

United Methodist Herald

February 2026



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February Worship

February 1, 2026
Celebration of Holy Communion
Matthew 5:13-20
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

February 8, 2026
Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

February 15, 2026
Exodus 25:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 6:30 pm
Genesis 2:4-7, Isaiah 58:6-12
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

February 22, 2026
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11
Pastor Donna Dempewolf



Message from the Pastor

Visible, Not Neutral: Seeking Our Way Together

February brings us again to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount—and to an unavoidable truth: faith is never neutral. In this sermon, Jesus names salt and light as public realities. They are meant to be seen. They change what they touch. They do their work only when they are mixed into the world.

From there, we move quickly toward **Ash Wednesday** and into Lent with the theme **Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith**, including one guiding question: **Who will you listen to?** We are living in a time when our neighbors are experiencing real harm—through immigration enforcement that fractures families, racialized suspicion that polices bodies, laws and policies that control bodies, and words that erode human dignity. This is not a theoretical spiritual question. It is a question with real consequences.

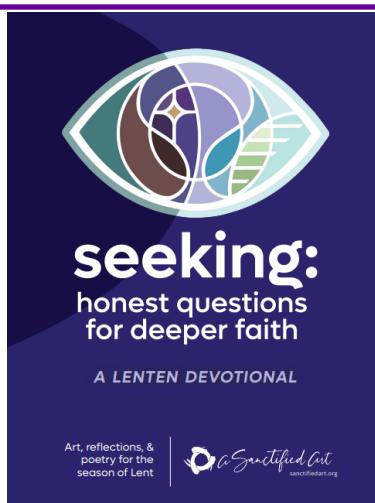
We are seeking God in a particular place and moment. Ice covers our sidewalks in Minnesota, making vulnerability visible. At the same time, many in our community live on far thinner ice every day—as they are under pressure to remain unseen. As Cole Arthur Riley reminds us, oppression thrives when we are convinced that the suffering of others is unrelated to us. Jesus' teaching refuses that separation.

Ash Wednesday grounds us in reality. Isaiah insists that the fast God chooses loosens the bonds of injustice and repairs what has been broken. Lent calls us toward faith that is embodied and public: neighbors helping neighbors, choosing protection over indifference, and resisting the claim that the gospel can remain private when harm is public.

Later in Lent, we will share more about our shared direction and the next faithful steps ahead. We'll also continue to welcome the gifts and leadership of our interns, **Izel and Jayne**.

Lent does not promise comfort. It promises clarity. And we trust that God meets us on the way—even when the ground is unstable, even when faith asks something real of us.

Shalom,
Donna



Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotionals will be available for your pick up prior to Ash Wednesday. Watch for more information.



Welcome Jayne Dagner Children & Youth Intern

We're delighted to welcome **Jayne Dagner**, our new Children & Youth Intern. We'll be welcoming Jayne on Sunday mornings in mid-February.

We're grateful for the gifts and energy she will bring to our Children and Youth ministries.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, a scammer obtained a copy of the NUMC directory. The directory included names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and, in some cases, birthdates. This information largely mirrors what may already be available through public sources. Steps have been taken to strengthen our safeguards moving forward. Please be aware that Pastor Donna will never ask for money, gift cards, or personal information via text message. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact the church office.

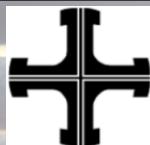


NUMC WELCOME STATEMENT

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.

Northfield United Methodist Church Mission Statement

We are companions in Christ, called, nurtured, and sent out for this purpose: to glorify God by acts of worship, devotion, compassion, and justice.



Northfield United Methodist Church Worship. Devotion. Compassion. Justice.

Open our hearts, O God, to your presence already at work in our lives. Break through any barrier in our hearts separating us from you and others. By your Spirit, show us possibilities beyond what we can imagine for ourselves and our church. Make us ready; our hands are yours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All the ways you can donate funds to NUMC!

How to make tithes and offerings

You can make your tithes and offerings several ways:

1. Drop your offering in the offering basket during worship
2. Donate online using a credit/debit card by clicking on the Donate tab on the church website northfieldumc.org
3. Donate with a credit/debit card via "Text to Give"
4. Donate via our QR code using a credit/debit card
5. Automatic Electronic Giving monthly
6. Mail a check to: NUMC - 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, in the church office or by emailing northfieldumc@gmail.com.

