2-hour shifts. Ring along or invite friends/family/work colleagues. Bells and aprons are supplied (sanitized between shifts). You provide the enthusiasm!

Sign up is easy: www.registertoring.com, enter your zip code: 55021, 55057 or 55046
Or call: Jim Dale 715-733-0575



Hospitality and Welcome

Can you say "hello!" With enthusiasm? How about pour a cup of coffee? You are in luck - Sunday morning is an opportunity to offer welcome to everyone who comes as a child of God! Want in? Email us: info@northfieldumc.org.

Meal Ministry



Sometimes a member of our church family experiences a loss or health concern and can use some concrete help as they move through a tough chapter. If you are willing to be part of our meal ministry, find us at: info@northfieldumc.org.

Music Makers Wanted

That guitar you dusted off during the pandemic, that violin you have been meaning to start playing again, that tuba you only pull out of the case once a year ...let's share that music on a Sunday with your church family! Not sure how to get started? Email us: info@northfieldumc.org.



Card Making with Margie!

Tuesday, December 21, 1:00-2:30 pm
In the Fellowship Hall
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 and for more info!



**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1401 South Maple Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Phone: (507) 645-5689
Email: northfieldumc@gmail.com
Website: www.northfieldumc.org

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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	Rachel McIver Morey Jerad Morey
Parish Nurse	Ruth Kruse
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
Worship & Music	Wendy Smith
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Children's Ministry	Gregory Ennis
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Treasurer	John Stull <small>(Volunteer)</small>
Web Site	Jesse Steed <small>(Volunteer)</small>

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