

United Methodist Herald

October 2026



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October Worship

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

1 Peter 5:5b-11

Kelli Podracky

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

October 11, 2026

Genesis 11:1-9

Nehemiah 2:17-18, 3:1-4

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

October 18, 2026

Laity Sunday

Bruce Dalgaard

October 25, 2026

Exodus 1:1-22

Pastor Donna Dempewolf



Message from the Pastor

How Do We Remain Deeply Human?

"...the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell."

Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*

In a rapidly changing world, how do we remain deeply human?

Our faith is never finished. Throughout our lives, it continues to take shape in our hearts, our relationships, and the communities we build together. We ask questions, learn from one another, bring Scripture into conversation with the world around us, and bring the world around us into conversation with Scripture. As our faith deepens, we become more rooted in the way of Jesus and committed to the common good.

October offers us opportunities to practice this together.

We begin with **World Communion Sunday**, gathering around a table shared with Christians across cultures and traditions. Communion reminds us that we belong to God and to one another.

Our **Loving Boldly | Unlocking Hope** emphasis continues as Kelli Podracky and the Northfield Union of Youth team help us think more deeply about mental health in our community. On Wednesday, October 7, we'll gather for a community meal, inflatables and games for young people, and a community conversation about mental health. We'll also learn about The LOCK (Life Skills, Opportunity, Counseling, and Knowledge), Northfield Union of Youth's new youth resource center.

Then we will turn toward one of the newer questions facing humanity: **artificial intelligence**.

In his recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV draws upon two biblical images: the Tower of Babel and Nehemiah's rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. One warns of humanity's desire for control and greatness; the other offers a picture of people building together for the good of a community.

Those ancient stories raise contemporary questions: What are we building? Who benefits? What does technology make possible? What are the risks? And what do we want to preserve about being human?

On October 11 and 18, Charles Follen and Griff Wigley will help us explore what AI is and some of the ethical questions it raises.

Finally, on October 25, we'll begin a sermon and adult faith formation series, **Manna & Mercy**, based on Daniel Erlander's book and the work of South African pastor Alan Storey. We'll enter the biblical story and its recurring themes of power and liberation, scarcity and abundance, community and mercy.

Communion. Mental health. Technology. Scripture. Community.

These may appear to be different subjects, but they all ask something about how we live faithfully and humanely.

We don't have to have all the answers. We need the curiosity to keep learning, the openness to keep asking questions, and the courage to keep growing.

In the midst of it all, may we follow Pope Leo's advice: *"join forces in building up the common good, so that humanity will never lose its beauty, and the world once again will come to recognize the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell."*

Blessings,
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.



Loving Boldly

UNLOCKING HOPE

Hear NUY's executive director and team speak on mental health issues impacting the Northfield community.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Kelli Podracky



**NORTHFIELD
UMC**



UNLOCKING HOPE

NORTHFIELD UMC | SANCTUARY

1401 Maple Street S, Northfield MN 55057



5:30pm Community meal



6:30pm Kelli and team will give a presentation



Fun games for youth



Learn about The LOCK, new youth resource center



learn more

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM!

Don't miss this important evening of information reflecting on youth mental health issues impacting the Northfield community. This is open to all ages but is geared for youth and adults. Learn about The LOCK, new youth resource center.

Schedule:

5:30-6:30 pm – Community Meal and Inflatables/Youth Games

6:30 pm – Unlocking Hope program with Kelli Podracky, Northfield Union of Youth and the new THE LOCK, youth resource center.

Immediately following the presentation there will be additional time on the inflatables and space available to debrief.



Adult Faith Formation

On **9/27** and **10/04**, the two weeks following Celebration Sunday we will share two of four planned classes on a Love Boldly Mental Health Series. This is funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota Annual Conference (secured by Pr. Donna), and it will focus on emotional health concerns in our community, including among teens. Kelli Podracky will speak on October 4, World Communion Sunday.

During **10/11** and **10/18** (two weeks) we will address understanding and addressing ethical dilemmas related to Artificial Intelligence. Copies of a study guide titled *"Magnificent Humanity"*, which address Pope Leo's recent Encyclical about this topic, will be available. Charles Follen, an Amazon executive especially trained in AI studies at Oxford, and Griff Wigley, a Northfield social media leader, will guide the classes.