Text to Give

Text to Give is an easy way you can give funds to the church via your phone and a credit/debit card. Simply send a text to **Northfield United Methodist Church 10 digit GivePlus Text number 844-946-1577** then follow the instructions.- there is a \$3.00 minimum donation to use "Text to Give". Once you have registered the first time you use Text to Give you will not ever have to register again, you simply send a text with the amount and it will process automatically.

Donate via our QR code

Another way to easily give to NUMC with a credit/debit card is by scanning the below QR code with your phone. The QR code will take you directly to an on line giving site for NUMC.



Donate on line via our website:

You can easily make a one time donation or a recurring donation through our on line giving site on our website <https://northfieldumc.org/#block-donate>

Write a check:

As always you can drop your check in the offering plate each Sunday during worship or drop it off in the church office during the week.

If you have questions regarding "Text to Give", using the QR code, or any of our various giving options, contact Sandy in the church office at 507-645-5689.

FINANCE UPDATE

General Fund YTD 2025 contributions \$336,167.77
General Fund YTD 2024 contributions \$334,017.98
General Fund YTD Budget 2025 \$325,000.00

General Fund December 2025 contributions \$50,182.03
General Fund December 2024 contributions \$52,059.66

Preliminary Treasurer's Report for December 2025

General Fund

The CRB checking account balance at the end of December was \$37,218.09 compared to the November balance of \$42,818.97; shows a monthly decrease of \$5,600.88 primarily due to paying of year-end expenses. All conference apportionments for 2025 have been paid in full.

Monthly Offering Income for December was \$50,182.03. YTD Actual Offering Income was \$336,167.77 which is \$11,167.77 more than YTD Budget of \$325,000.00. Other Income Totals of \$2,609.50 for December came from Interest Income, Super Wednesday Meal Proceeds, and Facility Usage. General Fund Income Total for December was \$52,791.53. Thus, General Fund YTD Actual Income was \$359,153.24; \$406.76 less than the YTD Budget of \$359,560.00.

Monthly Expenses for December totaled \$54,678.96. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$441,053.89; \$18,805.89 less than the YTD Budget of \$459,859.47. YTD expenses exceed income by \$81,900.65 which is \$18,398.82, less than the YTD Budget shortfall of \$100,299.47.

Physical Plant

Monthly income (Support from General Fund) for December was \$11,122.51. YTD Actual Income was \$186,800.43; \$131,166.46 from General Fund Support for Physical Plant, \$5,335.00 from continuing contributions to the Building Fund, \$1,081.79 from Other Building Contributions, and \$49,217.18 from the Building Maintenance Endowment fund.

YTD Actual Expenses were \$165,753.82 which leaves a positive balance of \$21,046.61. Total YTD insurance costs were \$33,089.18. Significant insurance payments totaling \$16,606.51 were paid in June; \$11,399.08 to Lamb Insurance Services for annual excess wind and hail coverage and \$5,207.43 to Church Mutual for initial 3 months of church and parsonage coverage. The material and outside labor cost of the cabinet upgrades to the parsonage kitchen, dining room and main floor bathroom during February and March totaled \$15,326.80; donated labor totaled 300 hours.

Endowment Funds

At the beginning of January 2025, the total value of the four endowment funds was \$742,577.34. In February \$199,046.17 from the Jim Finholt Estate was deposited into the Undesignated Fund. In February \$18,000 was withdrawn from the Building Maintenance Fund to help pay planned expenses associated with the cabinet upgrades at the parsonage. In May \$11,000.00 was withdrawn from the Building Maintenance Fund to help pay for annual gap (excess wind and hail) insurance. In May, 3% of the April balances in the Sather Mission, Building Maintenance and Undesignated Funds, a total of \$24,885.79, was withdrawn. In September, 3% of the August balances in those same three funds, a total of \$25,889.50, was also withdrawn. The YTD Balance at the end of December (including market value fluctuations, fees and withdrawals) was \$968,840.34 which shows a monthly gain of \$4,141.00 and a YTD gain of \$226,263.00.

Thank you!

