

United Methodist Herald

August 2024



Photo credit: Sandy Vesledahl
Sunflower in the courtyard.

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August Worship

August 4
Take This Bread
Celebration of Holy Communion
John 6:1-14
Pastor Donna Dempewolf
August 11
Ephesians: Living Stones
<i>The Art of Possibility</i>
Ephesians 2:11-22
Pastor Donna Dempewolf
August 18
Ephesians: Living Stones
<i>Immeasurably More</i>
Ephesians 3:14-21
Pastor Donna Dempewolf
August 25
Ephesians: Living Stones
<i>Six Words</i>
Ephesians 4:1-16
Pastor Donna Dempewolf



Message from the Pastor

The Itinerant Journey

In the United Methodist Church pastors are itinerant. This means that they are willing to uproot themselves and go where sent on a moment's notice, or a month's notice, or possibly two or three. They are willing to do so, to go where sent, to journey forth, whether an itinerary exists or not.

When writing about "The Itinerant Journey," African American scholar and Methodist preacher Renita Weems has this to say:

"Normally, someone who just takes off on a journey with no earthly idea where she is going is called a vagabond, a bum, a Gypsy. But I am called a Reverend."

When District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave asked me to consider meeting with the Leadership Team at the United Methodist Church of Northfield, I nodded, I sighed. I had an earthly idea as to where I was going. I didn't need Google Maps to find my way.

Minnesota is a big state, and there are many places that I have not traversed. Yet there are two areas I know relatively well – the Twin Cities – where I lived and worked for over half of my adult life – and southeastern Minnesota, where I grew up, where three of my four siblings live, and where I have served in ministry for five years.

As I begin this itinerant journey with you, one might ask, "So, what is your itinerary?"

Entering this ministry and mission field – as all pastors are appointed not only to a congregation, but also to the community in which the congregation resides – my itinerary is three-fold:

1. to learn your names and hear your stories;
2. to discern where God's Spirit is already at work in your midst – because God's Spirit is already at work in your midst; and
3. to collaborate with you to follow God's leading to be a vibrant Methodist presence in this place (inside and outside our doors).

Yet it is not my itinerary – or even yours – that we follow. It is God's, and God takes us in directions we may never imagine.

I look forward to this journey with you and getting to know each and every one of you by name.

Donna

Meet and Greet with Pastor Donna!

To help Pastor Donna get to know our congregation members, we are organizing small group gatherings with her over the next month or so. We are looking for 2-3 more volunteers to host a gathering of 6-10 in their home, the church library or other quiet space. Hosts simply provide an appetizer or dessert (Donna says Oreos count as dessert!) and space for visiting! Please contact Sara Newberg at saranewberg@gmail.com if you can serve in this way.

Watch future newsletters to sign up for a gathering with your fellow members. Don't miss this chance to spend time with Pastor Donna and get to know your fellow congregants!

Sara Newberg



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.

FINANCE UPDATE

How to make tithes and offerings

You can make your tithes and offerings a few different ways:

1. Make automatic donations from your bank account.
Contact northfieldumc@gmail.com for a form.
2. Donate online using a credit card, by clicking on the GiveMN tab on the church website northfieldumc.org.
3. Drop a check in the offering basket during in person worship.
4. Mail a check to: Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St., Northfield, MN 55057

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 or by emailing northfieldumc@gmail.com.

General Fund June 2024 contributions \$10,996.66
General Fund June 2023 contributions \$31,438.66

General Fund YTD 2024 contributions \$148,960.96
General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$182,170.96

Treasurer's Report for May and June 2024

General Fund

The Community Resource Bank checking account balance at the end of May was \$31,481.13 and at the end of June it was \$47,914.10. June's balance is \$118.83 more than the beginning of the year balance of \$47,795.27; this is intentional to maintain a reserve to help cover expenses over the summer months. Due to cash flow, May and June apportionments have not been paid. Monthly apportionments are \$4,645.58.

Combined Offering Income for May and June was \$40,763.32. Year to date (YTD) Actual Offering Income was \$148,960.96 which is \$33,210.00 less than YTD Last Year and \$51,039.04 less than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$200,000.00. Combined General Fund Income Total for May and June was \$41,327.19. Other Income Totals of \$563.87 came from Interest Income, Super Wednesday Meal Proceeds and Regular Facility Usage. General Fund YTD Actual Income was \$162,375.75 which is \$43,801.35 less than YTD Last Year and \$46,499.31 less than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$208,875.06.

