

# United Methodist Herald

September 2026



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## September Worship

September 6, 2026  
Worship with Communion  
2 Chronicles 14:9-12  
1 Peter 5:6-7  
Pastor Richard Waters

September 13, 2026  
Matthew 18:15-20  
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

September 20, 2026  
Psalm 148:1-14  
John 1:1-5  
Pastor Donna Dempewolf

September 27, 2026  
Celebration Sunday  
1 Kings 19:1-33a  
Pastor Donna Dempewolf



# Message from the Pastor

The fourteenth-century mystic Julian of Norwich wrote that every act of compassion to another is actually Christ working within us. As fall approaches at Northfield UMC, I've been thinking about compassion.

Earlier this summer, I saw that the Minnesota Annual Conference was offering a new **Love Boldly Mental Health Ministry Grant**, and I wondered: *Is this something we should explore?*

The answer seemed to be yes, as an act of compassion.

The grants were created to help United Methodist congregations support mental health through wellness, prevention, education, and relationships with community organizations. As we began thinking about what that could look like, **Northfield Union of Youth and The LOCK (Life Skills. Opportunity. Counseling. Knowledge.)** emerged as a natural partner in helping us listen, learn, and support our community in Northfield.

Mental health is part of being human. It includes how we experience emotions, cope with stress, navigate relationships and loss, and find connection and meaning. Like our physical health, it can be strong at some points in our lives and more vulnerable at others.

And mental health is never simply about one age group. The mental health of young people affects all of us—as parents and grandparents, teachers and neighbors, friends and caring adults. Across the generations, anxiety, depression, loneliness, caregiving, grief, and the changes that come with each age stage touch nearly every family.

A community of faith isn't a substitute for a therapist, physician, or other mental-health professional. But it can be a place where we don't have to pretend. We can become better listeners, talk about mental health without shame, encourage people to seek help when they need it, and pay attention to the relationships and practices that help people flourish.

We'll periodically welcome people with experience and expertise. On **September 27**, Dr. Dutch Handlang will begin our fall Adult Faith Formation series with a conversation about psychological and spiritual growth. Dutch is a licensed psychologist who has also served as a United Methodist licensed local pastor.

There are **two dates I especially hope you'll put on your calendar**.

On **Sunday, October 4**, Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of Northfield Union of Youth, will deliver the message in worship. She and her team will also join us during Adult Faith Formation to talk about youth mental health and what they are seeing and doing in our community.

Then on **Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll welcome youth and adults, parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends for **Love Boldly | Unlocking Hope**. Kelli and her team, including therapist Rebecca Krug, will lead a community conversation on mental health, with some fun and connection for young people before and after.

And Love Boldly won't end in October. Later in the year, we'll hear from others about healthy practices for navigating anxiety and depression, as well as ways to support our mental and emotional well-being.

Our relationship with The LOCK also gives us practical ways to support our community. Sometimes compassion means helping create spaces where young people know caring adults are around. Sometimes it means making sure there's food or basic necessities. During September, we're collecting toiletries such as deodorant and hairspray, along with snacks such as granola bars, for The LOCK. It's hard to think clearly when you're hungry. Sometimes care is very practical.

And as all of this begins, so do the familiar rhythms of fall. I'm particularly looking forward to **KidConnect**, the new name for our Wednesday children's program, beginning September 16, 3:30–5:30 p.m. There will be sports and arts, stories and community, followed by our Super Wednesday meal at 5:30 p.m.

I don't know exactly where our Love Boldly journey will take us. That's part of the invitation. We'll listen, ask questions, hear from people who know things we don't, and discover together how we can better care for ourselves, one another, and our community.

Julian may have been onto something: compassion for one another is one of the ways Christ becomes visible among us.

