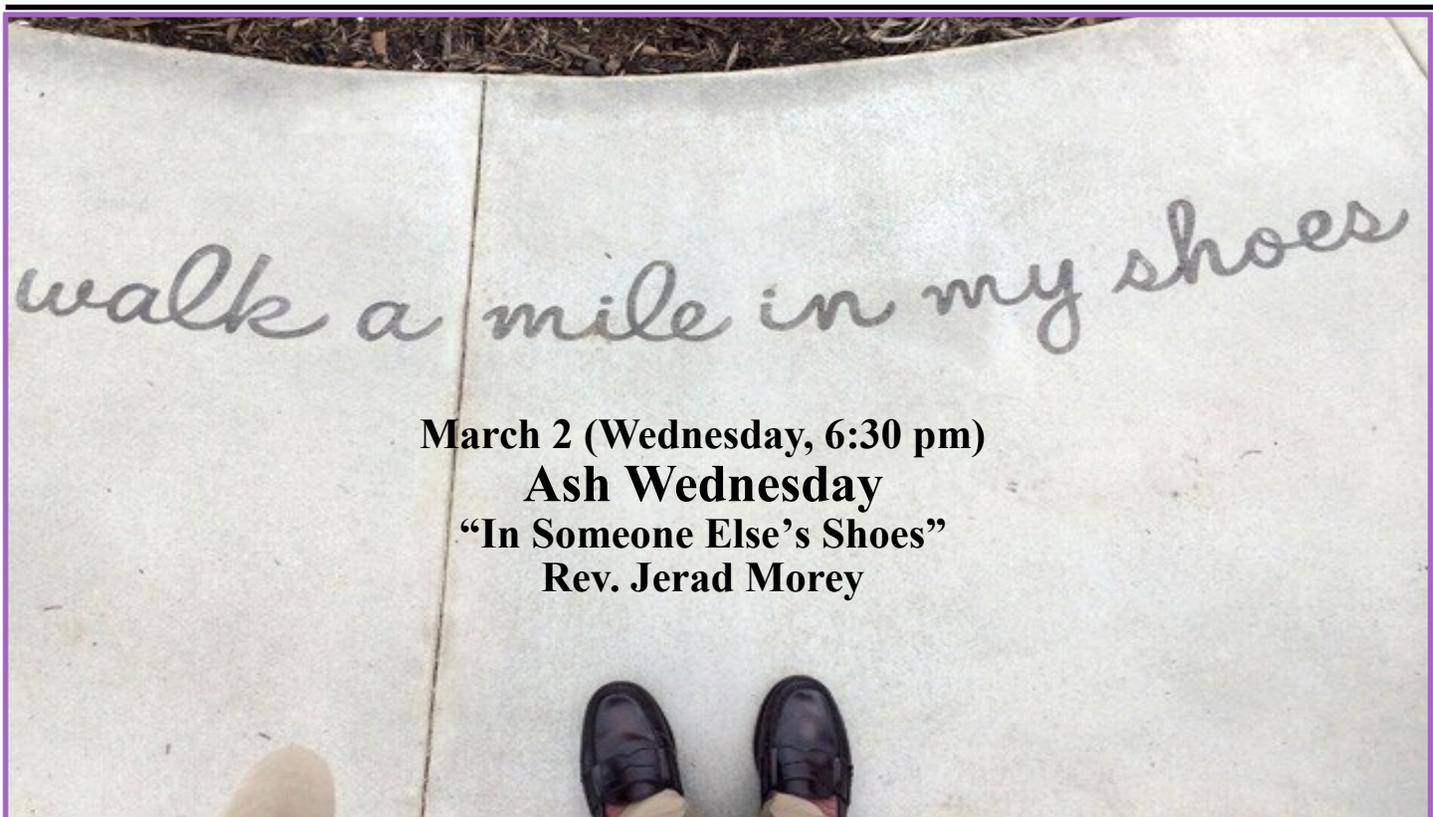




United Methodist Herald

March 2022



**March 2 (Wednesday, 6:30 pm)
Ash Wednesday
“In Someone Else’s Shoes”
Rev. Jerad Morey**

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March Worship

**March 6
Into and Out of Temptation in the Wilderness
Luke 4:1-15
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**March 13
Leaving Home
Luke 4:16-37
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

