



Looking Over the Pulpit Duayne Meyer

Reading Time, three minutes...

... **Lent begins in a week (on 2/26)**. In addition to the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Chapel Service, there are two Lenten Seminars between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Be sure to pick up Lenten devotional materials from the narthex or chapel.

... **the Organist/Choir Director search** is just underway. The Personnel Committee has solicited resumes from qualified musicians and is developing a review process. Once the list of potential candidates is complete, the committee – with input from members of NCC involved in the music program – will begin the interview process. NCC is remarkably fortunate to have Phyllis Scott and Eileen Baumgarten at the helm during this time of transition. I hope you'll express your appreciation to them for stepping in. While you're at it, please be sure to thank the choir too. They haven't missed a beat.

... **the Community Garden** has at least two available plots, one 8x10 feet and the other 10x10. If you are interested in using one of the plots, email me at dmeyer@northfielducc.org. A lot has been done in the Community Garden over the past few years and more is being done to upgrade access, improve the soil and adding composting. Pollinator garden beds were added on the west side of the garden and, with the removal of a quarter acre of Buckthorn, plans are in the works for a wildflower garden as well. **The Butterfly Garden** continues to improve, despite uncooperative weather the past two Springs. A new bench in memory of Joey Bartzis has been placed in the center of the garden and a nearby flowering tree was planted as well. The Butterfly Garden is lovely place to enjoy nature.

... **2020 marks the 175th anniversary of the St. Peter congregation**. An anniversary committee will meet for the first time this week and we hope we'll be able to enlist a few more folks to plan and carry out some activities to mark the occasion. **2021 marks the 75th anniversary of the NCC congregation**; the plan is to keep the celebration going for two years. If you are interested in serving on the committee, have some ideas for activities or want to help out in some way, contact Lea Jones at ljones@northfielducc.org or touch base with Gary Eberlein or Judy Hertelendy.

...The Trustees continue to work on plans for **refreshing the sanctuary**. It is possible preliminary plans will be ready by the May congregational meeting. Currently, the Trustees are looking into replacing or sealing the asbestos tile flooring in the nave, expanding the chancel and replacing the flooring and chancel furnishings, adding audiovisual capabilities, replacing the pews in the nave and completing the retrofitting of the sanctuary lights for added energy efficiency.

... While the Trustees work on things here at 400 Wagner, the **Mission Board continues to expand its reach outward**, forging partnerships with organizations working to alleviate hunger, end human trafficking, advocate for justice, heal the broken and much more. NCC just learned that we were the third highest Crop Hunger Walk fundraiser in the U.S. in 2019.

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MARCH
2020

*Celebrating
175 years*

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

... It seems to me NCC is striking the right balance between attending to our congregation – young, old and in between – and offering help and hope to those in need beyond our immediate church community. NCC's 2019-2020 theme says it well, *"Let us not grow weary of doing good, in due time there will be a harvest if we do not give up."*

- Pastor Duayne

Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" - Psalm 42:2

Lent begins Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday

Lent is the period of 40 days before the celebration of Easter and has its origin in the early days of the Church. People seeking to become Christian spent several years in study and preparation. Then they went through a final period of "purification and enlightenment" for the 40 days before their baptism at Easter. To support these newest Christians, the rest of the Church began to observe the season of Lent. It became an opportunity for all Christians to recall and renew the commitment of their baptism and to focus on turning hearts and minds back to God.

In the Catholic Church the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These observances are to help people turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed their faith life and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is a form of fasting. Deprive yourself of some small pleasure or indulgence, or giving up a bad habit such as smoking would be a way of turning your life back toward what God wants for you.