A Churchwide Study of *"Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe"* (by Daniel Erlander) will be offered for six weeks from **10/25-11/29**. *"Manna and Mercy"* illustrated books will be available to all as a gift, though contributions are invited, too! In addition, we will listen to messages by Rev. Alan Storey, a South African Methodist preacher who speaks prophetically of justice and mercy in our times. Teachers will include: Clay Oglesbee, Pastor Donna Dempewolf, Tim and Tracy Goodwin, Kris and Rick Estenson and Mary Lynn Oglesbee.

10/18 Creation and Exodus

10/25 Wilderness School

11/01 Kings, Prophets and Exile—Stewardship and All Saints

11/08 Jesus' Life

11/15 Jesus' Resurrection and the Early Church

11/22 God's Vision

Advent- We will conclude the year with Advent studies, including the Bishop's online study, When Hope Is Born: An Advent Journey with the Midwives of Scripture. A second study will offer two weeks of in-person classes with speaker and the Micah Team.

Climate & "Hope for Creation" Visioning Process Begins in November

from the Creation Care Team

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival." —Wendell Berry, The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays

The recent deaths of two significant environmental and climate crisis writers, Wendell Berry and Annie Dillard, gives spiritual and intellectual momentum to our efforts to address the climate crisis. These two are numbered among the saints and guardians of the environment and the beauties of creation. The beginning of a Visioning, Planning and Action Process will be postponed to November and following, we anticipate that our collaboration with the Midwest-based Hope for Creation pilot program we began a year ago with several other United Methodist churches will yield important steps for our congregation and community. We may literally and figuratively "plant the seeds" of our environmental and climate future. Please watch for further announcement during October and early November.

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.

"We must somehow take a wider view, look at the whole landscape, really see it, and describe what's going on here. Then we can at least wail the right question into the swaddling band of darkness...."
— Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

FAMILY ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Church – Sundays during worship.

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 and student intern Kayla Inahuazo 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:

October 28 – Pumpkin Carving Party 6:00 pm – Bring your own pumpkins, but leave the mess with us! Carving equipment will be provided. Carving with your child is encouraged!

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 - No Super Wednesday October 14 - MEA Break

KidConnect - 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. Invite your neighbors and friends!

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

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.



REGISTRATION:

Register for KidConnect here:
<https://northfieldumc.org/child-ren-youth-family-ministries>

Welcome Student interns Kayla Inahuazo from St. Olaf College and Tabitha Kisker from Carleton College who will be helping out with our Family Ministry programs on Sundays and Wednesdays! We're so happy you are here!

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 lows.

October 7 - Unlocking Hope program with Kelli Podracky, executive director of Northfield Union of Youth

5:30pm Community Meal

6:00pm Inflatables/Games

6:30pm Program in the Sanctuary

Immediately after: More Inflatable time



October 14 - No Youth Group due to MEA weekend (attend the HS Football Game with your friends!)

October 21 - Fall Bonfire (weather permitting)

October 28 - Halloween Party

Confirmation Meeting (youth and parent/s) - Wednesday, October 21 at 6pm. For parents/youth in 9-12th grades interested in going through Confirmation.

October Special Events:

ValleyScare (likely October 23 or 30) - look for special email with more info

Trunk or Treat: Youth Service Project October 25 - Youth help with Trunk or Treat games/decorate and host a youth Halloween booth



Celebrate World Communion Sunday: October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday has been celebrated since 1933 as a day of Christian unity and as an opportunity for congregations to see how they are interconnected to one another. It offers an opportunity to celebrate our connectional nature and call toward ecumenical relations as United Methodists.

World Communion Sunday is also one of six special Sundays where United Methodists are urged to participate in a special offering. The offering on World Communion Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access training.

If you wish to contribute to the World Communion Sunday special offering, make your check payable to NUMC, write World Communion Special Offering in the memo of your check and place in the offering plate.



ISAIAH

Faith in Democracy

Here's a list of things Minnesotans love: the State Fair. Lake life. Prince. Sambusas, hotdish, and Honeycrisp apples. Rooting for our sports teams even when they break our hearts. Being good neighbors.

Oh yeah, and voting.