**March 20
Luke 9:46-56
Rev. Todd Campbell**

**March 27
The Demands of the Road
Luke 9:57-62
Rev. Rachel McIver Morey**

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

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



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 church ended the year on a very strong note in terms of budget. We ended the year with a surplus of just over \$60,000. This financial strength allowed us to complete some needed repairs and maintenance to both the church building and the parsonage. This carries us into 2022 with a very solid budget. This will be beneficial moving forward as we can hopefully continue to increase our full and normal in person operations. We have started off the year with continued strong giving on the part of you all, with pledges and gifts for the month of January 2022 of \$39,282.66. This compares to January of 2021 which was \$28,406.66. We have been fortunate as a congregation throughout the past few years and the duty now turns to us as a congregation to prayerfully consider where we are called in terms of ministry for the community of Northfield.

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 December 2021 contributions \$75,282.91
General Fund December 2020 contributions \$77,593.42

General Fund YTD 2021 contributions \$389,705.17
General Fund YTD 2020 contributions \$392,000.12

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

General Fund January 2022 contributions \$39,282.66
General Fund January 2021 contributions \$28,406.66



Ash Wednesday, March 2, 6:30pm (Sanctuary): Walk a Mile in Someone Else's Shoes

Our invitation this Lent is to walk a mile in someone else's shoes: who in your life do you understand the least? Who frustrates you to no end, or leaves you puzzled about their decisions? Lent is a 40 day opportunity to fast, pray, study Scripture, and adopt spiritual practices to help us love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Join the NUMC family in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday to begin the journey of taking another person's perspective and making a habit of it over the course of the season.

SUPER WEDNESDAY MEALS RESUME! March 16th

At this writing, COVID levels are on the decline, and we look forward to finding each other at the table again on Wednesday evenings! 5:30-6:30pm. Want to help with set up, serving, or cleanup? Let us know - many hands make light work! info@northfieldumc.org

SUPER WEDNESDAY MEAL MENU FOR MARCH

March 16: Spaghetti and meatballs, Caesar salad, Vegetable medley, French bread, and Ice cream.

March 23: Beef stroganoff, Broccoli, Jello, French bread, and assorted cakes.

March 30: Baked chicken, Mashed potatoes, Normandy blend, Coleslaw, French bread, and assorted bars.

Message from the Pastor

I had a realization this January. Time laid up with a cast and a firm order not to put weight on my leg while I healed up from surgery allowed some time for overdue reflection.

It was in hearing from educators, in and outside our congregation and across the country, about the pain of this year. Beyond the difficulties that always accompany education, teachers have had to field angry parent responses to masking policies or the actual content of curriculum that has never garnered attention before, work with students whose academic levels are wildly uneven, try to keep everyone sort of up to date with weeks-long quarantines, and deal with stretched staffing because substitutes are harder to come by than they used to be. Many teachers have had to quarantine or care for sick loved ones and try to keep their classrooms going; this has brought some to a breaking point. Northfield has prided itself on its public school system, but the pandemic has been merciless. So many folks who work in public service - beyond educators there's law enforcement, health care, and social service - have absorbed multiple blows over the last two years. The retirement and resignation rates in those roles should alarm all of us.

So. To my realization.

Our prayer walks over the acres of land we are thinking about using for some new ministry (want in on thinking through what our best options are, let me know if you want to be on the team doing this work! rmorey@northfieldumc.org) yielded a wealth of insights, some of which we got to hear at our January 30th discernment gathering. For the 75 people in attendance, we heard hopes, dreams, concerns, and cautions, all in the same room for the first time since the MCCI Signature Ministry Research Team identified our abundant property as a potential ministry resource in their 2020 report to the Administrative Council. We are very much at the beginning of the conversation about how to use all we have for God's purposes, and we are not (and should not be) in a hurry. Discernment takes time and prayer, and those are slow cooker rather than stir fry ingredients.

That said, one insight brought up at the meeting was that our church sits up on a hill, and without a sidewalk across our Maple street-facing lawn, we really are "set apart" from the neighborhood, visually far off from even Spring Creek Elementary School right across the street. So far away - so close. A school full of kids steps away with teachers and staff trying to get through one of the hardest academic years in remembered history. What resources can we possibly offer?