Lent is a time to test our willingness to walk boldly with Jesus; to give up old ways and reject new temptations; to focus our eyes to look beyond the cross, confident that God's love in Jesus Christ is with us, so we can take hope into our future, our Easter joy. Maybe this year is the time to take up a Lenten practice for you and/or your family to strengthen your faith walk. Give up something for Lent... when my children were younger, we gave up eating at fast food restaurants and used the money we saved to buy food for the food pantry. There is also the practice of taking up something to strengthen love for God and others for Lent – set aside time to pray each day, start a time of family devotions after a meal... I have in the past "taken up" writing a kind note to someone anonymously each day of Lent. Think about what might be a new Lenten practice for you.

Thank you! -Ronda

NCC'S 2020 JOURNEY OF LENT AND EASTER

Wed., February 26 – Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship: dinner 6:30 & worship 7:30 p.m.

Sun., March 8 – Messy Church "Mardi Gras/Lent" at 4:30 p.m.

Wed., March 11- Soup and Seminar: dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m. program -"I Love to Tell The Story" – Members and friends of NCC share their stories of experiencing God, facing life's challenges and recognizing the powerful, and sometimes funny, place of church in our lives.

Sun., March 15 – March 22 – Indoor labyrinth at NCC

Wed., March 18 – Praying in Color workshop 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Wed., April 1 – Soup & Seminar: 6:30 p.m., dinner, 7:15 p.m. program- "I Love to Tell The Story"

Sun., April 5 – Messy Church "Easter" at 4:30 p.m.

Fri., April 10– Good Friday Dinner and Worship – dinner at 6:30 and worship at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship, April 12– 9:30 in the chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary –
Easter Breakfast served from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin "Hosanna" a Lenten Bible study exploring texts in the Gospels and the writings of Paul that deal with the last week of Jesus' life and resurrection by Carol Miller Tues., March 7, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. in the parlor. You are welcome to join.

Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Ronda Bower

Can you help? March's Messy Mission, Sunday, March 15 11:30 a.m., is to put together Easter baskets to help the Northfield Township Food Pantry in their distribution of Easter baskets to their client families. **You can help by bringing Easter individually wrapped candy, toys, coloring books, anything fun that can go into making Easter baskets for children of all ages.** (NCC already has baskets and grass that were donated last year after Easter.) Tubs to collect Easter basket items will be in the narthex, garden room, and Ronda Bower's office. **On March 15th everyone is invited to come and help put the baskets together.** Thank you!

Sunday School Thank Yous:

- Thank you to Josh and Tracey Buchman, Carma Pagni, Kellie Cunningham, Sue Golden, and Jenny Jordan for leading February's Sunday school unit of "Four Friends."
- Thank you to Rose Vakili for assisting at Sunday School movie day President's Day weekend.

If you are interested in helping with NCC's Sunday School program, talk with these volunteers or any others who have helped, and see how fun and rewarding it is to share God's love with NCC's children. There are openings to lead a 3 Sunday lesson

- March 1, 8, and 15 – Banquet with Simon;
- March 29, April 5 and 19 – Holy Week and Easter; and
- April 26, May 3 and 10 – Doubting Thomas.

There is a sign up page on the bulletin board by the church office or let me know if you are interested.

175/75 Anniversary Celebration –Gary Eberlein

This year, during the "175/75 Anniversary Celebration", in *The Window* we will explore the many functions St. Peter Church provided throughout its history.

Denominations, Names, Locations

In 1845, on donated land, on the south side of Wheeling Road (now Dundee Road) a bit west of what is now Pflugsten Road, a group of German-speaking farm families wishing for a place to worship God, study the scriptures and provide religious instruction for their children, built a small frame one-room church, a parsonage, and laid out a cemetery. Without any official affiliation with a denomination, this group of Reformed and Lutheran folks from Northfield, Wheeling and Deerfield areas called their church the *German Evangelical Calvinistic Reformed United Lutheran Church*. Thus, is the beginning for our "175/75 Anniversary Celebration".