Minnesota consistently leads the nation in voter participation, and we've worked hard to ensure it is safe and accurate. There is great concern regarding attempts to discredit our voting and to interfere in our voting process. Locally, Isaiah is partnering with other organizations to educate voters on their rights, to meet with county commissioners to thank them for their past commitment to ensure voter integrity, and to keep voting safe for all.

We hold the right to vote as a privilege and responsibility. So vote. Make a plan - Early voting is now open.

Study the candidates and vote for those who uphold the values of mercy, justice, and equality.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to vote so we can keep Minnesota in first place!

Justice Team Encourages "Learn-Pray-Act" on Social Issues

During September, the new Justice Team launched the new "Make A Difference" table near the church courtyard. The table and volunteers will offer opportunities to influence public policy or take action on justice matters such as climate change, immigration, human rights in the Middle East, 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". If you have questions feel free to contact Tim Goodwin, the current convenor for the Justice Team efforts.

Generosity Campaign

Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? How about joining the choir or playing an instrumental solo?

Are you energized when you are around young people? How about becoming a part of our Children's church rotation of leaders or being a second adult on Wednesday night?

Do you care passionately about our world? Is God's Spirit moving within you to organize a mission trip or Habitat for Humanity volunteer? Or take the next step in advocating for inclusion?

Would you like to become more involved in worship? Serving communion. Reading scripture. Assist with technology.

Next month, you will receive a letter inviting you to prayerfully consider how you might continue to share your time, talents, and treasures with Northfield UMC. Until then, begin to pray, "O God, show us possibilities beyond what we can imagine for ourselves and our church. Make us ready; our hands our yours."



Notes from the Parish Nurse

"Mental health affects a person's ability to maintain good physical health and participate in health-promoting behaviors; conversely, serious physical health conditions—such as chronic pain or illness—can have a debilitating effect on mental health, and can inhibit one's ability to participate in mental health treatment and recovery." (From Healthy People, a publication from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.) A mental illness is a condition that impacts how a person thinks and feels or how mood may affect a person's ability to relate to others and function on a daily basis. Some mental health conditions include anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and schizophrenia. Each illness has its own set of symptoms, but some common signs of mental illness include extreme mood changes, avoiding friends and social activities, strong feelings of irritability or anger, changes in sleeping and eating habits, excessive worrying or fear, abuse of alcohol or drugs, thinking about suicide, and inability to carry out daily activities.



Mental Illness Awareness Week (October 4-10, 2026) and National Depression Screening Day (October 8, 2026) are significant October events. Mental health is as important as physical health and screening for depression and mental illness is as important as screening for physical diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans who "face the reality of living with a mental health condition," an illness that "affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends, or coworkers." During Mental Illness Awareness Week this year, NAMI will be promoting the theme of "Community: Supporting Mental Well-Being Together." This is important because mental health conditions affect one in five Americans, and "stigma is toxic to their mental health because it creates an environment of shame, fear, and silence that prevents many people from seeking help and treatment." We can help to reduce stigma and create social change with educational and awareness efforts.

"Depression is a 'whole-body' illness that affects a person's body, feelings, thoughts, and behavior. Depression is not a passing blue mood. It is not a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be willed or wished away. People with depression cannot merely 'pull themselves together' and get better. It is a set of painful symptoms that can last for months, and sometimes years." (From HealthEast's A Practical Guide to Everyday Health Decisions) Some of the symptoms of depression include persistent lack of energy, lasting sadness, irritability and mood swings, recurring sense of hopelessness, continual negative view of the world, overeating/loss of appetite, feelings of unworthiness/guilt, inability to concentrate, and an inability to enjoy pleasurable activities.

National Depression Screening Day is comprised of awareness events that include an optional screening component. One can access this screening through one's physician or online (if over age 18 years) at www.mhanational.org. There are also screening questions for anxiety, bi-polar, and PTS

If you think you have a mental illness or are suffering from depression, know that you don't have to "go it alone." There is help for you. Contact your health care provider or a mental health professional, get a diagnosis, and start a treatment plan. Check the website www.nami.org, call the NAMI helpline 800-950-6264 or text NAMI to 62640. In a crisis, call "988" (24/7).





IT TECH CORNER

By Jesse Steed

A common email scam is what looks to be an invitation to a lunch or special gathering hosted by your friend. The email appears to come from your friend's email address, because it is, a scammer gained access to your friend's email account and is sending these scam messages. If you click the link in the email message, it will take you somewhere and prompt you to enter your email password, and then the scammer will have access to your email account.