Well, as the hymn writer says: let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. It took me a while - but the lightbulb finally came on.

This last week I submitted paperwork to the MN Department of Education for a short-call substitute teacher's license, which requires only a bachelor's degree (or work equivalent) to apply for. I take Fridays off from my work at the church (excepting pastoral emergencies), and I will offer those to the school district for the rest of this school year. If I am not needed, fine - my ego is unattached to whether I would ever get a call. But we have enough bachelor's degrees in our community to cover a lot of classrooms if needed - there's absolutely no reason why any school in Northfield should find itself short-staffed or one teacher should have to cover multiple classrooms.

We have all pulled back during the pandemic, but all signs indicate brighter days ahead; where are you uniquely suited, credentialed and/or called to relieve those who have shouldered extra burdens for the last two years? Prayerfully consider if you are in a position to walk in someone else's shoes for a while - not just to learn their perspective, but perhaps to give someone a much needed Sabbath break.

To those who have taken hit after hit, whether in public facing roles or in increased family demands to support others who do that kind of work: My Lenten discipline will be one of repentance for taking you for granted. The pandemic did not create those conditions, but it made them sharper and heavier. My gesture is humble, not heroic, and far too late in coming. I hope you will forgive that. And I pray for better days ahead for you and for all of us.

Blessings,
Rachel



Coffee Shop Office hours are BACK

With COVID calming down and safer gathering conditions, you can find Pastor Rachel Tuesdays 1:00-2:30pm at Goodbye Blue Monday Coffee House, 319 Division St. S. in downtown Northfield. Drop in, no appointment needed! Through April 26th.

Welcome Rev. Todd Campbell, Director of Youth and Family Ministries!

We are so very excited to welcome Rev. Todd Campbell as our new director of youth and family ministries! Todd comes to us as a Carleton graduate (during his time as a student there, he found his way to NUMC twice on retreats, so he is no stranger to our campus), having recently served as a hospital chaplain, spiritual life coordinator for summer camps, and as the music director for a sister United Methodist congregation in North Carolina, where he graduated from Duke Divinity School.

He is originally from Chicago, and is now serving with us in this role and as associate chaplain at Carleton College. He will serve as the primary leader and organizer for ministry with 6th-12th grade students as well as working with our children's ministry coordinator, Gregory Ennis, to fully realize the potential of family ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We will have a meet and greet for him Wednesday, March 16th, as we resume our Super Wednesday meals. Families of middle school and high school students are invited to join Todd at 6:30pm in the Reception Room for dessert and dreaming together about all we can do as the hands and feet of Jesus here in Northfield. Todd will also be joining us on Sunday mornings, bringing the word as a preacher and to get to know our congregation.



SPRING BREAK March 5-11

No NUMC Children or Youth Ministries; have a blessed week off!

KC3 (Kids Creating Community Through Christ)

For elementary aged students on Wednesday afternoons, from the end of school until 5:30pm. Want in on the fun? Email Gregory Ennis, children's ministry coordinator, at gregorym.ennis@gmail.com to get started!

SALT: NNS Valentines

Thanks to all who helped our SALT (Serving and Learning Together) leaders on Sunday, February 13th to make Valentine's Day activity packets for the students at Northfield Nursery School! Both teachers and students alike were delighted to receive this gesture of love from the NUMC church family. Stay tuned for the next opportunity to serve!

10th Grade Confirmation

March 27, 10:45am - Noon

Confirmands will meet to continue planning the May 22 confirmation worship service.

SUMMER CAMP for NUMC Students aged 8-12: July 31-Aug 4

Pack your bag and bug spray, we are going to church camp! NUMC Family Ministries will transport students to Trailblazers Camp at Koronis Camp by Paynesville, MN, July 31-August 4. This is an excellent first "away" camp opportunity to share with other NUMC children and youth - Pastor Rachel will be on hand for the whole event, and there will be other familiar faces from church, too! There are scholarships available for any child to attend - we will ensure every child who wants to go can attend camp this year. For more information, go to campminnesota.org - don't wait too long to register. Any questions? email us at info@northfieldumc.org.





Notes from the Parish Nurse

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14) As we begin our Lenten journey let us focus on water, both tap water and “living water.”