Donna

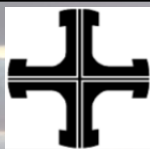


## NUMC WELCOME STATEMENT

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.*

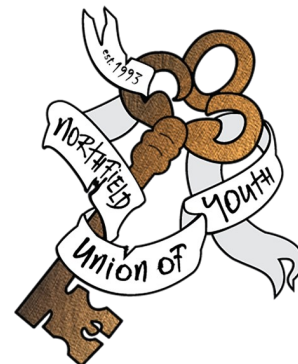
### Unlock Support for Youth: Stock The LOCK

The Key's new initiative, **The LOCK (Life Skills, Opportunity, Counseling, and Knowledge)** is a trusted place where youth can find counseling and support – and also food and basic necessities.

NUMC will be collecting donation items through the month of September for **The LOCK**.

Items especially needed:

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Acne Cream
- Pimple Patches
- Small Packages of Kleenex
- Small Bottles of Water
- Juice Boxes
- Granola Bars
- Trail Mix and other individually packaged snacks



### Super Wednesday Returns September 16<sup>th</sup> Food and Fellowship!

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

#### September Meal Menu

##### September 16

Pizza  
Green Salad  
Cookies & Ice Cream

##### September 30

Pork Loin  
Cheesy Potatoes  
Pear Salad  
Bread  
Treats & Ice Cream

##### September 23

Asian Delight Night!  
Egg Rolls, Egg Drop Soup  
Fried Rice, Steamed Rice  
Sweet & Sour Chicken  
Treats & Ice Cream

### Celebration Sunday! Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

We'll celebrate the new program year with the NUMC band playing during worship service. Then after worship join us for fellowship and community! We will have special treats for everyone, along with games and a bounce house for the kids in the gym. It's going to be a joyful day for all ages!

# Adult Faith Formation

This fall, our Adult Faith Formation team invites you to explore faith, scripture, justice, and some of the most important questions of our time. Whether you're a longtime participant or joining us for the first time, there's a place for you.

## September 27 – Psychological & Spiritual Growth

Dr. Dutch Handlang, a licensed psychologist who has also served as a United Methodist licensed local pastor, will help us explore psychological and spiritual growth while working to destigmatize conversations about mental health.

## October 4 – Love Boldly: Mental Health

Kelli Podracki, Executive Director of The Key, and members of her team will lead a conversation focused on youth mental health—helping us better understand the challenges young people face and how caring adults and communities can offer support, connection, and hope.

## October 11 & 18 – Faith in the Age of AI

What does it mean to be human in an age of artificial intelligence? Together we'll explore the opportunities and ethical questions surrounding emerging technology. Copies of the study *Magnificent Humanity* will be available.

## October 25 – November 29 – Manna & Mercy

Journey through Daniel Erlander's beloved overview of the biblical story—from creation to new creation—as worship and adult formation come together throughout the series. Illustrated copies of *Manna & Mercy* will be available as a gift. We'll also hear excerpts from the preaching of Rev. Alan Storey, a South African Methodist pastor known for his prophetic witness to justice and mercy.

**Advent** - We'll conclude the year with Advent studies, including the Bishop's online study, *When Hope Is Born: An Advent Journey with the Midwives of Scripture*, along with two weeks of in-person conversations led by our Micah Team.

We hope you'll join us this fall as we learn together, ask thoughtful questions, and deepen our faith. For more information, contact Clay Oglesbee at **507-251-9283**.

## Climate & “Hope for Creation” Visioning Process Begins in October

from the Creation Care Team

*Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will....Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.*

—Pope Francis

After a summer of extraordinary heat, drought and uncontrolled fires in many areas of our planet, including our own Boundary Waters and much of the state, starting in October, the Creation Care Team will move forward with a congregational **Creation Care Visioning, Planning and Action Process** in coordination with the leaders and resources of the Midwest-based Hope for Creation pilot program we began a year ago with several other United Methodist churches. Many of you will remember that step followed a four-week series on climate concerns offered in the spring of 2025. This has been done with the support of the Church Council, Pastor Donna Dempewolf and many of our members, the Northfield United Methodist Church. As Eco-Theologian Timothy Eberhart describes this effort:

*Grounded in theological, spiritual, and practical ecological wisdoms, this curricular journey aligns with seasonal and liturgical cycles and supports congregations as they discern their particular visions for regenerative mission and ministry. Supported by a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Hope for Creation curriculum is offered at no cost to participating congregations as part of the Midwest Bioregional Hub initiative of Garrett's Center for Ecological Regeneration.*

This Visioning, Planning and Action Process will start with about four weeks of shared reflection, and then move on to planning climate care initiatives. The **Creation Care Team** is currently composed of Tim Goodwin, Kevin and Amy Allin, Clay Oglesbee and Pastor Donna Dempewolf.

