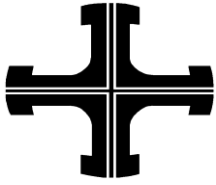


**Festival of God's Creation and Earth Day**  
**Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
**9:30 am**



# Northfield United Methodist Church

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

**We are companions in Christ  
Called, nurtured and sent  
To glorify God  
By acts of devotion and worship,  
Compassion and justice.**

April 19, 2026  
Festival of God's Creation and Earth Day

**Gathering Music/Prelude** *Morning Has Broken*

### **Centering for Worship/Focus**

*You may not plant millions of trees but if you can take care of a single tree with love and care, that will make you great... Clear sky, clean water, clean air, and a beautiful earth is our commitment for the next generations... Earth rejoices in our words, breathing and peaceful steps. Let every breath, every word and every step make the mother earth proud of us. — Sri Amit Ray, spirituality author*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Tree-Planting, Contributions, Work Days

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

Kevin Allin, Bruce Paulson

### **Call To Worship**

Let us hear God's call to cherish the earth. Let us dream of our world where the species are infinite  
**and our dreams will be tender.**

Let us sing in a world with all voices blended

**and our song will be harmonious**

Let us walk in our world of warm light and fragility

**and our tread will be grateful.**

Let us go gently into a delicate world.

**Let us worship God.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

**+Hymn** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

UMH #147

### **Prayer**

*O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot. We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of the summer fields, and taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow and smell the breath of the spring. Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory, O God our Creator, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.*

– Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch, 1910

### **Children's Message**

Amy Allin

**Special Music** *This is My Father's World*

## Scripture Readings

Philip Spensley

Genesis 2:4-15 (God planted a garden with streams that watered Eden)

Colossians 1:15-20 (All was created through and for Christ)

## Our Ecological Identity–Spiritual Practice

Kevin Allin

"We Are" by Ysaye M. Barnwell

*For each child that's born, a morning star rises  
and sings to the universe who we are.*

*We are Mothers of Courage, Fathers of Time  
Daughters of dust, Sons of great visions.*

*We are Sisters of Mercy, Brothers of Love  
Lovers of Life and The Builders of Nations.*

*We are Seekers of Truth, Keepers of Faith  
Makers of Peace and The Wisdom of Ages.*

*We are our grandmother's prayers  
We are our grandfathers' dreamings  
We are the breath of the ancestors  
We are the spirit of God.*

**+Hymn** *Cantemos al Señor (Let's Sing Unto the Lord)*

UMH #149

**Sermon** "Who We Are": Watershed Discipleship

Rev. Clay Oglesbee

## Prayer

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

Hush now in quiet peace, be still, your mind at ease.  
The Spirit brings release, so wait upon the Lord.

**Offertory** *Come Sunday* Duke Ellington

## Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## Prayer of Dedication

**+Hymn** *Blue Boat Home* (lyrics on screen)  
(sung to the tune of *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*)

## Invitation to Plant and Benediction

Rev. Clay Oglesbee

As we go forth from this sacred space,  
May we celebrate Earth and our shared lives,  
**May we recognize our connections to all that is in and on the Earth,  
May we value the inherent worth of all creation**  
In this awesome interconnected web of existence,  
May we commit ourselves to the ways of water, serving as it goes,  
**And may we hold our commitments and each other  
Gently yet firmly. Blessed be and Amen.**

Credits: Adapted from Earth Day worship 2024 at the Union Church (UCC) in Biddeford Pool, Maine.

—CCLI License No. 1093845 —OneLicense #A-708801

Rev. Dr. Donna Dempewolf  
Rev. Clay Oglesbee  
Philip Spensley, Reader  
NUMC Band  
Ava Podracky - Vocals  
Hezekiah Ben Shirnai- Vocals and Mandolin  
Elaine Boda- Cello  
David Miller- Piano  
Mike Legvold- Bass Guitar

### Sundays

9:30 am – Worship  
9:40 am – Children’s Church  
10:30 am – Coffee in Fellowship Hall  
10:30 am – Adult Faith Formation

### Wednesdays

3:30 – 5:30 pm, (K-5<sup>th</sup>) Fun, Faith & Food Snack  
5:30-6:15 pm – Community Meal  
6:15 pm – Adult Choir  
6:30 pm – Handbell Choir  
6:30 pm – Youth Group  
**Final Super Wednesday May 6th**

### Upcoming Events

**Mugs and Muffins**, Monday, April 20, 9:00 am, Library  
**Card Making**, Monday, April 20, 2:30 pm, room #120  
**Herald Newsletter Deadline**, Monday, April 20, noon  
**Women’s Bible Study**, Tuesday, April 21, 9:00 am, room #120  
**Facilities Team Mtg.**, Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 pm, Library  
**Mission Sewing**, Wednesday, April 22, 9:00, room #120  
**Men’s Breakfast**, Friday, April 24, 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall  
**Tree Planting and Spring Cleanup Day**, Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am

### Adult Faith Formation

**4/12-5/3: Spirituality of Earth and Resurrection.** Four-week exploration of the unique person, spirituality and teachings of Hildegard of Bingen, a German Benedictine abbess, mystic, musician, early naturalist and holistic teacher. Led by Dr. Almut Furchert.

### South African Rev. Alan Storey Events:

**Northfield Youth Gathering**, Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 pm, 6:30 pizza, Emmaus Church  
**St. Olaf Daily Chapel speaker**, Thursday, April 23, 11:00 am, Boe Memorial Chapel  
**Called as Community in Fractured Times**, Thursday, April 23, 6:30 pm, free event, St. John’s church  
**Manna & Mercy Retreat**, April 24-25, more info and registration at [alanstoreyinminnesota.org](http://alanstoreyinminnesota.org)

The Facilities team with assistance from the Creation Care team will be planting 10 trees around the NUMC grounds on Saturday, April 25, during their Spring Clean Up day, starting at 8 am until around noon(ish). We invite and encourage families to “sponsor” a tree by actually planting it, keeping it watered over the first summer, or making a special contribution to NUMC to offset the approximate \$300 cost per tree. If you wish to donate make your check payable to NUMC and note “trees” in the memo.