Dear NUMC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Rice County Habitat for Humanity. Your contribution of \$664 is vital, as it directly supports our mission to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in the local community. This support not only helps build homes but also provides families in need with the opportunity for a brighter, more secure future. We are truly grateful for your partnership in building a community where everyone has a decent place to live. Thank you for your support in our mission to provide every one a place to call home. God's Joy - Dayna Norvold, Rice County Habitat for Humanity

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift! May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ. In His Service, Midwest Mission Family

Adult Faith Formation

During Lent: "Morality Without Myths"

A Four-Week Adult Sunday School Series

During Lent, starting February 22 at 10:30 a.m. the Northfield United Methodist Church, 1401 Maple Street, will offer a four-week adult faith formation class on morality and faith. Many of us were taught moral ideas that sound right—and often help—until they quietly stop working. We try harder, reason more carefully, or search for our “true selves,” and still find ourselves stuck, discouraged, or divided. This four-week adult Sunday faith formation series takes a different approach. This class is open to all adults, no charge.

Each session begins with a familiar **moral myth**—a belief many of us rely on without noticing. We consider how research, lived experience, and Christian wisdom complicate that picture. Each session ends with a **simple discernment practice**, drawn from the Ignatian tradition, to help participants notice what is shaping their moral lives and respond more wisely.

This is not a step-by-step program, and the goal is not moral perfection. Instead, Dr. Huff offers perspectives and practices aimed at clearer moral vision, greater self-honesty, and a more grounded way of listening to one’s own heart.

Week 1: Willpower, Failure, and Capacity

Myth: We become more moral by willpower.

Focus: Cultivating attention, support, and situation matters more than trying harder.

Week 2: Reason, Emotion, and Moral Judgment

Myth: Moral judgment is a matter of clear reasoning about principles.

Focus: Moral insight begins with what moves us, not just what we think.

Week 3: Authenticity, Hypocrisy, and Humility

Myth: Authentic moral action should express who I really am.

Focus: Moral life as self-formation rather than self-expression.

Week 4: Consistency and Moral Growth

Myth: Moral excellence requires consistency across all situations.

Focus: Moral growth shows itself in expanding patterns over time, not flawless performance.

Fellowship Hall Project

For close to ten years the Facilities Team has had the desire to add acoustical panels to the Fellowship Hall in order to improve the acoustics in that room. Due to cost and other priorities this project remained on the “wish list.”

With continued acoustical issues in this room, this upgrade was revisited. Planning took place without knowing how this project could be funded. However, due to a very generous gift from Barb Hanson, in honor of her late husband Paul L. Hanson, we are now able to move ahead with this project, and other projects to improve acoustics/sound in the Sanctuary, and other gathering areas.

In late December the Facilities Team took on the project of removing the cork panels near the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. The cork came off without much problem, but the glue that remained was more of a challenge. A lot of scraping, chipping and elbow grease removed the glue, leaving the need for additional work to repair damage to the wall.

After completing repairs to the walls, the entire room was painted. With this remodeling complete, the acoustical panels have been ordered. We anticipate the acoustical panels will be installed late winter or early spring.

In addition to the sound panels, upgrades have been made to the speakers and the speaker locations in the Fellowship Hall. Additionally, we are in the process of installing a new system to enhance the ability for those hard of hearing, to hear in the Sanctuary.

We are extremely thankful to Barb Hanson, and the Hanson family for this generous gift and look forward to the additional improvements that this gift will fund.



FAMILY ministry

Children's Ministry

Children's Church (Pre-K-5th) — Sundays during 9:30 am worship

Children begin worship in the sanctuary with their families and are dismissed around **9:40 am** for Children's Church—a kid-sized time of learning and play.

Super Wednesdays (current grades K-5) 3:30-5:30 pm - Our midweek program for kids features **fun, faith, and a food-snack**. We play games, share highs and lows and incorporate a community where everyone is welcome.

Transportation: After-school busing from Bridgewater, Greenvale, and the Middle School; escort from Spring Creek. Free.

Register for busing: northfieldumc.org/bus-registration

For more info contact: ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org



February 1: Children's Sing in Worship

Jesus, Loves Me

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

This Little Light of Mine

New children are always welcome!
For more information contact Pastor Donna at
ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org

Youth Ministry

NUMC Youth Group is for youth in 6-12 grades. We meet Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8pm plus special outings and events. New youth are always welcome and encouraged to attend! For more information email youth@northfieldumc.org or text Kristen at 507-676-3600.