How can you be safe? How can people protect themselves? How serious is this?

- 1) To be safe, don't click any links in emails until you have vetted the link by calling the sender or talking to them face to face.
- 2) To protect people around you, think about the links you are sending to people and call them or communicate another way so they know to expect something from you. For organizations and businesses, come up with a policy about the links you are including in emails to staff, committees, and your audience. Have regular trainings or reminders about the policy. For example, only have signups on paper at church or on the church website so people can know to go to the church website to click a link to sign up for an event.
- 3) It should be treated seriously. If a scammer gets control of your email, they can get into any website linked to your email address. They can pretend to be you and contact everyone in your email history. They can learn about big financial events based on your email history and plan specific ways to target you for big financial loss such as big purchases or real estate transactions.

A method that has proven to be effective in slowing down or stopping scammers is to enable 2-factor authentication on your email account, social media, bank accounts, etc. This is where logging in to your account requires your password but also a code sent to your cell phone or a code in an authenticator app on your phone. While these methods can be frustrating to use on a regular basis when you want to access your stuff, it can save you if you are tricked into giving your password to a scammer. Check with your tech administrator for any safeguards that exist within your organization such as an account admin who can change passwords and reset accounts.

Recap: Do not click links, have a policy, take it seriously.

Here are some suggested next steps if someone is tricked and gives away their password:

- 1) change your password. 2) enable multi-factor authentication. 3) notify contacts of potential scam emails.

Mission Sewing



Mission Sewing continues to keep busy. We have 42 quilts completed and will continue to complete more! This means we have exceeded our goal of 35. We will give quilts to Operation Joy and Emma Norton. We have items boxed and ready to take to Rochester to be sent to Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The items ready to go are 65 diapers, 18 Layette Gowns, 13 Receiving Blankets, 1 layette sweater, 3 Cover Them with Love Quilts and 70 Hats. We have also donated 2 lap quilts to an area care 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 October 28th. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.

Mugs and Muffins



Mugs and Muffins will meet on October 19th to continue a study of "Women of the Bible" quilt blocks. The women we will be studying in October are Pilates Wife, Queen of Sheba, Adulterer, and Menstruating Woman. We meet the church library at 9 AM. New members and visitors are always welcome.



**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

A recent report published by Israeli human rights organization B'tselem called “Elimination Project” details how Israel is executing a systematic and accelerated campaign to dismantle “Palestinian collective life” and establish permanent Jewish-Israeli sovereignty across the occupied West Bank. To date, at least 75 Palestinian communities have been forcibly displaced. Furthermore, about 33,000 Palestinians have been displaced from refugee camps in the northern West Bank.

God of the oppressed, we are witnessing unspeakable evil and great fear of what is to come. Illuminate to the world, through this report, of the structural sins of settler colonialism and apartheid. Lord, deliver the oppressed and stop the displacement and violence they are experiencing. Keep us from growing numb to the suffering that is occurring.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

BOOK REVIEW

One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This
by Omar El Akkad

Available at Content Bookstore

El Akkad writes about growing up in Egypt and Qatar, countries with rigid regimes and strict censorship. He yearned for more freedom and when his father moved the family to Montreal, Canada in 1998 he was excited. He thought the West offered freedom and justice for all. It wasn't all he expected and his career as a journalist working out of Toronto exposed him to some harsh realities. He covered the second Gulf War as a War Correspondent. After that he covered climate change and moved to Oregon. He covered Black Lives Matter protests and most recently the genocide in Gaza. All this, but especially the continuing slaughter in Gaza has led El Akkad to the realization that Western Liberal Ideals are a sham. He writes beautifully and all his conclusions are laid out logically and in painfully obvious detail. He offers a strategy on how to deal with this hypocrisy. I think One Day is a terrific, brave, and spot on book that should be required reading. Here is praise for One Day from the author Junot Diaz, “A landmark of truth telling and moral courage, One Day is the truest, most necessary book you will ever read.” There is a copy in the church library and more at Content bookstore. - -Bruce Benson



BOYCAT APP

For those who wish to shop their values, an effective boycott begins with knowing what's behind your purchase. The Boycat App is Your Ethical Shopping Companion.