As was noted in the April Treasurer's Report, several giving units have informed the church office that they are changing from giving monthly to giving at the end of the year based on advice from their financial planners. Thus, monthly EFT giving has dropped from about \$7,000 to \$5,000. Weekly offering amounts have also decreased since more people are just doing quarterly or end of year contributions. This change in giving patterns makes it difficult to manage cash flow.

Monthly Expense Totals for May and June were \$76,127.30. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$204,995.77 which is \$31,161.66 less than YTD Last Year but \$26,942.21 more than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$178,053.56. YTD we are \$42,620.02 in the red, compared to \$30,821.50 we budgeted to be in the black.

Physical Plant

Combined Support from General Fund income for May and June was \$32,778.32. YTD Actual Income was \$100,442.27 and was made up of \$66,913.60 from General Fund Support for Physical Plant, \$3,875.00 from continuing contributions to the last Building Campaign, and a total of \$33,528.67 from Building Fund made up of an Annual Interest Income disbursement of \$21,928.67 and a \$11,600.00 disbursement for the increase in Gap Insurance. YTD Actual Expenses were \$80,880.17 which leaves a positive balance of \$23,437.10.

Endowment Funds

At the end of December 2023 these funds totaled \$941,047.78 which includes \$334,802.54 that we owe ourselves. The YTD Balance at the end of June was \$912,494.51. A 6% disbursement, a total \$36,602.88, on the balance in the accounts as of the April 30th statement, was taken in May. An additional disbursement of \$11,600 from the Building Fund was also taken in May to cover the unexpected fourfold increase in gap insurance. Considering disbursements, the combined Endowment Funds show a gain of \$19,649.61 during the first six months of 2024.

Looking for more family ministries information?
Contact the church office at info@northfieldumc.org.

Back To School Summer Splash Block Party

August 24: 1-4 pm

Slip N' Slide, water balloons, bounce house, root beer floats, snack and more! Join us outside on the church lawn as we celebrate the beginning of the school year! Want more information? Interested in volunteering? info@northfieldumc.org. Watch our facebook page for updates!

September 15: Celebration Sunday

We kick off our school year programs with Children's Church (5th grade and under) and prepare our youth for Wednesday night activities this fall.

September 18: Super Wednesdays are BACK!

Wednesdays are SUPER at NUMC, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back for our school year programs.

3:30-5:30 pm - KC3 (Kids Creating Community Through Christ) for our grade school kids, K-5th grade. To sign up or for more information, email Children's Ministry Coordinator Gregory Ennis: Gregory.ennis@gmail.com.

5:30-6:30 pm - Community Meal (ALL are welcome - free will donation)

6:30-7:30 pm - Youth Group (6th-12th grade) in the youth room. . . fellowship, games, and deeper exploration of what it means to follow Jesus. To sign up or for more information, email us at info@northfieldumc.org.

NOW HIRING: Youth and Family Ministries Director

We are hiring a Youth and Family Ministries Director to maintain momentum in our youth program. If you know someone with good administrative and interpersonal skills and a love of God and ALL God's children - especially middle school and high school youth - then please invite them to [apply for this position!](#)

Graduation Sunday

Graduates Griff Dahle and John Newberg (pictured below) led us in worship on June 9th in celebration of graduation Sunday. Both were awarded scholarships from our NUMC Scholarship Fund.





BACK TO SCHOOL

Summer Splash



AUGUST 24TH

1:00PM-4:00PM

ACTIVITIES

SLIP N' SLIDE, WATER
BALLONS, BOUNCE HOUSE,
ROOT BEER FLOATS,
SNACKS, AND MORE!



FREE
EVENT

FREE
EVENT

NORTHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1401 MAPLE STREET S. NORTHFIELD MN 55057





ISIAAH efforts are focused on getting out the vote in the primary on August 13. There will be non-partisan local races, and partisan races at the state and national level. Every vote counts.

As you prayerfully determine how you'll cast your ballot –

- Take time to reflect on the Christian values you live by.
- Learn about the personal, social and economic changes that are needed to build a community where everyone can be cared for and thrive.
- Cast your vision for a caring and inclusive community.

Plan to participate, either by voting in person on that day or earlier either in person by mail. Your vote may be the one that tips the result one way or the other. Hope to see you at the polls on August 13.