Records show that the congregation grew and soon became known as the *German St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Northfield Township*. By the early 1860's some families began attending churches closer to their homes in the Wheeling and Deerfield areas and families in Dutchman's Point (now Niles) and what would become Glenview, wanted a church more centrally located in the township. In 1863 the remaining families from the first church banded together with the group from the south, built a new building on Telegraph Road (now Shermer Road) just south of Willow Road and took the church records with them to what would be called the *St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church*. It was at this location that the church was known by several names among them; the *United Evangelical Reformed Church of Northfield*, *St. Peter Evangelical Church*, *St. Peter Evangelical Neighborhood Church* and *St. Peter United Church of Christ* (1957 with the merger of the Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church). The old church burned in 1961 and the congregation built a new church on Willow Road near Pflugsten Road; *St Peter Community Church*. With a shrinking congregation, the Willow Road building was sold, and the remaining members joined here at Northfield Community Church UCC in 2016.

Phrases from Phyllis –Phyllis Scott

I found Lindy through a friend last fall. As we enter the Lenten season, I hope these words speak to you as they did to me.

I Go to Sing! By Lindy Thompson

I might be exhausted and the children might be cranky, but I will be going to church on Sunday.

Don't know who is preaching, doesn't matter –the sermon may be helpful or not, holds my attention or doesn't – it's the singing. I go to sing.

I get up, get clean, get dressed, possibly get mad (at not-ready kids, at empty coffee pot, at traffic) get going, get there, get seated, get comfortable, get focused and when the music starts, get saved.

It's the singing. I go to sing. It's the willingness to stand if you are able, the common agreement on page number, the voluntary sharing of songbooks with people on your row, even ones you rode there with – but most of all, it's the collective in-breath before the first sound is made, the collective drawing upon the grace of God, the collective, if inadvertent, admission that we are all human, all fragile, all in need of the sustaining air, freely dispensed, all in need of each other to get the key right and not sound discordant.

It's the hidden life-celebration in the act of making a joyful noise, all together.

We don't even have to sound that good.

Singing together still brings home the we-ness of worship, the not-alone-ness of life in God, the best of all we have to offer each other.

When we are singing, I think that I might actually be able to forgive you for being so terribly human, and you might be able to forgive me for being so terribly not there yet, and we might be able to find peace now, not postpone it for some heavenly hereafter but live and breathe it today, drawing in the grace of God, voicing out our need and hope and gratitude and longing.

When we are singing, I can feel the better world coming, and if I get to be a part of it, you do too. So sing with me, and we'll make our way down that blessed road together, collectively better than we ever thought possible.

~May God Bless, Phyllis

See more blogs from Lindy Thompson at <https://lindythompson.net>

Mission Connections

We're on a Mission from God.



Volunteers for serving a meal at **A Just Harvest** are needed. NCC's day to volunteer is the first Friday of the month. The next opportunity is March 6th. Volunteers stop by the church to pick up supplies, then stop by Hofherr's in Northfield to pickup meatloaf before heading to A Just Harvest to serve the evening meal. It is a wonderful experience to visit the "Cafe" and to see what goes into serving over a hundred guests. We encourage everyone to give it a try. Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks !



CROP Hunger Walk Update

Congrats to Team NCC who placed 3rd in the nation!
Team NCC raised \$27,719 to end hunger and poverty around the world.



What's Happening

The Sacrament of Baptism

We celebrate the baptism of **August David Hernandez, Jr.** on February 16th. His parents are August and Lindsay Hernandez. His godparent is Amy Hill. Welcome to the family Gus!

We Extend our Sympathy

To the family of **Jean Moran** who passed away unexpectedly on February 3rd. Jean's memorial service was on February 8th at NCC. Please hold the Moran family in your prayers.