Search any brand or product to see if it aligns with your values. On the web at www.boycat.io

OCT 10 is the International Day of Action to mark 3 years of genocidal actions by the state of Israel in Palestine. 64,000 children have been killed or maimed in Gaza by Israel since October 2023, according to the UN - that is 59 children on average every single day or 3 every hour of the day. Learn more about what people around the world are doing, online here -> <https://palestinecampaign.org/> and here <https://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/issues/palestinian-solidarity>.

MICAH is based on Micah 6:8. When our theme verse is mentioned out there in the world, we take notice. Here is one recent instance in the Inward Outward Together Weekly Gospel Reflection: <https://inwardoutward.org/practicing-mercy/>



United
Women
in Faith

UWFaith Looking to the Future In Mission

United Women in Faith - Meeting Dates

UWF Executive Board meeting - No October Board Meeting

October 12, 2026 - Esther Circle - 1:00 pm, Kildahl, 888 Cannon Valley Drive,

October 19, 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

Northfield UMC UWFaith 2027 budget will continue to support National mission (\$2,000) as well as local mission (\$2,000). *"We believe love in action can change the world. Driven by God's love, we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Every day we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us."* (UWFaith.org)

International Mission: In Zimbabwe, 25 chickens change a life. A poultry project helped Stella Nyaude grow a business (selling 5 groups of 25 chickens). With her profits she bought livestock (goats and a cow). Manure from the livestock was used for an organic garden. The garden produce added to the family's income helping them to become economically independent. In Sierra Leone women are supported with low or interest free loans from a revolving fund. Abibatu Nelson used her loan to increase her nutrition business growing quality foods for her clients. Musu Abu is a small-scale farmer growing a vegetable garden. She used her loan to purchase tools and seeds to keep the garden growing and selling the produce. She put her children in school and supported her mother. Mary Esther Sovula has used her loan to learn a new skill in soap making and entrepreneurship.

Women pay minimal interest for the first three months repaying and revolving the funds so that other women will benefit. The alternative was getting 20-25% per month interest on loans from money lenders. Paying the loans back was almost impossible and jail was the result. United Women in Faith micro loans created safe, affordable means for successful small businesses.

National Mission Institutions (NMI): There are 75 NMI's that UWFaith supports. These institutions are community-based organizations founded by women to serve marginalized populations in the United States. Most of them were started in the 19th century, so they have been serving women, children and youth for a long time. Emma Norton Services (\$750) in Minnesota has been around for more than a century. They provide transformational housing for women, some men, and families experiencing homelessness, in St. Paul, MN. They combat mental illness, substance use, disability, and lasting effects of poverty.

In Des Moines, IA the Families Forward provides support toward self-sufficiency. Funds support the food pantry that serves up to 150 families a day, child development center, and shelter for families with housing insecurity. In Seattle, WA is the Atlantic Street Center supporting the Teen and Young Parent Pathway program. They provide young parents skill building workshops, housing, and food security. Holding Institute in Lorado, TX is a place for immigrant families to go to after release from detention centers. They provide food, rest, and short-term support as migrants connect to their next step.

Locally we support NUMC's children and youth; Operation Backpack; mission sewing, CAC food shelf and Operation Joy, to name a few. We ask all of you to join us in supporting God's work in the world.

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



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.

Card Making with Margie

Monday, October 19, 2:30-4:00 pm, in room #120

Cost: \$15 to cover supplies. (Note price change)

Join Margie Brockton for a fun time of making greeting cards. She will have all the supplies needed. Call 507-649-2324 to register.

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 or Dave Wolf 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!



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

CHapel
BREWING
DUNDAS-MINN.

Fall Clean-up Day Saturday, October 3rd 8:00-noon(ish)

Our Fall Clean-up Day led by our Facilities Team will be Saturday, October 3. We will get started at 8 am and finish around noon, but latecomers and earlyleavers (to coin a word) are all welcome.

Of course there will be coffee and rolls/treats. There will be indoor and outdoor jobs for all abilities! No RSVP needed, just show up.

We have quite a list of outdoor jobs that involve tree branch trimming, brush and unwanted plant removal, and replanting some grass. If you want to be part of the outdoor crew, bring appropriate outdoor work clothes and gear; rakes, shovels, loppers, trimmers, gloves, etc.

If weather is a wash-out for outdoor tasks, we can concentrate on indoor jobs.