If you want more information about the candidates or voting process, contact Evelyn Burry, NUMC- ISIAAH Team Leader (evelynburry@hotmail.com; 507-581-5684).

After August 13, attention will turn to the November 5 general election when the vote will determine which of two candidates will fill open positions at the local, state and national level as well the outcome of a bonding proposal for a reimaged Northfield High School. Once again, it will be an opportunity to cast your ballot from your faith perspective.

UMC Choir Notes!

The Northfield UMC adult Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, October 30!

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



Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.
Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. - Ephesians 5:18b-19

The Summer Day by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?





Methodists Investing in Care and Action for the HolyLand



Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian organic, fair trade,
extra virgin olive oil.

500 ml/16.5 oz for \$20.00

750 ml/25.4 oz. for \$25.00

Now available in the church office

We are currently well stocked
with olive oil.

“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

“We don’t have to engage in grand heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.” - Howard Zinn

“Young people, when informed and empowered, when they realize that what they do truly makes a difference, can indeed change the world.” - Jane Goodall

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

“Helping a family a world away is peacebuilding, one person at a time.” - Jesse Steed

United Methodist projects in the Holy Land.

The Methodists in the UK were the first denomination to send missionaries to the region in the early 1800s to assist the thirteen indigenous church congregations. We have a long history in the region. Learn more about the various projects below, especially the work of the Shepherd Society, with whom we partner to sponsor a Bethlehem family. Go to the MICAH page on our website to access the links to the items below. <https://northfieldumc.org/micah>

[Augmenting Food Production and Income in Times of Siege: Women's Gardens](#) Advance #629001

[Bethlehem Bible College](#) Advance #12017A

[Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees – Middle East Council of Churches](#) Advance #14908A

[Hope School](#) Advance #12018A

[Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre for children with disabilities](#) Advance #14238A

[Mar Elias Peace Study Center](#) Advance #3020532

[*Shepherd Society](#) Advance #3020439

[The Four Homes of Mercy for Disabled](#) Advance #3020711

[Wadi Foquin Narjes Community Development Project](#) Advance #3021565

[Wi'am Community Empowerment & Conflict Transformation](#) Advance #14910A

News and prayers from the Shepherd Society in Bethlehem (The West Bank):

The situation in Gaza is beyond human comprehension, and we now find that we cannot ignore the dire realities unfolding on the West Bank, (where our NUMC Bethlehem family lives). As of June 4, 508 Palestinians have been killed, including 124 children. Israeli authorities have demolished, confiscated, or forced the owners to demolish 904 Palestinian structures, of which 39 percent (350 structures) were inhabited homes. As a result, 2,038 people, including 890 children, were displaced (source: OCHA). Please pray for the people and activities of the Shepherd Society, as they face the great difficulties around them. Pray for divine intervention in every step they make in such critical circumstances.

The relationship of morality and power is a very subtle one. Because ultimately power without morality is no longer power. - James Baldwin, Afr. American writer (1924-1987)

What can you make with our olive oil available in the church office?

Tabouli [tah-BOO-lee] (Middle Eastern Wheat and Parsley Salad)

Soak several hours:

1 c. cracked wheat/bulgur in 3 c. boiling water,
then drain thoroughly in large sieve.

Meanwhile mix:

1 1/2 c. fresh parsley, finely chopped	1/4 c. oil (preferably olive)
1 1/4 t. salt	1 small cucumber, chopped
1/2 c. fresh mint, finely chopped	1/4 c. lemon juice
1/4 t. pepper	3 firm tomatoes, chopped
1/2 c. onions (preferably green onions), minced	

Toss all ingredients together, cover and chill. Serve with romaine lettuce.

Traditionally each person breaks the lettuce into small pieces, using them as utensils for eating Tabouli. This salad may be prepared a day in advance and refrigerated, but do not add the lemon juice until just before serving - from *Extending The Table* cookbook.



IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

Back it up!

The importance of having a backup of electronic data cannot be overstated. You don't need it until you need it, but when you need it, boy, you better have it.

I tell my boys that the first thing we need to do when they start playing a new app game or using a new program to design a Minecraft mod is to learn how to save their progress. There's nothing worse than seeing the pain in someone's eyes or hearing their mournful cries at the loss of their new digital creation. There's been a time or two when I've discovered a new cool set of keystrokes that deleted my PHP or CSS file with no recovery and I had to go into my backups to at last avoid starting from scratch.