Water is important to all living things. It is the most abundant molecule on the earth’s surface, covering 71% of our planet. It is also the most abundant substance in the human body. Up to 60% of a human adult is made up of water. All living things need water to function and grow properly. Even Jesus was thirsty and asked the woman at the well for a drink of water. Most of us do not drink enough water.



“Dehydration occurs when you use or lose more fluid than you take in, and your body doesn’t have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions. If you don’t replace lost fluids, you get dehydrated.” (www.mayoclinic.org) Dehydration can happen to anyone, but elders become prone to dehydration because the sensation of thirst declines with age. Older adults do not feel thirsty until they are already dehydrated. They also have a lower volume of water in their bodies, so their fluid reserves become smaller. They may have health conditions, chronic illnesses, or take medications that increase risk of dehydration.

Symptoms of dehydration include dry mouth and tongue, thirst, less frequent urination, dark-colored urine, fatigue, dizziness, decreased skin elasticity, muscle cramps in limbs, dry cracked lips, headache, constipation, and confusion. More severe complications can include fainting, urinary tract infections, blood clot complications, kidney stones, kidney failure, seizures from electrolyte imbalance, or hypovolemic shock. The latter is caused by low blood volume, which leads to a drop in blood pressure, which then results in a drop in the amount of oxygen available to the body.

Water is very necessary for normal body functions. It assists by lubricating and cushioning joints, regulating body temperature, pumping blood to muscles, aiding in digestion and metabolism, helping maintain fluid balance, carrying nutrients to cells, and eliminating bodily wastes.

To maintain hydration:

- Drink water. (Consult a physician for daily intake amounts as that is determined by one’s health, chronic illness, or medication intake.)
- Drink other fluids like juices, coffee, tea, broth, and soups.
- Eat fruits and vegetables, because they contain water.
- Keep water in a thermal cup or pitcher close at hand on the counter or by a favorite chair so that it is accessible at all times. Carry a bottle of water to have available during exercise or outdoor activities.
- Experiment with different beverages at different temperatures.
- Make homemade popsicles from fruit juices.
- Protect skin, which is the body’s largest organ, by using moisturizer to help prevent water evaporation.

Our loving God has provided us with water for our bodies and “living water” for our souls. Both physically and spiritually we need water from God. This could be your focus for Lent. Care for your body by staying hydrated and care for your soul by studying scripture, praying, and “drinking” in the Holy Spirit.

The following websites were used to write this article: www.mayoclinic.org, www.health.clevelandclinic.org, www.asccare.com, www.dailycaring.com



ISIAIH

Faith in Democracy

This is a busy season for those committed to bring a more just life for all who live in Minnesota. NUMC members are engaged along two tracks through ISIAIH, a state-wide faith-based organization focused on justice. NUMC is a member organization.

One track is advocating with state legislators and the governor for better laws:

- Paid family and medical leave.
- Child care assistance for workers and families.
- Extra pay for those who were front line workers during the covid shut-down, (e.g. those in health care, child care, education, paramedics, grocers, the hospitality industry,) and more.

You decide what action to take. Letters to the editor, emails and phone calls to state leaders can be done without leaving your home at a time that works for you. Or you might choose to join a rally or be a supporter at a press conference or even testify at a committee hearing. It is up to each individual to decide what to do and when.

By joining the ISIAIH-NUMC Team, you will receive occasional emails with calls to action. Contact Evelyn Burry (evelynburry@hotmail.com; 507-645-7481.)

The other track is through participation in the political party, which is a personal choice. In early February, both major parties held caucuses at which potential additions to political platforms were proposed. Some who are active in ISIAIH stood to become delegates to party conventions so that they could continue to advocate for these platform additions.

The ISIAIH-NUMC Team welcomes new members at any time.



Yes! In just days we turn the calendar page and begin our Lenten journey. Aiding our travels and expanding our view as a community of Christians moving along on the 40-day journey are these resources from the church's library.

Available are the works of Biblical scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Scholars, yes, but authors who write with simplicity for the lay reader.

Other material available will be short Lenten studies such as Sister Joan Chittister's for individual or group use. Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, in which the author ponders the three prayers we most often say each of which can be reduced in its shortest form to one word: help, thanks, wow. For interesting browsing, the magazine *Reformed Worship* issues covering the Lenten season may be just the thing.