February Youth Group -

Mark your calendar for these dates!

February 4: Weird and Wonderful

Explore some weird Bible stories and discover how all of our weirdness is part of God's amazing creation.

February 11: Fun and Games

Learn a new game, plus play some youth group favorites, plus time to share out with the group.

February 18: Ash Wednesday Worship Service & Art Reflections

Attend the Service together. Youth group will meet immediately after following for a time of reflection and art-making.

February 25: Can't We All Just Get Along

How do we navigate the difficult times we are living in and what Jesus teaches us about friendship.

Special February Winter Outing

We are working on an outdoor outing (skiing/tubing type outing for February). Check your email for updates.

Girl Scout Cookies!

We will be arranging a Girl Scout Cookie Booth during/ after worship and during Super Wednesday meals in late February or early March. If your family would like to participate please contact Kristen at youth@northfieldumc.org



Confirmation

Northfield UMC's Confirmation program "From Belonging to Grace" starts on Sunday, February 8 at 10:45am. Youth (and their parent or guardian) in grades 9-12 who are interested in participating should attend our first session, "Belonging" on Feb 8. If you are unable to attend on February 8, there will be a make-up session on Wednesday, February 11 at 6pm. Confirmation will meet one Sunday morning and one Wednesday evening per month Feb-May and then Sept-Nov, with Confirmation Sunday in November. There will be at least one session during the Summer plus local service projects. For more info or to register, please email Kristen at youth@northfieldumc.org.





Notes from the Parish Nurse

Losing a loved one is one of the most painful events in one's life. We long for family and friends to support us when we are in the midst of grief, but they may feel uncomfortable and not know what to say. They fear they might upset us or remind us of our grief. Unfortunately, their discomfort with death can sometimes make us feel even more alone and sad. Following are some phrases to AVOID when speaking with a person who is grieving.

- You are so lucky to have had him/her all these years.
- She/he is in a better place.
- At least he/she had a long life; some people die so young.
- There is a reason for everything. I am sure God has a reason.
- How are you doing? (Most people who lose a loved one are not "doing" well and this question often makes them feel as if they have to say "fine" when they are not.)
- You will be okay after a while.
- I understand just how you feel. I know exactly how you feel. (And then go on to talk about your own grief and loss.)
- You shouldn't feel that way. Don't cry!
- Try to focus on your blessings. Think about the positive.
- At least she/he is not suffering anymore.
- You can get remarried. OR You are young enough to have more children.
- It has been longer than a year, don't you think you should move on?

Remember, grief is a very personal experience with no prescribed timeline. We never "get over" the death of a loved one. We learn to live a different life, but the loss is still there.

What can we say when someone is grieving? We need to say very little. It is better to just be present and listen if the grieving person wants to talk. Following are some phrases you could use when speaking with a person who is grieving.

- I am so sorry.
- I wish I had the right words. Please know I care deeply.
- I cannot know how you feel, but I am here to help in any way I can. (Even better than offering to help, is to actually suggest things you could do to help, such as prepare some meals, sit and listen, offer transportation, mow the lawn, help with the memorial service etc.)
- You and your loved ones are in my prayers.
- My favorite memory of _____ (the loved one) is
- I am always just a phone call away. I promise just to listen.
- Take your time to grieve.
- Be gentle with yourself. Grieving is hard work.
- There is no right or wrong way to grieve.
- This is so hard, isn't it?
- You are allowed to feel and be exactly as you are because this is your experience and no one else's.
- It is okay to be angry (or any other emotion). Your feelings are normal.
- Tell me what you miss most about your loved one.
- You do not need to apologize for crying. Tears are important in the healing process.

One person said, "I longed for someone to just sit with me, not talking, not expecting conversation, just being there, holding my hand, accepting my tears, my sadness, and despair." Another person said, "At some of the darkest moments of my life, some people I thought of as friends deserted me—some because they cared about me and it hurt them to see me in pain; others because I reminded them of their own vulnerability and that was more than they could handle. But, real friends overcame their discomfort and came to sit with me. If they didn't have words to make me feel better, they sat in silence." From Rabbi Harold Kushner's book, *Living a Life That Matters*, 2001, New York: Random House.