Every device these days offers ways to make a backup, either locally or to the cloud. While backing up to a cloud may produce anxiety, it is generally a safe thing to do and will save you a lot of time the next time you get a new device or have to perform a factory reset on your phone (not based on a true story, from Saturday.) When you run a backup on your phone, you can choose which things to backup. While you probably are thinking of backing up your address book, photos, documents, etc, I recommend including app configurations in your backup of choice. Having your passwords written down somewhere is also a solid idea.



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on August 19th. We are continuing the "Boys of the Bible Quilt Block Series." In August we will be studying Paul, Barnabas, and Jeremiah.

New members and guests are always welcome. We will meet in the church library at 9 AM.



Mission Sewing Project

Mission Sewing is working hard to meet their goal of having 30 quilts done by early December to donate to Operation Joy (formerly Christmas Sharing). We have 19 quilts finished and have more ready to tie.

We also are working on items for Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

We are always looking for more people to help meet our goals. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 28th, to tie quilts and start other projects. We meet at 9AM in Room 120.

The beautiful days of summer remind us that the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. It is a wonderful time to share outdoor activities with family and friends. As we enjoy these gifts from God we also need to be aware of ways to protect ourselves from some of summer's unpleasant pests.

This is the time to learn about ticks, what their bites can cause, and preventive steps to avoid their bites. Ticks are small insects that fasten themselves to humans and to animals. Although a tick's bite is relatively painless, the real dangers are the bacteria and other organisms that the tick may carry. Of greatest concern is the deer (black-legged) tick which can spread Lyme disease and the related disease, human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA).

A deer tick, which is only about the size of a sesame seed, is difficult to see. Deer tick nymphs are not much larger than the period at the end of a sentence, so they are easily overlooked. Ticks and nymphs must feed for 24 hours or more to transmit the bacteria which causes Lyme disease or HGA.

It is important to take precautions to avoid tick bites. First, avoid wooded bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter. If walking in those areas, stay in the center of the trails. Second, wear light-colored clothing (so it is easier to detect ticks), long sleeves, long pants tucked into your socks, and boots or shoes. Third apply tick repellent. Repellent containing 20-30% DEET can be applied to one's skin and clothing and will last several hours. Pre-treat boots, pants, socks, and even tents with 0.5% permethrin. It needs to be applied several hours before use so it can dry thoroughly. It will continue to give protection even after clothing has been washed several times. And finally, check often for ticks and make a "full-body tick-check" at the end of the day. Susceptible areas where ticks might hide are in arm pits, around ears, inside "belly buttons", behind knees, in the groin area, around the waist, and especially in the hair. Be sure to check children and pets for ticks too.



To remove a tick, grasp it close to your skin with a tweezer and pull upward with a steady even pressure until it releases its hold. Do not crush the tick's body or handle it with bare fingers to minimize bacteria exposure. Dip the tick in alcohol and place it in a zip lock baggy in case it needs to be identified. Then wash the bite area thoroughly with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick or if a tick has been attached for more than 24 hours see your health care provider.

Lyme disease and HGA are not uncommon diseases. Each year in the United States, the CDC reports over 30,000 cases of Lyme disease and around 6,000 cases of HGA. These two diseases are often difficult to diagnose though because the symptoms are non-specific. A diagnosis is made by health history, symptoms, physical exam, and blood tests, including a bacterial culture of the blood. Symptoms of Lyme disease include: a red "bull's eye" skin rash at the site of the bite, flu-like fever and chills, headache, muscle fatigue, and joint pain. For HGA most people experience severe headaches, fever over 102 degrees, and general malaise with muscle aches, chills, and shaking. Symptoms can occur as early as three days to as late as 30 days after a bite, but typically they begin in 7-14 days. Left untreated, the diseases can lead to arthritis, respiratory illnesses, and heart abnormalities. Treatment is usually with a common antibiotic such as doxycycline or amoxicillin.



United
Women
in Faith

UWFaith Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale 12/1

Women's Day Apart - October 12, 2024
River Bend Nature Center

United Women in Faith :Meeting Dates

August 5, 2024 – UWF Executive Board meeting – 3:00 Fellowship Hall.

June-August, 2024 - Esther Circle – No meeting, enjoy the summer!