Here's hoping our children and youth have discovered the recent additions to their section of the Church Library (for now, displayed in both Fellowship Hall and the Library). Adults, here is your invitation to enjoy these same books. Why? Because they offer Life's simple truths.

Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)

In order to make any real progress toward dismantling the racism we see around us, we have to face and dismantle the racism inside of us. Not an easy or comfortable task, to be sure. Perhaps we can start down this path by "walking in the shoes" of someone of a different race. One way to access another person's experience is to listen closely, and with an open heart, to their stories. There are so many available to us, through memoirs, movies, podcasts, TED Talks, etc. If you're looking for a book to read during Lent, here are a few suggestions:

- *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist.* Abingdon Press, 2020. Ten personal narratives reveal the shared and distinct struggles of being Black in the Church, facing historic and modern racism. (A copy is available in the church library.)
- *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown, Convergent Books, 2018. An eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals.
- *Daybreak Woman: An Anglo-Dakota Life*, by Jane Lamm Carroll, MN Historical Society Press, 2020. The biography of an Anglo-Dakota woman whose life spanned nearly a century of peace, invasion, war, exile, return and astonishing change.

You could also join members of the DRT in participating in MARCH (Multifaith Anti-Racism Change & Healing), a monthly, four-session experience (via Zoom) focused on exploring congregational practices for making reparations to Indigenous and Black communities. Facilitators include Jessica Intermill, an attorney who has helped NUMC research its history, and Rev. Dana Neuhauser, the Racial Justice Organizer for the Minnesota Annual Conference. More information and a registration link can be found at https://is.gd/DRT_march

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Bible and the Holy Land Today

With Rev. Alex Awad

Thursday, April 21st, 7:00 pm via zoom

Sponsored by MICAH

(watch for more information in the April Herald)

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

You may place your order for pickup or
delivery by contacting

Ann Richards at:

delightfulread@yahoo.com

or call 763-221-4823.

We are currently well stocked with olive oil. Future shipments will reflect a price increase from \$20 to \$25 and from \$15 to \$20.



Justice and Only Justice

A couple months ago Darlene Cox asked me to read “Justice and Only Justice” by Naim Stifan Ateek and write something about it for the Herald Newsletter.

Before I started reading, I found out that Ateek is a Palestinian priest in the Anglican Communion and the book was published in 1989 and written around the time the Intifada began. A lot has happened since then.

The book begins with the Zionist occupation of Ateek’s hometown, Beisan, in 1948. Two weeks after the occupation everyone was forced to leave.

With this encounter as background Ateek covers the political and religious back stories of the Palestinian Israeli conflict. Both are done in the top-notch fashion. The book even helped me come to grips with some of the outrageous bits in the Old Testament.

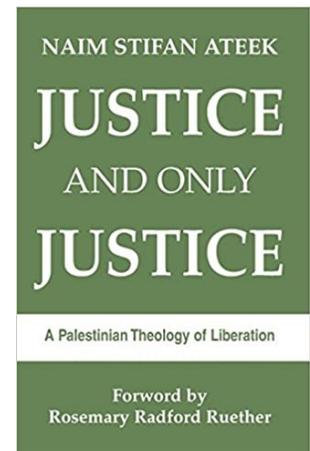
The last half of the book lays out and explains the Palestinian liberation theology. It offers a solution with justice for all. It makes total sense to me, it did in 1989 and it does now. My reservations about the book being out of date were wrong.

Anyone wanting to understand the Palestinian/Israeli morass should read this. Anyone looking for hope for a solution should read this. I can’t recommend it highly enough.

A quote from the book: “I have increasingly the feeling as an observer of history that anything human beings do out of quilt will not last and will come to haunt them and others at a later date.”

Bruce Benson

Naim Ateek visited Northfield
when his son was attending
St. Olaf College.





United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW Circle Meeting Dates:

March 14, 2022 - Esther Circle – Meeting at 1:00 PM via Zoom for all attending
1:30 PM Program: UMW Deaconess and Home Missioners by Deaconess Kim Harris
Mugs and Muffins - March 21, 2022 – 9:00 AM;
Northfield UMC church library Program: Women of the Bible in Quilt Blocks

For the Month of March the Northfield United Methodist Women want to highlight one of our Minnesota missions that have been near and dear to our hearts - Emma Norton Services (includes Emma Norton Services and Emma's Place.)