I Love to Tell the Story - Lenten Soup & Seminars:

Our Lenten Soup & Seminars this year will highlight the importance of stories in the sharing of our Christian faith. Join us as members and friends of NCC share their stories of experiencing God, facing life's challenges and recognizing the powerful, and sometimes funny, place of the church in their lives. Soup & Seminars will be on **March 11th** and **April 1st** at 6:30

Ecclesiastical Council for Colin Knapp

Congratulations to NCC member **Colin Knapp** upon his recommendation by the Church and Ministry Committee of Chicago Metropolitan Association to move forward with an Ecclesiastical Council. This means, pending the approval of representatives of area UCC churches, Colin will be ordained as a Christian minister in the United Church of Christ. Colin has already been extended a call by Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park, Illinois, pending an affirmative vote rendered at the Ecclesiastical Council. The Council will convene in the NCC chapel at 3:00pm, March 29th. While NCC only gets one vote, which will be cast by the Moderator, this is an open session and one that NCCers may find interesting, as this is part of the process of how one is approved for ordination in the UCC. Have you ever wondered how the church "makes a minister?" Here's your chance to find out more.

Our prayers are offered for Viva Black, Kristie Bobart (sister of Glen), Loyal Carlson Jr, Keith Cooper, Jan Deetjen, Flory Dy, Cynthia Holmberg, Bill Jesse, Julie Jewell, the Moran Family, Mitzi Smith, and the Townsend Family; those shut-in or staying close to home: Bob Fricke, Lois Katarski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, Carolyn Stockwell; and those in assisted living: Mike Black, & Mike Parker.

Office Notes :

- ◆ Dates are available for signup for Altar flowers and for 10:30 Worship Greeters, please see the signup sheets outside the office.
- ◆ Dates are available for 9:30 worship service ushers, please contact the office if you're interested.
- ◆ The deadline for the next **NCC Window** is Monday, March 23rd.

TASTE OF FAMILY PROMISE is March 1st from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. NCC will host the largest potluck on the Northshore, bringing former Family Promise guests and host church members together. Plan on bringing a dish to pass and an appetite as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Family Promise, an organization that helps families experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable independence through community efforts. There will be music, child friendly activities and fellowship. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the kitchen, help with children or just helping visitors find their way, there is a place for you. Contact Leeann Starr, starr9003@yahoo.com. Bring your friends and neighbors, this is truly an event for all.



NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH
400 WAGNER ROAD
NORTHFIELD, IL 60093
Address Correction Requested

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

March Special Events

1st	5:00 pm	Taste of Family Promise
3rd	11:45 am	Book Club
6th	4:00 pm	A Just Harvest
8th	4:30 pm	Messy Church
10th	7:00 pm	Board of Christian Ed
11th	6:30 pm	Lenten Soup & Seminar
12th	7:00 pm	Mission Board
15th	11:30 am	Messy Mission
15th—22nd		Walking the Labyrinth
18th	5 & 7 pm	Praying in Color
19th	10:00 am	Partners in Christ
23rd	7:00 pm	Church Council
29th	10:00 am	Ecclesiastical Council for Colin Knapp
30th	tbd	Board of Trustees

The Church Staff

All of the members of NCC	Ministers
Steve Ash	Business Manager
Eileen Baumgarten	Interim Organist
Ronda Bower	Family & Educational Ministry
Thom Bower	Associate Pastor
Lea Jones	Office Administrator
Duayne R. Meyer	Senior Pastor
Don Minnick	Pastor Emeritus
Phyllis Scott	Interim Choir Director
Warren Wiggins	Minister of Visitation



March Activities At NCC



TASTE OF FAMILY PROMISE

Sunday, March 1 - 5:00 p.m.

Family Promise Celebrates Ten Years at Taste of Family Promise hosted by Northfield Community Church. This event will feature food from hosting churches, music, child friendly activities, and a chance to visit with prior and current Family Promise families. Donations will be accepted at the door.

All proceeds go to help families return to stability.

Plan on bringing a dish to pass and an appetite. This is truly an event for all.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 3 - 11:45 a.m.

Bring your lunch and join the discussion of the book "Leadership" by Doris Kearns Goodwin

MESSY CHURCH - "MARDI GRAS AND LENT"

Sunday, March 8 4:30 p.m.