August 19, 2024 - Mugs and Muffins – Church Library – 9:00 AM

Website: UWFaith.org – National UWFaith

mnconfumw.com – Minnesota UWFaith

Thank You for all your help at the Mission Rummage Sale!!!
Over \$2,300 earned for mission work.
This is one way to get the community supporting God's work.

There were 33 of you glorious souls that I know of having worked so diligently setting up the sale, selling our wares, packing and distributing left over items, and resetting the church for Sunday morning. Your help was greatly appreciated. You can see where the money goes as shown on the UWFaith/UMW bulletin board in the hallway. The yearly UWFaith financial report can be found on our national website.

Preparing and completing a rummage sale is a yeoman's job but it brings in money to further God's work amongst those in need. It gives support to our children and youth at Northfield UMC, to Northfield community groups through Community Action Center, and to the United Women in Faith national projects supported every year. The world's needs are so compelling that we cannot not do something to help in any way.

If there is another type of fundraiser you would like to work towards, let Catherine Williams know and the board will look into creating it.

Catherine picked up COVID somewhere in her travels before the event so she was not able to be there in person. She did continue to call others to help as needed. Paxlovid really helped. Thank you for being there.

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale.- December 1, 2024 – Now is the time to plan and make items for the Bazaar. Last year this was a new idea. Many of us are crafters creating items for friends and family. Make a few extra and bring them for sale at the Bazaar. Proceeds for the Family Ministry KC3 kids bus! We are looking for homemade items you are willing to donate. Here are some item ideas:

Sewing: Placemats, table runners, pot holders, eye glass cases or phone cases.

Needlework: Scarves, hats, mittens

Woodworking: Cutting boards, bookends, toys

Gifts for children, teachers, family, friends

So many possibilities – **Do these ideas whet your creative appetite?** Questions? Call or email Lin Wolf – 612-532-1467 or lin_wolf@charter.net

Ladies – Save October 12, 2024 for a special Day Apart for wellness, fellowship, and a deep dive into nature. A Saturday Retreat at River Bend Nature Center in Faribault, MN is planned.

Spend summer time reading the great books in the UWFaith reading library. Find them on the cart to the left in our church library. Children's books are there, and some are great for youth readers, too.

Alliance Stamp Ministry: All types of cancelled postage stamps and Stamp collections are accepted. Put them in the box in Fellowship Hall. This is an ongoing ministry.

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Wednesday, May 29th to Thursday, May 30th, 2024

The 170th session of the Minnesota Annual Conference was a two-day meeting. The Conference was held in the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington, MN. This year's theme was Jesus Redeemer.

The Annual Conference opened with worship which culminated with Bishop Lanette Plambeck's Episcopal Address: Minding the Gap.

This was our first Annual Conference after the completion of the season of UMC church disaffiliation that had been initiated as a result of the 2019 special session of the General Conference. The 2019 General Conference created a Disaffiliation Agreement that spelled out a process by which the UMC churches worldwide could disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. The agreement expired December 31, 2023.

In Minnesota 8% of UMC churches disaffiliated over a two-year period. These churches represented 4% of UMC church members in Minnesota.

The Minnesota UMC remains a church conference of 330 churches with 50,270 members who are active in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As always, the UMC Annual Conference has always had an active new start congregation program.

This year's MN UMC Annual Conference also followed the 2024 General Conference which was attended by delegates representing the worldwide UMC Annual Conferences whose churches stayed committed to the UMC.

Pastor Rachel has reported to us the legislation of the 2024 General Conference through e-mails and an Adult Forum in May. The Minnesota UMC Annual Conference will act upon this General Conference's legislation during the 2025 MN UMC Annual Conference.

MN Annual Conference Legislation

The full text of each of these pieces of legislation is available from our church office.

The MN Annual conference voted to reorganize the number of conference districts from five to four. The four districts will have as its common point the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The new name of our district (SE quarter of MN) is River Bluffs. Our District Superintendent is Rev. Michelle Hargrave.

The Annual Conference voted to create a Board of Lay Ministry. It will be led by an elected Conference Lay Leader and 2 Co-Lay Leaders.

The Annual Conference passed (383 yes, 3 no) a resolution to engage MN UMC in alleviating hate crimes and hate speech. The resolution includes specific actions that the Annual Conference calls on its congregations to commit to going forward.