Information from the Faith Community Nurse Network of the Twin Cities



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins is taking the winter months off. Mugs and Muffins will meet on March 16th to continue a study of "Women of the Bible" quilt blocks. The women we will be studying in March are Bathsheba, Esther, Naomi, and Judith. We meet the church library at 9 AM. New members and visitors are always welcome.



Mission Sewing Project

In December, we donated 38 quilts to Operation Joy. Now Mission Sewing is starting to work on our goals for 2026 which includes making quilts for Operation Joy and items for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The whole group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. We are always looking for more people to help meet our goals. Our next meetings to tie quilts will be on February 25th. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.



IT Tech Corner by Jesse Steed

AI Is All Around Us

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere. Not only is it on social media and Google search results, but also in your email programs, advertising videos, and soon maybe in your backyard. Discussions are gaining attention in communities as companies look to build data centers to power AI operations.

Take note of all aspects of AI's influence in your life. We hear about the benefits of ChatGPT to spin out oodles of prose to spruce up your resume, newsletters, college papers and more. We also hear about the incredible amount of resources the data centers need to keep the hamsters whirling. All aspects of the powers of AI should be evaluated when considering your usage.

I recently got a tour of a real estate photography company's use of AI to take still photos and turn them into videos of lifelike walkthroughs of homes, including timelapses of shadows, twilight, and the setting sun. The videos looked great and really showed off the fine features of the home.

However, use of AI for any purpose could be questioned. Is the finished product real? Even if the video or story seems real, is it really real? While our culture rushes headfirst into the waves of AI generated content, let us approach it with critical thinking and a healthy dose of "wait a minute."

Take time to evaluate what you're seeing, reading, and hearing. AI can provide some really cool tools, but the true benefits may be yet to be seen.



Isaiah and Faith in Minnesota (FIMN) have been very active and involved in working for human dignity and justice at this critical time in our state and country's history. We are working to build enough power to be a moral witness to move the heart of our nation and provide a model to others on how to stay free. There have been a number of trainings and opportunities for to stand against fear and intimidation, in particular to our immigrant community .

On Dec. 13th, over 5,000 people from around the state gathered at the LIGHT IN THE STORM event to learn and discuss what is called the People's Agenda. These are priorities that ensure health care, housing, child care and basic needs get necessary funding. We heard from individuals and organizations who have been significantly negatively impacted by funding and policy decisions, particularly at the federal level, and how we can join together to work for change.

ACTIONS to take:

- Stay informed about what is happening in Northfield.
- Support the CAC as they are experiencing increased demand for services.
- Contact your legislators to replace funding for monies that have been cut.
- Attend the Feb. 3rd caucus meetings where you can voice support to delegates and resolutions that support dignity and care for all.

This website will tell you where your caucus will be held. caucusfinder.sos.mn.gov It is our time to claim the Darkness cannot cancel Light. As always, I'm available for questions. - Mary Lynn Oglesbee



**Methodists
Investing in
Care and
Action for the
Holy Land**

“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

FROM THE MAILBOX

From: Mona Nour

Subject: Re: Donations to the Shepherd Society

Thank you so much for your kind message, prayers, and continued solidarity. Your commitment to reading Sabeel's Wave of Prayers and educating your congregation and community about the situation in Bethlehem means a great deal to us. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations of \$3,000.00 and \$100.00, as well as for the half payment of \$325.00 toward the sponsorship of your sponsored family. Your support makes a real difference in the lives of the families we serve. Thank you for standing with us and for your faithfulness and compassion. May God bless you all and your meaningful work in the year ahead.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

Mona Nour

Shepherd Society

From: MARIE GERY

Subject: A Belated Thank You

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about immigration along the Southern Border. After all these years there may be enough for a book. I certainly did NOT expect to be paid, and thank the church for me. The \$100 check has been "recycled" to the Food Shelf. May this holiday season be one of joy and peace for you and for those you love.

Marie

Sunday, February 8, 10:40 am Adult Faith Formation

Title: Tales from Bethlehem; Conversations in Minnesota

Ruben Slomianski is a Jewish American whose family members include people who died as a result of the pogroms of the early 20th Century and the Holocaust, and also now includes family members who suffer under occupation in the West Bank. He is an artist and advocate for human rights and justice for Palestinians, and he has been active with Jewish Voice for Peace Twin Cities Chapter and MN-BDS for several years.