Goals of Emma Norton Services and Emma's Place

- Provide safe, secure, affordable housing for women, individuals, and families in transition.
- Provide support, advocacy and referrals to community services for individuals and families to stabilize their lives, build confidence and enable self-sufficiency.
- Use our collective power to build collaborative communities and partnerships to achieve systemic change.
- Raise awareness of our programs to better serve individuals and families in need.
- Through radical compassion and radical acceptance, provide a comprehensive array of services that foster harmony, wholeness and completeness.
- Create inclusive environments that support empowerment, diversity, innovation and adaptability to promote healing." (Emma Norton website)

The Journey Home Begins Here

As a housing-first and harm-reduction organization, we believe that permanent housing is the foundation each person needs to achieve their goals. Our supportive, permanent housing programs give clients stability, so we can work with them to identify goals, build a stronger sense of self, and transform their own lives to find wholeness.

"Emma Norton follows a harm-reduction model of care which recognizes that chemical dependency is an illness, not a moral failing. We recognize that removing someone from supportive housing due to substance use puts them at greater risk of harm, and are committed to radical compassion and non-judgment." (Emma Norton website)

New building in St. Paul! At present, Emma Norton operates a 50-unit building near downtown St. Paul and a townhome site in Maplewood. "The great thing is, [the new building] will allow us to expand [from 50 to 60 units] and it will be the woman's own apartment versus the dormitory style shared rooms we have now," said Tonya Brownlow, executive director.

What can we do to help in supporting this transformation?

Join in the UMW sponsored Emma Norton March Madness Mission Challenge!!! Starting March 1st on through the last Sunday in March, bring your donations to church and add them to the Emma Norton Display.

Paper Products needed: Suggestions: Paper towels, toilet paper; paper plates, cups, napkins; etc.

Emma Norton WINTER 2022 DONATION NEEDS: Air mattresses -Air mattress pumps - Disposable masks - Backpacks + Overnight Bags

Welcome Baskets include one laundry basket filled with: Flat and fitted twin sheets – 1 pillow and pillow case – 1 blanket (comforter, quilt, winter blankets) –hand & bath towels – water bottle

Hygiene products: toothbrush and toothpaste – shampoo and conditioner (note: culturally appropriate hair care is appreciated!)- bar soap - deodorant

Optional but appreciated: a lint roller, alarm clock, mattress cover, lotion, and a journal.

2022 Opening Doors Gala We're excited to be hosting an in person Gala for the first time since 2019! Join us at the **InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront (or online) on Thursday, April 28, 2022!** More information to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 NUMC BUILDING POLICY UPDATE

Per Administrative Council action, the following COVID-19 safety policy updates will begin **Wednesday, March 2nd**, in response to falling infection rates and lower hospitalizations. Prayerfully we can continue to move in the right direction as a church and as a community with this disease; we now have an extensive toolkit to manage our community life if the rates should rise again and gathering becomes more dangerous. Loving our neighbors as ourselves has required measures that we can begin to loosen as the conditions of the pandemic improve. Give thanks to God for the doctors and scientists who continue to learn more about this disease and what we can do to manage it at this new stage.

Masking - Masking will be required only in the sanctuary for worship, and we will begin congregational singing at our Ash Wednesday service 6:30pm, March 2nd. We continue to encourage vaccinations as a preventive measure for all who are eligible. NUMC Family Ministries will, as they have from the beginning of the school year, follow the lead of the Northfield Public Schools policy, and move to making masking recommended rather than required for participation.

Meetings - While masks will be required in worship, they are recommended elsewhere in the building; by unanimous consent, a group can choose to unmask for their gathering.

Contact tracing/Signing in - We will no longer require signing in on **Sunday mornings** for the purpose of contact tracing; **however, the rest of the week anyone entering the building is still required to sign-in (this is a measure to maintain building security for Northfield Nursery School and church staff).**

Questions? info@northfieldumc.org.

In the words of Northfield Schools Superintendent Matt Hillman, "When we look back at this time, we want to be proud of how we conducted ourselves and how we treated our friends and neighbors." May it be so.