The Annual Conference passed (187 yes, 175 no) a resolution calling the current domination over Palestinians by the Israeli government an apartheid system. Further, it called such an apartheid system a crime against humanity. It calls on the US government to condition future funding to Israel upon its willingness to dismantle this apartheid system.

There was much discussion for and against this resolution as reflected in the vote. We were not of one mind on this issue. Stay tuned.

We adopted the 2025 MN Annual Conference Apportioned Budget. The budget adopted is \$5,291,979. This budget is 9.6% less than the amount of our 2024 apportioned budget. This budget amount is the lowest since 2013.

Submitted by: George and Linda Davis
Lay Delegates to the MN Annual Conference
Northfield UMC - June 4, 2024

Pictured: Pastor Rachel, Linda Davis, George Davis, Pastor Jerad
attending the Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church in May.

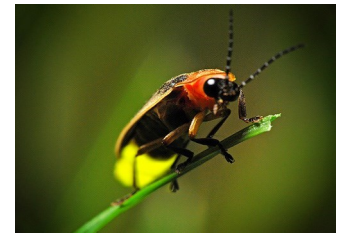


Chasing Fireflies

Do you ever look out your window on a warm summer evening and see tiny flashes of light start to flicker in your yard? At first there are just a few, but soon hundreds of blinking lights are floating around. The fireflies have come out for the evening. It's magical. I have always loved watching fireflies or lightning bugs as we called them as kids. I can remember as a kid we'd chase them, trying to catch them in a net then put them in a jar with vent holes in the cover. We'd watch them light up as we sat in the dark with our jar of "lightning bugs" thinking it was the coolest thing ever and then after a while we'd set them free again. A great childhood memory of something so simple and yet so magical. I still love to sit in my backyard and watch the fireflies put on a good display. Lately, my backyard has been full of them. Even my dog Fletcher loves to chase fireflies and try to catch them. I could not figure out one night what he was doing when he would run a little ways and then bite at the air around him. Finally I noticed he was biting at the light from a firefly. It made me laugh and sort of feel like I was in a Disney movie or something. Fireflies just seem very magical to me. They bring back lots of childhood memories of playing in the yard on a summer night with the neighbor kids.



The firefly or lightning bug, is a fascinating creature. Fireflies are found on every continent except Antarctica. They live throughout the United States and are most commonly seen on hot summer evenings in parks, meadows, gardens and wooded areas. It is estimated that there are over 2,000 species of firefly worldwide with approximately 146 species in North America with more species being discovered all the time. None of these species are actually flies however, they are beetles.



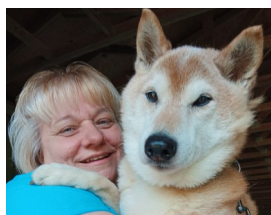
Fireflies are surprisingly very important to the environment. Their larvae feed on garden pests, like slugs, snails, and grubs, and keep flower and vegetable beds naturally pest-free. Adult fireflies also eat pollen and nectar and are very efficient pollinators benefiting many flowering plants. They have a very short lifespan. Adult fireflies only live for about a month. Its primary goal is to find a mate and reproduce so it can start the next cycle of fireflies. One reason fireflies glow is to attract a mate. Each firefly species has its own specific light pattern so that males and females of the same species will recognize each other and "talk" to each other by using a sequence of blinking lights. Another reason they glow is to avoid predators. Fireflies have a nasty-tasting chemical in them and once a predator gets a mouthful it quickly learns to associate the firefly's glow with this bad taste. Except for my dog Fletcher, he hasn't figured that out yet, he continues to try to catch them in his mouth.



While fireflies are cherished in many areas their population is also declining. Fewer and fewer are seen each year. Although it is estimated that one in three species of fireflies may be at risk of extinction, fireflies receive little conservation attention. Fireflies face a variety of threats, from habitat loss, light pollution, pesticide use, climate change, poor water quality and invasive species. What can we do to help the firefly population? Turn out your outside lights at night! Lights at night confuse fireflies and interfere with their attempts to signal and communicate with each other. Provide habitat! Set aside a part of your yard or garden where you can let things get a little "wild" with native grasses and wildflowers. You can also place bags of wet leaf compost in a shady spot which will attract snails, slugs and other insects which is food for firefly larvae. Avoid pesticides! Pesticides kill fireflies and degrade their habitat.