By the completion of the process, the Creation Care Team will work with church members and leadership to **develop a Creation Care vision and plan to begin one or more new climate-related ministries**, like the planting of new, climate-adapted trees this past spring. Those steps, led by Kevin Allin and the Facilities Team, gave immediate inspiration to many of us, and we even named one of the trees after a “climate saint”, Hildegard of Bingen, at Pastor Donna's suggestion! Local steps and broader climate policy actions will be priority outcomes for our congregation's climate work. Please join in this deeply important initiative as we together envision our next steps of care for Creation. Maybe we will re-imagine ourselves as “watershed guardians”, or as God's own keepers and gardeners for this beautiful creation.

## Children's Ministry

### Children's Church (Pre K-5<sup>th</sup>) – Sundays during 9:30 am worship.

**Children's Church - Beginning Sunday, September 20.** During this time, children are invited to grow together in God's love by participating in Bible stories, music, crafts and games. After the children's message during Sunday worship, Amy Allin will lead Children's Church in classroom 121. If your child has outgrown the nursery, they are invited to join this kid's friendly community.

#### Dates to Note:

**September 20** – Blessing of the Backpacks – Bring your backpacks to Sunday worship.

**October 18** – No Children's Church (MEA break)

**October 25** – Trunk or Treat (1:30-2:30 pm) Costumes welcome! Family fun and community outreach in the church lot. (indoors if weather requires)



### Super Wednesdays

#### KidConnect - Beginning Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

KidConnect is the new name for our Wednesday after-school gathering for kids in grades K-5! There will be sports and arts, snacks and stories, creativity and connection.

#### 3:30–5:30 p.m. | KidConnect

Games, creativity, movement, stories, and plenty of fun.

#### 5:30–6:15 p.m. | Community Meal

Everyone is welcome around the table!

**Transportation:** Free bus transportation is available after school from Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, and Northfield Middle School, with walking escorts from Spring Creek.

Register for busing here: [northfieldumc.org/bus-registration](https://northfieldumc.org/bus-registration)



#### REGISTRATION:

Register for KidConnect here:

<https://northfieldumc.org/children-youth-family-ministries>

**Adults, we need you, too!** Super Wednesdays are a wonderful way to connect with our children and families. If you can help with KidConnect, the community meal, or other Wednesday activities, contact Pastor Donna at [ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org](mailto:ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org).

## Youth Ministry

**Northfield UMC Youth Group (grades 6-12)** - NUMC Youth Group includes time for fun and recreation, community building games and activities, a mini-lesson to help our young people connect to God in everyday moments, and time for supporting and celebrating each other through our highs and

**9/16: Youth Group Kick-Off - Blanket Service Project** (6:30-8pm) Join us for a mix of games, discussion, and community building and planning as we kick-off another school year.

**9/23: Inside Out 2 - Movie Night** - Following up on Pastor Donna's summer sermon series, we will watch this movie and then discuss it's relationship to our faith and mental health on 9/30.

**9/30: Bonfire and Inside Out 2 Discussion** - Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't seen the movie.

**Confirmation** - Please look for more info coming soon. There will be an info meeting in mid-October.

#### Connect with Youth Group

To sign-up for the Youth Group text reminder group, please text Kristen at (507) 676-3600. To be added to the youth email list, please email [youth@northfieldumc.org](mailto:youth@northfieldumc.org)





# Notes from the Parish Nurse

"Each September, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope, and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time...Our goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and seek help...Talking about suicide isn't harmful—silence is." ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)) Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in 10-24 year old individuals. That accounts for over 49,000 people dying by suicide in a single year. These are sobering statistics.