Reading the Bible Through in 2022: Gathering

Have you taken up reading the Bible this year? Join others on the journey after worship Sunday, April 3rd (hybrid event: you can attend in person or via Zoom link) for support, discussion, and sharing what we are learning and be surprised by. RSVP isn't necessary, but it is helpful: info@northfieldumc.org.

Letters to 10th grade Confirmands

When youth are confirmed in Northfield United Methodist Church they are reminded of the family of faith. Parishioners - former Sunday School teachers, family friends, anyone who has accompanied or witnessed a portion of the youth's faith journey - are invited to submit letters to them through the church office. These letters can include a fond memory, a time when you saw God present in them, or a hope or prayer you have for their future in faith.

Please send a letter for one or more of these upcoming confirmands to NUMC, attn: Pastor Jerad.

- Griff Dahle
- Blake Marks
- John Newberg

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! 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. Follow the signs, and keep track of your miles - if you make a Methodist marathon (26 miles) while the route is up (until the end of March) come let the office know. . .we will have a surprise for you!



Notary Service Available

Need something notarized? The church office can help you with that! Sandy in the church office is a Notary Public and notary services will be offered during regular church office business hours.

Notary service is free to church members, non-members \$5.00 fee.

Please call ahead to the church office at 507-645-5689 to make sure Sandy is available.





Habitat for Humanity 2021 Faith Builders



In the beginning of 2021, Rice County Habitat for Humanity was awarded a \$115,000 Generosity Challenge Grant from Thrivent as part of the Thrivent Faith Builders program. This challenge grant provided the financial foundation for Habitat Rice County to commit to building a quadrplex located at the intersection of Ford St and Cotton Lane in the SE section of Northfield. At the completion of this build, four families will begin a new future of affordable and stable housing. A groundbreaking ceremony took place during the afternoon of May 2, 2021 and construction began in mid-June.

During 2021, Faith Builder congregations from Dundas, Faribault and Northfield, along with various Rice County businesses, have contributed funds to match the Thrivent Challenge Grant. Along with monetary donations, many congregations and business have also contributed significant volunteer hours from the beginning of September until now to help finish the construction of the quadrplex building. Completion of construction is estimated to happen during the month of March 2022.

On January 23rd, we celebrated the generosity of the NUMC family by presenting Habitat for Humanity with a \$16,375 check during our offering time in worship. While the Administrative Council challenge to the congregation was to match a \$5,000 gift from the Tithing Fund, the church more than doubled the match! As we explore how God is calling us to use all of our church's own resources, we bless the work of Habitat for Humanity all over Rice County and right here in our own city to ensure homeownership for families for whom it would otherwise be out of reach. The monetary donation from our church helped ensure that the \$115,000 Generosity Challenge Grant from Thrivent was fully matched. Special thanks to Dave Wolf and George Davis for their efforts as our HFH Faith Builder representatives, and to all in our church family who have helped with local builds and providing meals and food for the workers.



Card Making with Margie

Thursday, March 17th, 2:30-4:00 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!



The snow will thaw. . .now let's get GREEN

If you like planting and gardening - or are interested in learning about both! - join our landscape and grounds crew! We are looking for folks who enjoy the outdoors and working independently for this ministry; if you are interested, please let us know: info@northfielddumc.org.



Because every picture has a story to tell...



Thanks to all who helped our SALT (Serving and Learning Together) leaders on Sunday, February 13th to make Valentine's Day activity packets for the students at Northfield Nursery School! Both teachers and students alike were delighted to receive this gesture of love from the NUMC church family. Stay tuned for the next opportunity to serve!



Mission Sewing boxed up 16 baby jackets, 22 receiving blankets, 46 layette gowns and 88 diapers. We are happy to report that the Layette items have been delivered to the Rochester donation site and will soon be going to the United Methodist Midwest Distribution Center where they will help to complete Layette Kits which are sent all over the world. Mission Sewing meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9 A.M. in Fellowship Hall.

We are always happy to have new members.