Pancake dinner, king cake, pancake games and races, beads, packing away the Alleluias, and more. Rediscover the meaning of Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras/ Fat Tuesday and how it is and has been celebrated and its relation to the season of Lent. All ages welcome to join this wonderful time of exploration, fun, and worship. Everyone is welcome! Invite a family to come!

(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

LENTEN SOUP AND SEMINAR

Wednesday, March 11 6:30 dinner / 7:15 presentation

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Our Lenten Soup & Seminars this year will highlight the importance of stories in the sharing of our Christian faith. Enjoy a dinner of delicious homemade soup and salad, then move to the chapel as members and friends of NCC share their stories of experiencing God, facing life's challenges and recognizing the powerful, and sometimes funny, place of the church in their lives.

March Activities (continued)



WALK A LABYRINTH THIS LENT - March 15 - 22

Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer. A labyrinth is not a maze. It has only one path to the center and back out. It symbolizes a journey to a predetermined destination, such as a pilgrimage to a holy site. An indoor Labyrinth will be available to walk at NCC, weekdays in the narthex and weekend days in the fellowship hall from 9 a.m. through 8 p.m. Materials will be available to help your time in the Labyrinth. Come by yourself or bring your family for a time of prayer and contemplation.

MESSY MISSION- PUTTING TOGETHER EASTER BASKETS FOR NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD BANK

Sunday, March 15 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help put together Easter baskets to help the Northfield Township Food Pantry in their distribution of Easter baskets to their client families. **Items to go in the Easter baskets are needed by Sunday, March 15: individually wrapped candy, toys, coloring books, anything fun that can go into making Easter baskets for children of all ages.** (NCC already has baskets and grass that were donated last year after Easter.) If you can donate items, please place them in the tubs in the narthex, garden room, and Ronda Bower's office.

Praying in Color Workshops

Wednesday, March 18 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Why Pray in Color? 1) You want to pray but words escape you. 2) Sitting still and staying focused in prayer are a challenge. 3) Your body wants to be part of your prayer. 4) You want to just hang out with God but don't know how. 5) Listening to God feels like an impossible task. 6) Your mind wanders and your body complains. 7) You want a visual, concrete way to pray. 8) You need a new way to pray. Ronda Bower, who has been using this method of praying for many years, will lead this 60 minute workshop to introduce Praying in Color from the book of the same name by Sybil MacBeth. The workshop is offered at two times to fit your schedule.

Northfield Community Church

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday Seminar 9:30 am Worship and Praise 10:30 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm Taste of Family Promise	2	3 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 11:45 am Book Club	4 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5	6 4:00 pm A Just Harvest	7 8:00 am Relevant Bible Study
8 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday Seminar 9:30 am Worship and Praise 10:30 am Traditional Worship 4:30 pm Messy Church	9	10 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Board of Christian Education	11 5:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Lenten Soup & Seminar: I Love to Tell the Story	12 7:00 pm Mission Board	13	14 8:00 am Relevant Bible Study
15 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday Seminar 9:30 am Worship and Praise 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:30 am Messy Mission 6:00 pm Confirmation Academy	16	17 Election Day 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	18 5:00 pm Praying in Color 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Praying in Color	19 10:00 am Partners in Christ	20	21 8:00 am Relevant Bible Study
<i>Walk A Labyrinth: March 15 - 22</i>						
22 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday Seminar 9:30 am Worship and Praise 10:30 am Traditional Worship <i>Walk A Labyrinth: March 15 - 22</i>	23 Window Deadline 7:00 pm Church Council	24 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	25	26	27	28 8:00 am Relevant Bible Study
29 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Sunday Seminar 9:30 am Worship and Praise 10:30 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Ecclesiastical Council for Colin Knapp tbd pm Trustees	30	31 10:00 am Women's Bible Study				