Who knew that a firefly was more than just a fun bug we chased as kids? Fireflies are another one of God's amazing creations in nature. This tiny creature provides an important role to our environment along with the added bonus of some great childhood memories. We need to be good stewards of nature and all of its creatures. Just like bees, we need to protect the fireflies. There's something very mesmerizing about watching a good firefly display. Fireflies bring me a feeling of nostalgia, of carefree times as a kid. The simple joy of chasing a magic light up bug. I hope you have the opportunity this summer to sit in the quiet darkness of nature and enjoy a magical firefly display that brings back childhood memories for you as well. –

Sandy Vesledahl, Office Administrator



Side note: August is National dog Month (although it's always National Dog Month at my house). Give those dogs some extra love this month! There's always a bag of dog treats in my desk for any special visitors to the church office.

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.



Summer
Church Office Hours
Mon.- Thurs.,
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday- closed

Card Making with Margie

Tuesday, August 20, 2024
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.



Church Softball Schedule

August 4 – 9:15 pm, Babcock, NUMC vs Canvas

August 11 – 8:10 pm, Sechler 2, NUMC vs St. Dominics

Weekly Church Email

New Email Address and New Day & Time

Do you receive the weekly email news? Please note that we are transitioning our weekly NUMC News email messages to a new sending address.

In the weeks ahead, watch for these weekly email messages to be sent to you from news@northfieldumc.org. It will also be sent on Friday at 7:00am instead of Sunday at 6:30am.

Super Wednesday Community Meals Beginning September 18th

Food for the soul and the stomach!

5:30-6:30 on Wednesdays.

Watch our Facebook page and our website northfieldumc.org for menus.



Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Don't miss out on the remaining noontime organ recitals!
Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 pm

August 7 - Noah Klein, Valley Grove Lutheran Church, 9999 155th St. E., Nerstrand, MN

August 14 - Stephen May, First United Church of Christ, 300 Union St., Northfield

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

September Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September issue of the Herald Newsletter is:

Noon on Monday, August 19, 2024

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

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Because every picture has a story to tell...



Family Ministries hosted a game and movie night at the church for KC3, middle and high school students. They played games watched "Toy Story" and ate pizza!

Whether you enter the church from the north, south, or east, do take a moment (or more) to enjoy the beautiful planters by each entrance. Darlene Cox's artful eye and green thumb provide a bountiful, varied visual welcome to all.



Peggie Jones, who is a founding member of Mission Sewing, is pictured here with a quilt top that she sewed. Mission Sewing started as an ecumenical group who got together to sew quilts for Christmas Sharing and other missions. Now many Northfield churches have their own mission sewing groups.

At 95, Peggie is a valued member of our group and helps us meet our goals. She is an inspiration for us to continue this valuable mission.



Pastor Donna prayer walking in and around Northfield UMC. "Let the next adventure begin, grounded in the spirit, and open to the movement of the triune God."



The sunflowers in the courtyard were in full bloom and following the sun this week. Thank you to Mary Ann Polley and Darlene Cox for keeping the courtyard so colorful!

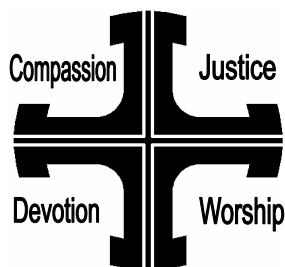
August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 Community Reservation	2 8:00 Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
4 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	5 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	6 9:00 Bible Study 9:00-3:30 Community Reservation	7 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation	8 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:00-9:00 Community Reservation CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	10 8:00-4:00 Community Reservation 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation	12 8:00-4:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	13 7:00 am-8:00 pm Election Polling location 9:00 Bible Study	14 8:00-4:00 Community Reservation 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation 5:30 NUMC Board Mtg.	15 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	17 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 1:00-4:00 Back to School Summer Splash
18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	19 9:00 Mugs and Muffins 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation Noon - September Herald Newsletter Deadline	20 9:00 Bible Study 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Facilities Team mtg	21 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation	22 12:00 Community Reservation	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
25 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	26 7:00 Community Reservation	27 9:00 Bible Study	28 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation	29 12:00 Community Reservation	30 8:00 Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1401 South Maple Street
Northfield, MN 55057

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



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**E - NEWSLETTER
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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
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Children's Ministry	Gregory Ennis
NUMC Band	Dave Miller
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir	Deborah Rae Miller
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Information & Worship Technology Consultant	Jesse Steed
Treasurer	David Wolf (Volunteer)

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