## **Risk Factors for Suicide**

- History of mental health conditions, especially depression and bipolar disorder
- Family history of suicide or exposure to high-profile media stories about suicide
- Substance abuse, as the highs and lows may impair judgment, reduce inhibitions, and increase the likelihood of engaging in risky or harmful activities
- History of trauma and abuse
- Recent tragedy, loss, or stressful life event such as the death of a loved one or parental divorce
- Access to firearms

## **Warning Signs for Suicide**

- Feeling very sad, hopeless, withdrawn, or unmotivated for more than 2 weeks
- Pulling away from friends, family, or social activities
- Changes in behavior or personality, such as aggression or a shift to a very passive behavior
- Changes in sleep patterns such as increased insomnia or excessive sleeping
- Significant weight gain or weight loss
- Noticeable drop in grades or school attendance; extreme difficulty concentrating
- Out-of-control risk taking behavior
- Excess use of drugs or alcohol
- Giving away important possessions
- Putting affairs in order; saying good-bye to friends and family
- Preoccupation with death and dying
- Making plans or try to harm or kill self

"Teens who see warning signs in themselves or friends need to take them seriously and know now to get help." ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)) Factors that can protect a person from suicide include social support, engagement with religion, mental health treatment with follow-up contacts, problem solving and coping skills, and a sense of responsibility to family.

**FACT:** "You don't give a suicidal person morbid ideas by talking about suicide. The opposite is true. Bringing up this subject of suicide and discussing it openly is one of the most helpful things you can do. It allows a suicidal person to feel understood and to feel connected." ([www.stopasuicide.org](http://www.stopasuicide.org)) Talking openly and honestly is a way to approach suicide related crises. Ask open ended questions to encourage a person to share his/her feelings. "I've noticed you've been going through a tough time. Do you want to talk about it?" "That sounds incredibly difficult. How can I help?" Validate their feelings, express support and concern, offer to call for help, and remove the means, such as guns, knives, and pills. Don't argue, threaten, or raise your voice. Be patient.

For help, text or call "988", the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You will get a brief automated greeting and then "hold" music, as the call is routed to a local crisis center based on your phone's area code. The trained counselor who answers will ask if you are safe, will listen to you without judgment, and will help you walk through your distress. For actual treatment for a person experiencing suicidal thoughts, there needs to be crisis intervention and safety planning initially and later psychotherapy and sometimes medication. "Mental health care matters. Mental health treatment—therapy, medication, self-care—have made recovery a reality for most people experiencing mental illness. Although taking the first steps can be confusing or difficult, it's important to start exploring options." ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org))

"As a community, we must work together to lift the stigma around mental health and suicide, ensuring our young people know they are not alone and that help is available." ([www.spiritualfirstaid.org](http://www.spiritualfirstaid.org))



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

*“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*



### **Olive Oil for Sale**

Palestinian organic, fair  
trade, extra virgin olive oil.

750 ml/25.4 oz. for \$30.00

500 ml/16.9 oz. for \$25.00

Olive Oil Soap for \$6

Za'atar Spices for \$6

Now available in the church office!

### **A PRAYER FROM MICAH**

An interfaith tour group comprised entirely of U.S. citizens and led by a United Methodist clergy couple has been denied entry to Palestine/Israel by the Israeli government! Israel fought for years to be admitted to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, so their citizens could have easy entry when visiting the United States. It is a reciprocal commitment. U.S. citizens must have the same rights when traveling to Palestine/Israel.

**Divine Creator, we are your pilgrims and are always journeying to seek you. We put our faith that our witness is never in vain and that it will raise awareness of the unjust systems of borders and privilege that divide our world. Lord, help us to illuminate the way towards a more just and liberated reality, where the Holy Land welcomes all.**

*Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer*

MICAH recently sent a generous gift of \$3,000, from a friend of MICAH, to the **Shepherd Society**. The Shepherds Society is a vital humanitarian service and an Advance project of the UMC. See all the Advance projects United Methodists are supporting in Palestine/Israel here: [https://www.kairosresponse.org/umc\\_advance\\_projects.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/umc_advance_projects.html)

MICAH is very grateful to the **Brick Oven Bakery** for many years of partnership in our efforts to support our Bethlehem family. As a significant source of fundraising, the BOB has generously contributed a portion of their proceeds on our MICAH designated fundraising days in the fall each year. While we are not having a fall fundraiser this year, MICAH wishes to thank everyone at the BOB for their support over the years. We are truly grateful for such a wonderful community partner.