We have a beautiful campus and buildings which we should take pride and ownership in.

Questions? Contact Bruce Paulson at [507-301-5428](tel:507-301-5428) or Kevin Allin at [612-810-4947](tel:612-810-4947).

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**November
Herald Newsletter
Deadline**

The deadline for the November issue will be:

Noon on Monday, October 19th

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!

Announcements



Meals on Wheels Volunteers

The Northfield United Methodist Church has the responsibility of delivering Meals on Wheels the week of November 2-7. A signup sheet will be available on the Welcome Desk.

Three Rivers Community Action has taken over the administrative responsibilities for the program. Northfield Hospital will continue preparing the meals, and meals will be picked up at the hospital at noon each day. Each route takes approximately one hour.

Please check with Dennis or Marge Randolph if you have any questions (507-321-0706) or (507-339-7731).

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 so we can be prepared for you!



Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

James 5:13b NIV

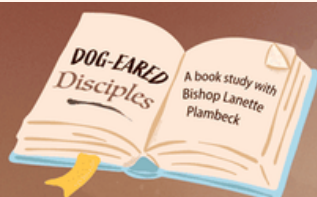
Super Wednesday Meal Menu Serving 5:30-6:15pm Wednesdays during the program year

October 7	October 21	October 28
Quesadillas	Pulled Pork	Lemon Chicken
Refried Beans,	Sandwiches	Rice Pilaf
Chips and Salsa	Coleslaw	Green Beans
Apple Slices	Potato Chips	Green Salad
Treats and Ice	Baked Beans	French Bread
Cream	Apple Crisp	Cake and Ice Cream
	Ice Cream	

No Super Wednesday October 14 - MEA

Ring Them Bells!

The Handbell Choir always welcomes new players, either as full time ringers or occasional substitutes. We rehearse most Wednesday evenings and play in church about once a month. Contact Kathy Szydlo at katszydlo@gmail.com for more information



Saturdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Oct. 3, Nov. 7, & Dec. 5, 2026,
Feb. 6, March 6, & April 3, 2027

Dog-Eared Disciples: Book Study

Dog-Eared Disciples with Bishop Lanette Plambeck

Dates: Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Feb. 6, March 6, and April 3, 9:00-10:30 a.m., online.

Dog-Eared Disciples is an invitation to read our way more deeply into the life of faith. Registration: <https://dkmnumc-reg.brtapp.com/DogEaredDisciples2627>

FINANCE UPDATE

General Fund YTD 2026 contributions \$200,696.54

General Fund YTD 2025 contributions \$197,805.79

General Fund August 2026 contributions \$17,935.00

General Fund August 2025 contributions \$16,738.91

Treasurer's Report for August 2026

General Fund - The checking account balance at the end of August was \$29,713.07 compared to a July balance of \$20,842.43; shows a monthly increase of \$8,870.64. Conference apportionments have been paid through May. A balance of \$12,323.75 is owed for June, July and August. The goal is to pay apportionments in full by the end of the year.

Monthly Offering Income for August was \$17,935.00. YTD Actual Offering Income was \$200,696.64; \$2,890.85 more than YTD last year, but \$32,636.48 less than the YTD Budget of \$233,333.32. Other Income Totals of \$30,648.16 for August came from Interest Income of 10.28 and \$30,648.16 from the Undesignated Investment Fund. General Fund Income Total for August was \$48,593.44. Thus, General Fund YTD Actual Income was \$256,858.42; \$13,431.54 less than the YTD Budget of \$270,289.96.

Monthly Expenses for August totaled \$48,611.96. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$292,497.06; \$24,113.78 less than the YTD Budget of \$316,610.84. YTD expenses exceeded income by \$35,638.15 which is \$10,682.24 less than the YTD Budgeted shortfall of \$46,320.88.

Offering Income (Envelopes/Pledges) for the first eight months of 2026 is \$2,8980.85 ahead of the same period in 2025. However, this **increase in YTD giving was not sufficient to cover YTD expenses.**

Physical Plant - August income total was \$23,550.99 broken down as follows: \$10,934.06 from General Fund Support; \$230.00 from continuing contributions to the Building Campaign; and, \$12,386.93 from Building Maintenance Fund interest income. YTD Actual Income was \$155,382.17: \$3,010.00 from Building Campaign; \$97,534.26 from General Fund Support; \$24,837.91 from Building Maintenance Fund interest income; and, \$30,000 from the Hason legacy gift designated for hearing and sound improvements within the Fellowship Hall and Worship Area.