Ruben will discuss his perspective as a Jew raised in a Conservative Jewish household in the 1950s, and his trajectory to becoming part of a Palestinian family through a joyous marriage between his daughter and a Palestinian man raised and living in a refugee camp in Bethlehem. He will talk about his recent trips to Bethlehem, and he will explore these questions and ways for our community to work together to affect positive change.

Sunday, February 15, 10:40 am Adult Faith Formation

The Present - A 24-minute film set in the West Bank of Palestine

Film summary: On his wedding anniversary, Yusef and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift. Between soldiers, segregated roads and checkpoints, how easy would it be to go shopping? Followed by discussion.



Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian organic, fair trade, extra virgin olive oil.

500 ml. 16.8 oz - \$25.00

Limited time offer:

Nabulsi soap made from Palestinian olive oil and glycerin.....5.3 oz, \$6.00

Za atar spice mix from the Women's Cooperative in Jenin. This is a mix of Thyme, Sumac, and other herbs. Can be added to dips, marinades, salads, and sauces.

RECIPE:

Za atar Salad Dressing
1/2 C Zatoun extra virgin olive oil
1/4 C balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp Zatoun za atar
1 Tbsp lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste



UWFaith Bake Sale - 2/8/26 Prayer & Self-Denial offering

United Women in Faith - Meeting Dates

February 2, 2026 - UWF Executive Board meeting - 10:00 am Room 120

February 9, 2026 - Esther Circle - Kildahl, 888 Cannon Valley Drive

Prayer and Self Denial

March 2026 - Mugs and Muffins - Church Library - 9:00 am Third Monday of the Month

National Website www.UWFaith.org

New Minnesota Website www.uwfaithmn.com

BAKE SALE!!! Put February 8 on your calendar as the day you COME TO CHURCH for the Valentine Bake Sale!!!

Bakers, bring your goodies to the south entrance of the church between 8:30/9:15.

UWFaith Calendar of events for 2026 –

February 8 Bake sale

February UWFaith mission pledge letter to all women of NUMC

April Quilt Raffel/Emma Norton donations

April 18 River Bluffs Area meeting – NUMC hosts

May UWFaith Sunday

Sept 12 River Bluffs Area meeting at Fairmont Avenue UMC, St. Paul

Mini Bazaar. More details to come.

December 6 Holiday Bake sale

Soul Care Ladies' Day Apart - October?

October 10 MN Conference meeting at Camphor UMC, St. Paul

Quilting and Sewing Group – Dorothy Orde has announced **38 quilts were made for** Community Action Committee (CAC) **Christmas Joy 2025**. Quilters are starting on their next 35 quilts, meeting most Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in the sewing room #120. The whole group meets once a month on the fourth (4th) Wednesday. You do not need to sew to be a part of this group.

Prayer and Self-denial – “The 2026 theme for United Women in Faith’s A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service –**‘The Future Is Now: Invest in Our Children.’** This year’s offering will help children through the work of United Women in Faith’s National Mission Institutions which help our most marginalized and vulnerable children through low-cost early-childhood education: afterschool programs with a hot meal and caring mentors and enrichment programs; mental health counseling and social-emotional support; internships and work experiences; life-saving intensive care for severely traumatized youth; guidance for the transition to adulthood and independence; and reunification with family.” (source: January/February Response p.6-7)

[United Women in Faith \(UWFaith\)](#) actively addresses food insecurity through advocacy for programs like [SNAP](#), supporting local food pantries (like Families Forward), providing grants for economic empowerment (farming, small businesses), and organizing community service for meal/hygiene kits, viewing it as a core mission to provide both immediate relief and address root causes, with members engaging in local action and prayer. They work with National Mission Institutions (NMIs) to offer direct assistance, promote self-sufficiency, and advocate for justice to ensure women, children, and youth have food and security.

Hosting River Bluffs Area (district) meeting April 18, 2026 – Northfield United Women in Faith are hosting a gathering of women from the southeastern Minnesota area in April 18, 2026. We will be coming together to learn more about food insecurity and climate change, and sharing fundraising ideas for UWFaith missions.

Announcements

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

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



Aluminum Cans for Operation Backpack
Collect your aluminum cans and place in the container behind the church kitchen. All proceeds from the cans go towards Operation Backpack.