### **News from our Bethlehem family:**

Happy Birthday to Basil in Palestine! As you turn 15 in September, we hope you are surrounded by loving family and friends, and we pray you will count us in that number. Though separated by thousands of miles, we feel deeply for the realities of your life in Palestine, and we pray the best for you on your birthday, and always.



How can we boycott?

### **Healing Beyond the Headlines: Building a Movement of Hope for Palestinian Children**

Presentation and Q&A with Rami Khader, Founder and Executive Director of Anar for Empowerment & Psychosocial Support

**Monday, September 21, 2026**

**7:00pm–8:30pm**

[St. John's Lutheran Church](#)

500 Third St W, Northfield, MN 55057

[More information and optional RSVP online.](#)

## Justice Team Forms to Resource Action on Public Matters and Issues

Beginning September 20th, members of the congregation will have the opportunity every Sunday to stop by the "Make A Difference" table near the church courtyard. The table and volunteers will offer current opportunities to influence public policy or take action on justice matters such as climate change, immigration, human rights in Gaza, peace in the Ukraine, protections for democracy in the US, and so on.

This new resource, which will counsel members and participants to "pray, learn and act" will be sponsored by a new "Justice Team", organized this summer and comprised of volunteers representing such groups as Isaiah, MN Interfaith, Micah, the Creation Care Team, Reconciling Congregations, Americans of Conscience and others.

If you often think you'd like to "make a difference", but aren't always sure just where to start, this table is a good place to begin to really Make A Difference. Try it out, starting September 20th! New participants are welcome; current ones include Mary Twitchell, Mary Lynn Oglesbee, Darlene Cox, Tracy Goodwin, Tim Goodwin, Jesse Steed and Clay Oglesbee. We plan to meet monthly to discuss our witness and decide about updates for the congregation.



## Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing just got a donation of hats that will be given to Midwest Distribution Center. Thank you to Reggie Fineran for the donation. Besides the hats, Mission Sewing has been making diapers, receiving blankets and gowns to go to Midwest 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 September 23rd. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.



## Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on September 21st to continue a study of "Women of the Bible" quilt blocks. The women we will be studying in September are Priscilla, Joanna, Mary and Martha, and Salome. We meet in the church library at 9 AM. New members and visitors are always welcome.



## Children's Ministries Director/Coordinator

Northfield United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Children's Ministries Director/Coordinator (10–15 hours/week) to help nurture the faith and community life of children in an inclusive, intergenerational congregation.

This position includes Sunday morning Children's Church, Wednesday afternoon programming and activities, seasonal events, and collaboration with volunteers and student interns. We are looking for someone who is energetic, relational, organized, and enjoys creating welcoming, engaging experiences for children and families.

Primary work times are Sunday AM and Wednesday PM, with flexible summer responsibilities. Compensation is \$20–25/hour depending on experience.

To apply or request additional information, contact Pastor Donna Dempewolf at [ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org](mailto:ddempewolf@northfieldumc.org) or (507) 645-5689.

## 🎵 UMC Choir Notes! 🎵

The Northfield UMC Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, October 28!**

We meet Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., and sing for worship approximately once per month.

We welcome new choral voices to be part of this leadership group for worship. If you would like to join the adult choir, please contact Debbie Miller, [choir@northfieldumc.org](mailto:choir@northfieldumc.org) so we can be prepared for you!



***Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.***

James 5:13b NIV



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Grace Can Lead Us Home

### Housing the Unhoused - UWFaith Reading Program

#### United Women in Faith - Meeting Dates

**September 20, 2026 - UWF Executive Board meeting** - Sunday Coffee Hour

**September 14, 2026 - Esther Circle** - 1:00 pm, Kildahl, 888 Cannon Valley Drive,

**September 14, 2026 - Mugs and Muffins** - Church Library - 9:00 am Third Monday of the Month

National Website [www.UWFaith.org](http://www.UWFaith.org)

New Minnesota Website [www.uwfaithmn.com](http://www.uwfaithmn.com)

**Northfield UMC UWFaith 2027 Budget Meeting:** A discussion is planned for deciding the 2027 Budget. We will start in Esther Circle, September 14, 2026 and finalize it in the UWFaith Executive Board Meeting, Sunday, September 20, 2026 during Coffee Hour. All interested members are welcome to attend.