Winter Family Fun Fest

On February 5 our Family Ministries hosted an outdoor winter fun day with sledding, cocoa, s'mores, snow balls. . .and lots of fresh air and sunshine. Thanks to all who helped make it happen: Molly Lloyd, Calvin Weis, Dorothy Orde, Pastor Jerad Morey, and Children's Ministry Coordinator Gregory Ennis.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 7:00 Trustee Mtg.	2 9:00 Mission Sewing 3:30 KC3 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	3 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 6:30 Luke Bible Study zoom	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast	5
6 9:30 Worship with Communion	7 3:00 UMW meeting	8 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking	9 9:00 Mission Sewing No KC3 - Spring Break 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 6:30 Luke Bible Study zoom	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast	12
13 9:30 Worship	14 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl, zoom	15 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 6:45 Ad Council	16 9:00 Mission Sewing Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:30 Meet & Greet with Youth Director 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 2:30 Card Making with Margie 6:30 Luke Bible Study zoom	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Dismantling Racism Team mtg.	21 9:00 Mugs and Muffins 7:00 Renewal	22 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking	23 9:00 Mission Sewing Noon - Herald Deadline Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 6:30 Luke Bible Study zoom	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:45 10th Grade Confirmation	28	29 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking	30 9:00 Mission Sewing Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	31 2:00-4:00 Methodist Mile walking 6:30 Luke Bible Study	1 8:00 Men's Breakfast	2

PLEASE NOTE:

Many other non-church related community events/meetings are scheduled at the church facility on a daily basis. For scheduling purposes of your meeting/event whether it be church related or non-church related you must contact the church office for availability and reservation of space.

If your group meets on a regular basis you may reserve your space for multiple dates.

NOTE: The room reservation form may also now be found on our website northfieldumc.org.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

April Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of the Herald Newsletter is

Noon on Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Please submit your items in a digital format to northfieldumc@gmail.com by the deadline.

NUMC COMPOST/RECYCLING/GARBAGE POLICY REMINDER

As the church building is being used more again - it's so good to watch the building come alive again - a gentle reminder about the church compost/recycling policy:

Church policy requires that supplies used for meetings be compostable or recyclable so that we may be good stewards of the earth.

ALL single use disposable items at NUMC are compostable. If you need help with supplies for your group, contact Sandy in the church office and she will help you with what items you might need free of charge for church related events/meetings.

Items available for your use:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Forks, Knives, Spoons | 6" dessert bowls (white) |
| 5 oz cups | 6" dessert plates (white) |
| 8 oz short clear beverage cups | 8" dinner plates (white) |
| 9 oz tall clear beverage cups | 9" dinner plates (white) |
| 12 oz tall clear beverage cups | |
| 8 oz (hot) coffee cups | |
| 10 oz hot/cold cups | |



O LORD, our Lord,
your majestic name
fills the earth!
Your glory is higher
than the heavens.

-Psalm 8:1

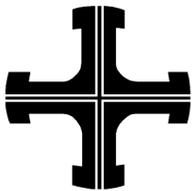
Some items may look like plastic (ie the single use utensils, some cups), but they are made from plants and can be composted, Napkins are **ALWAYS** compost. Be sure to dispose of yours in a green bag or green container.

Pizza boxes are compost. They should be placed in a compost container - **NOT** recycling.

At this time, only recyclable items with a 1, 2, or 5 inside the arrow/recycling triangle are acceptable. Please rinse and replace lids on plastic items before putting them in recycling bins. Inside the church building, recycling bins are blue.

Styrofoam is **ALWAYS** trash/landfill and goes in a brown or black receptacle.

Below you will find a pledge commitment card, which is an opportunity to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your time, treasure, and talents in this coming year.
Cut along the dotted line and return by mail or in person to the NUMC church office.



Northfield United Methodist Church Worship. Compassion. Devotion. Justice. 2022 Estimate of Giving Return Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

**Northfield UMC General Operating Fund
Estimate of giving for 2022:**

\$ _____/month

OR

\$ _____/week

OR

\$ _____/year

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to do with what you have been given.

**Please cut along dotted line,
fill out and mail to the church office:
1401 S. Maple St.,
Northfield, MN 55057**

Note: If you are making a change to your current electronic deduction amount you will need to fill out a new authorization form with the church office.

**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
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Youth and Family Ministry	Todd Campbell
Children's Ministry	Gregory Ennis
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Treasurer	John Stull (Volunteer)
Web Site	Jesse Steed (Volunteer)

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