Super Wednesday Community Meal

Serving 5:30-6:15 pm, Wednesdays during the program year.

February Menu

February 4
Super Bowl
Super Wednesday
Brats and Hot Dogs
Baked Beans
Nachos
Vegetable Tray
Ice Cream Bars

February 11
Chicken Marinara
with Noodles
Ceasar Salad
Mixed Vegetables
Bread
Ice Cream and Treats

February 18
Mac and Cheese with Ham
Broccoli
Green Salad
French Bread
Valentine Cookies
Ice Cream

February 25
Chili with a Toppings Bar
Garlic Bread
Salad Bar
Ice Cream and Treats



Card Making with Margie

Monday, February 16, 2026, 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.

Life Happens Meditation



Join us for a **free** beginner meditation class
Tuesdays, 7-8pm, February 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th
at Northfield United Methodist Church.

For more information visit northstarmeditation.org

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**March
Herald Newsletter
Deadline**

The deadline for the
March issue will be:

Noon on Monday, February 16th

Please submit your items for the newsletter in a digital format (word document) to northfieldumc@gmail.com.
If you have photos of your events, please email those for the newsletter as well!

Because every picture has a story to tell...



UWFaith members had fun wrapping Christmas gifts for a family selected by CAC's Operation Joy!

Darlene Cox and Janet Dale organize and clean the candles/holders in preparation of the Christmas Eve services.

Blessing of the mission quilts made by Mission Sewing taking place during worship.



Peace wreath suncatchers!

Annual Youth Holiday House Creations!



A special thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Pageant. The alpacas--Annie and Oakley--played their parts well, as did the shepherds, sheep, barnyard animals, stars, kings, camels, and, of course, Mary and Joseph. Thanks, Jeremy and Crew! And all who made it happen behind the scenes: Paula, Diane, Ashlynn, Charlie, Kathryn, Jesse, and Pastor Donna.



A good time was had by all at a recent Super Wednesday children's sledding party. The weather was perfect and a fresh blanket of snow made the sliding hill ideal for the kids (and a couple of adults as well).



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship with Communion 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Faith Formation 4:00 Community Reservation	2 10:00 UWF mtg. 7:00 Community Reservation	3 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 7:00-8:00 Meditation Class	4 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation 3:30-5:30 Faith, Food & Fun (snack) 5:30-6:15 Shared Meal 6:00 Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	5 12:00 Community Reservation	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4:30-9:30 Community Reservation	7 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
8 UWF Bake Sale 9:30 Worship 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Faith Formation 6:30-8:30 Community Reservation	9 10:00 MICAH mtg 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 5:30-7:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	10 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 7:00-8:00 Meditation Class	11 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation 3:30-5:30 Faith, Food & Fun (snack) 5:30-6:15 Shared Meal 6:15 Choir 6:15 Climate Study 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	12 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast	14 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
15 9:30 Worship 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Faith Formation	16 Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Community Reservation	17 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 7:00-8:00 Meditation Class 7:00 Facilities Mtg.	18 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation 3:30-5:30 Faith, Food & Fun (snack) 5:30-6:15 Shared Meal 6:15 Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	19 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom	20 8:00 Men's Breakfast	21 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
22 9:30 Worship 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Faith Formation	23 7:00 Community Reservation	24 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 7:00-8:00 Meditation Class	25 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation 3:30-5:30 Faith, Food & Fun (snack) 5:30-6:15 Shared Meal 6:15 Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	26 12:00 Community Reservation	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast	28 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

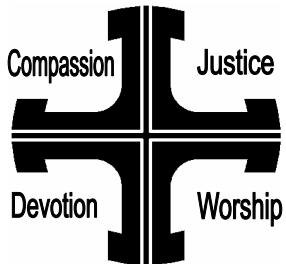
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**E-NEWSLETTER
SIGN-UP**



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

Pastor	Donna Dempewolf
Parish Nurse	Ruth Kruse
Interim Children's Director	Donna Dempewolf
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Interim Youth Director	Kristen Twitchell
Children and Youth Intern	Izel Thoele
NUMC Band	Dave Miller
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir	Deborah Rae Miller
Organists	Joanne Rodland
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Information & Worship Technology Consultant	Jesse Steed
Treasurer	David Wolf (Volunteer)

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