YTD Actual Expenses were \$141,432.03 which leaves a positive balance of \$13,950.14. A significant church maintenance expense of \$11,200.00 for Gap Insurance was paid in May. Total YTD building insurance costs were \$28,682.14. Total YTD funds spent for Fellowship Hall and Worship Area hearing and sound improvements were \$23,461.49.

Investment/Quasi-Endowment Funds - At the beginning of January 2026, the total value of our four investment funds was \$968,840.34. Legacy gifts totaling \$102,878.69 from the Hanson Estate (received in January and February) were deposited in the Building Maintenance Fund designated for hearing and sound improvements. A second legacy gift of \$564,961.43 from the Anne Mayer Charitable Fund was deposited in the Undesignated Fund in August.

The combined YTD Balance of our four investment funds at the end of August (including deposits, withdrawals, market value fluctuations and fees) was \$1,602,770.68 which shows a YTD gain of \$633,930.34. YTD investment earnings for the two funds in the Balanced Fund were 8.25% while earnings for the two funds in the Growth Fund were 9.93%. A YTD total of \$116,446.78 was withdrawn from these four funds during the first eight months of 2026.

All the ways you can donate funds to NUMC!

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, in the church office or by emailing northfieldumc@gmail.com.

Because every picture has a story to tell...



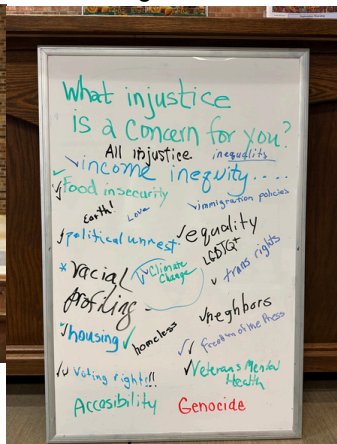
A great time was had by all at this year's Summer Splash party. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this such a great day for so many kids from our community!



Northfield Area Interfaith Alliance gathers at NUMC on September 9th



The Just for Fun singing group consisting of Kevin Dahle, Dave Drentlaw, Tim Hanson, David Miller, Ned Newberg and Dave Wolf at our August 30th worship service.



Justice Team table - what injustice concerns you?



Blessing of the backpacks during worship at our fall kick off!



Thank you to the NUMC Softball team for cooking brats during celebration Sunday!

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 Community Reservation	2 8:00 Men's Breakfast	3 8:00-noon(ish) Facilities Fall Cleanup Day 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
4 World Communion Sunday 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Adult Faith Formation	5 7:00 Community Reservation	6 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Meditation	7 9:00 Mission Sewing 2:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KidConnect 5:30 Shared Meal 6:30 Loving Boldly/Unlocking Hope 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth	8 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation 6:30 Community Reservation	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast	10 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Adult Faith Formation	12 10:00 MICAH Mtg 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 6:30-8:00 Pub Theology - Chapel Brewing, Dundas 7:00 Community Reservation 7:30 Community Reservation	13 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Meditation	14 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation No Super Wednesday - MEA	15 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast	17 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
18 Laity Sunday 9:30 Worship 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Adult Faith Formation	19 9:00 Mugs and Muffins Noon - Herald Newsletter Deadline 2:30 Card Making 6:30 NUMC Board 7:00 Community Reservation	20 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Meditation 7:00 Facilities Mtg.	21 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KidConnect 5:30 Shared Meal 6:00 Confirmation Mtg. 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Bonfire	22 12:00 Community Reservation	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast	24 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation
25 9:30 Worship 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Adult Faith Formation 1:30-2:30 Trunk or Treat	26 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	27 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Meditation	28 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KidConnect 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:00 Pumpkin Carving Party 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Halloween Party	29 5:30 Community Reservation	30 8:00 Men's Breakfast	31 9:30-11:00 Community Reservation

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1401 South Maple Street
Northfield, MN 55057

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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
College Student Interns	Kayla Inahuazo, Tabitha Kisker
NUMC Band	Dave Miller
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir	Deborah Rae Miller
Organist	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