**Grace Can Lead Us Home by Kevin Nye:** Kevin Nye has worked with the people of homelessness in Los Angeles, CA for over ten (10) years. We in Northfield UMC are collaborators with **The Key** and supporters of **Emma Norton Services**. Both organizations work with persons in homelessness or the "unhoused". "Threats to those in homelessness are: exclusion, lack of access to resources, fighting to belong, criminalization, mistreatment, dehumanization, and being invisible." Kevin highlights tricks to being with those of homelessness: Listen to them. Help them to be seen and heard. Ground their discussion in an increase of awareness of their surroundings, colors, sounds around them. Guide the discussion toward a clearer expression of their needs and wants. "Grace can change the way we see everything. Like a new pair of glasses, Grace allows us to see every aspect of homelessness differently."

Unhoused people depend on patterns of knowing where to find food, clothing, showers, and other resources within walking distance of their known neighborhood. If the unhoused are offered desirable services in a favorable neighborhood, with no barriers, and no strings attached, by someone they trust, most will accept the help offered.

Most unhoused are priced out of their neighborhood due to higher rents or unaffordable housing. Leaving the neighborhood, they lose their safety net of family, friends, and community. It is hard for them to comply with our merit based system of needing to be clean, sober, compliant, maybe religious, to stay in shelters or to move on to the next rung of treatment.

**Housing First Model:** This is the model that seems to have the best results: (used by Emma Norton Services and The Key)

**Consumer Choice:** the unhoused chooses, location, type of housing, medical/health support, addiction services.

**Community based:** rooted in community, unhoused belongs.

**Mobile Support Services:** services brought to participants.

**Permanent Housing:** Participants have name on the lease, keep it for as long as they want it.

**Harm Reduction:** focus on minimizing and mitigating the harm that results from their behaviors.

People pay up to 30% of income toward their rent (Many in the US pay over 50% of income on rent.)

**Theology of Grace:** Loved into healing! Not - Loved because they are healed. As collaborators/supporters, we are now a part of this model.

**Alliance Stamp Ministry:** 13901 Shell Point Plaza; Fort Myers, FL 33908 I have been receiving calls about this ministry from other states. I am including this address here so you can mail your stamps directly to the ministry. Northfield UMC can still put theirs in the box in the Fellowship Hall.

# Announcements

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

For Sunday 9:30 am livestreamed worship service, visit our website: [northfieldumc.org](http://northfieldumc.org)



## Aluminum Cans for Operation Backpack

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

## Save the Date! Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

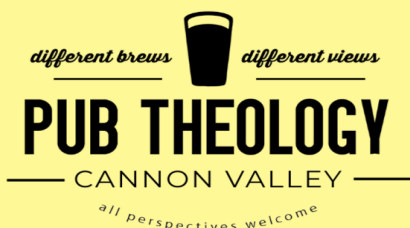
Fall Clean-up Day is just around the corner.

The facilities team has selected Saturday, October 3 as our fall work day. There will be many outdoor and indoor projects we can tackle. More information in the October Herald.



## Card Making with Margie

Monday, September 21, 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.



2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH • 6:30 TO 8 PM



## Habitat for Humanity Volunteers Needed

Dave Wolf and George Davis are recruiting Habitat for Humanity construction volunteers for a group of NUMC church people to sign up for a volunteer work day on October 17th, 8 am - 3 pm (or as many hours you have available). A coffee break and lunch break is provided.

The two duplexes under construction are on the corner of Sumner and College streets in Northfield.

If you can volunteer, please send George Davis at [davisgandl@gmail.com](mailto:davisgandl@gmail.com) or Dave Wolf [dave\\_wolf@charter.net](mailto:dave_wolf@charter.net) your name and email.

The Rice County Habitat for Humanity Community Engagement Coordinator will collect names and emails from us and then contact you as to what you need to do before October 17th. Thank you!

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

**October  
Herald Newsletter  
Deadline**

The deadline for the October issue will be:

**Noon on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

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

If you have photos of your events, please email those for the newsletter as well!

## FINANCE UPDATE

General Fund YTD 2026 contributions \$182,761.64  
General Fund YTD 2025 contributions \$181,066.88

General Fund July 2026 contributions \$23,561.00  
General Fund July 2025 contributions \$33,608.00

### Treasurer's Report for July 2026

**General Fund** - The checking account balance at the end of July was \$20,842.43 compared to a June balance of \$26,322.56; shows a monthly decrease of \$5,480.13. Only January conference apportionments have been paid due to operating cash flow needs. A balance of \$24,647.18 is owed for February, March, April, May, June and July.

Monthly Offering Income for July was \$23,561.00. YTD Actual Offering Income was \$182,761.64; \$1,694 more than YTD last year, but \$21,405.01 less than the YTD Budget of \$204,166.65. Other Income Totals of \$1,551.96 for July came from Interest Income of 1.96 and \$1,550.00 from Facility Usage. General Fund Income Total for July was \$25,112.96. Thus, General Fund YTD Actual Income was \$208,264.98; \$28,238.72 less than the YTD Budget of \$236,503.70.

Monthly Expenses for July totaled \$27,731.41. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$243,885.10; \$33,149.38 less than the YTD Budget of \$277,034.48. YTD expenses exceeded income by \$35,620.12 which is only \$4,910.66 less than the YTD Budgeted shortfall of \$40,380.78.

Offering Income for the first seven months of 2026 is just over \$1,694.76 ahead of the same period in 2025. However, this increase in YTD income was not sufficient to cover YTD expenses.

**Physical Plant** - July income total was \$11,122.61 broken down as follows: \$10,442.61 from General Fund Support and \$680.00 from contributions to the Building Campaign. YTD Actual Income was \$131,831.18: \$2,780.00 from Building Campaign; \$86,600.20 from General Fund Support; and \$42,450.98 from Building Maintenance Fund.

A significant church maintenance expense of \$11,200.00 for Gap Insurance was paid in May.

YTD Actual Expenses were \$125,907.78 which leaves a positive balance of \$5,923.40. Total YTD building insurance costs were \$24,925.65. Total YTD funds spent for Fellowship Hall and Worship Area sound improvements were \$23,461.49.

**Investment/Quasi-Endowment Funds** - At the beginning of January 2026, the total value of the four funds was \$968,840.34. Gifts received from the Hanson Estate, \$52,381.89 in January and \$50,496.80 in February, were deposited in the Building Maintenance Fund designated for hearing and sound improvements within the Fellowship Hall and Worship Area. A total of \$69,194.62 was withdrawn from these funds during the first seven months of 2026.

The combined YTD Balance of all four funds at the end of July (including deposits, withdrawals, market value fluctuations and fees) was \$1,068,228.86 which shows a YTD gain of \$99,388.52. YTD investment earnings for funds in the Balanced Fund were 6.44% while earnings for funds in the Growth Fund were 7.82%.

## 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 <https://northfieldumc.org>
3. Donate with a credit/debit card via "Text to Give" (text number 844-946-1577)
4. Donate via our QR code using a credit/debit card (see QR code below)
5. Donate via 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](https://northfieldumc.org), in the church office or by emailing [northfieldumc@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldumc@gmail.com).

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



Richard Collman and Carol Jorgenson providing music at the August 23rd worship service.



NUMC congregation members have been providing beautiful flowers either from their own gardens or purchased for the altar each Sunday through the month of August. Thank you to those who contributed to worship with your beautiful flowers!



The NUMC Operation Backpack committee and volunteers held another successful Operation Backpack handing out over 600 backpacks to children in need.



Pastor Donna on the American Methodist Pilgrimage with Colleague Juan Carlos and Max Richter.



If you are interested in volunteering Sunday mornings to help with the live stream of the worship service, contact Jesse Steed.



We were blessed to have Moritz & Co. from Austria join us for worship during the Vintage Band Festival.

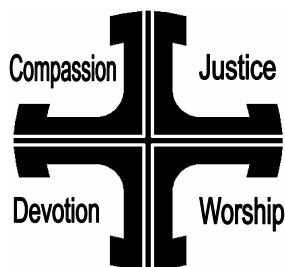
# September

| Sunday                                                                                                                | Monday                                                                                                                                                                       | Tuesday                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                | Friday                                                 | Saturday                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>1</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>6:30-8:30 Community Reservation<br>7:00 Meditation | <b>2</b><br>9:00 Mission Sewing<br>12:00-1:00 Community Reservation                                                                                                                                                    | <b>3</b><br>12:00 Community Reservation                                 | <b>4</b><br>8:00 Men's Breakfast<br><br>Office Closed  | <b>5</b><br>9:30-11:00 Community Reservation  |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30 Worship with Communion<br>10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall                                            | <b>7</b><br><b>Labor Day Holiday</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>8</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>7:00 Meditation                                    | <b>9</b><br>9:00 Mission Sewing<br>12:00-1:00 Community Reservation<br>12:00 NAIA Mtg                                                                                                                                  | <b>10</b><br>10:30 Community Reservation<br>12:00 Community Reservation | <b>11</b><br>8:00 Men's Breakfast<br><br>Office Closed | <b>12</b><br>9:30-11:00 Community Reservation |
| <b>13</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall<br>6:30-8:30 Community Reservation                       | <b>14</b><br>10:00 MICAH Mtg<br>1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl<br>1:00 Finance Mtg.<br><b>6:30-8:00</b><br>Pub Theology - Chapel Brewing, Dundas<br>7:00 Community Reservation | <b>15</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>7:00 Facilities Mtg.<br>7:00 Meditation           | <b>16</b><br>9:00 Mission Sewing<br>12:00-1:00 Community Reservation<br><b>Super Wednesday</b><br>3:30 KidConnect<br>5:30 Shared Meal<br>6:30 Handbell Choir<br>6:30 Youth                                             | <b>17</b><br>12:00 Community Reservation<br>7:00 Renewal via zoom       | <b>18</b><br>8:00 Men's Breakfast                      | <b>19</b><br>9:30-11:00 Community Reservation |
| <b>20</b><br><b>Celebration Sunday</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>9:40 Children's Church<br>10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall   | <b>21</b><br>9:00 Mugs and Muffins<br>2:30 Card Making<br>7:00 Community Reservation                                                                                         | <b>22</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>7:00 Meditation                                   | <b>23</b><br>9:00 Mission Sewing<br>12:00-1:00 Community Reservation<br><b>Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline</b><br><b>Super Wednesday</b><br>3:30 KidConnect<br>5:30 Shared Meal<br>6:30 Handbell Choir<br>6:30 Youth | <b>24</b><br>12:00 Community Reservation                                | <b>25</b><br>8:00 Men's Breakfast                      | <b>26</b><br>9:30-11:00 Community Reservation |
| <b>27</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>9:40 Children's Church<br>10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall<br>10:30 Adult Faith Formation | <b>28</b><br>6:30 Community Reservation<br>7:00 Community Reservation                                                                                                        | <b>29</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>7:00 Meditation                                   | <b>30</b><br>9:00 Mission Sewing<br>12:00-1:00 Community Reservation<br><b>Super Wednesday</b><br>3:30 KidConnect<br>5:30 Shared Meal<br>6:30 Handbell Choir<br>6:30 Youth                                             | <b>1</b><br>12:00 Community Reservation                                 | <b>2</b><br>8:00 Men's Breakfast                       | <b>3</b><br>9:30-11:00 Community Reservation  |

**NORTHFIELD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Website: www.northfieldumc.org



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**E - NEWSLETTER  
SIGN UP**

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         |
| 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<br>Technology Consultant | Jesse Steed               |
| Treasurer                                      | David Wolf<br>(Volunteer) |

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