



Looking Over the Pulpit - Duayne Meyer

JANUARY
2020

“Do not grow weary of well doing...for there will be a harvest, if we do not give up.” Gal. 6.9

According to those who keep track of such things, giving fatigue is common this time of year. We are inundated with appeals to give our hard earned money to efforts and organizations who help the marginalized or those working to alleviate suffering. We are asked to donate toys for children, or winter clothes, or food; the list is a long one. How can we, even if we try, give to all these worthy causes? It can be a challenge to not tune out completely or to feel like what we can do is barely a drop in the bucket.

One of the gifts the church gives us, a way our discipleship helps equip us for a season like this, is through the relative constancy of the appeals the church makes to us. As the saying goes, “this isn’t our first rodeo!” When December passes, the tug-at-the-heart-strings appeals subside and the lights from the news cameras dim, the church will still be here inviting you – hoping to convince you - to contribute your time, your talents and your hard earned money to its mission and ministry. Come January, after the tinsel is recycled and the fa-la-las are tucked away, NCC will still feed the hungry, house the homeless, tend to the sick and proclaim the gospel to the discouraged, the lost and those who feel alone. These things are not seasonal, they are at the center of our life and mission.

NCC does these things in innumerable ways, alongside a great number of mission partners. In many cases, the help NCC gives is through financial support, prayer and greater awareness of our neighbors in need. At other times, NCC provides help through hands-on engagement. NCC both supports mission and *is* a mission. Think of the church – it’s property and all that we do here – as a Mission Outpost, the place to which we go to be equipped and encouraged; to regroup, be inspired and to organize. From here we engage the world – at home, at work, at school, among neighbors – as witnesses and, yes, missionaries. You read that right, you are a missionary!

This is the difference between you and so many others who receive giving appeals. Your acts of sharing are not occasional, extraneous or an after- thought; they don’t happen at a particular time of year or when the mood strikes. As followers of Jesus, it’s fairly built in to the way we see the world, move in the world, love the world that God loves. Honestly, there very well may be times that we help, that we volunteer, that we give not because we are inspired by “A Christmas Carol” or a commercial, but because we know it’s the right thing to do, it’s part of who we are, who we hope to be and become.

So, along with offering a word of encouragement to “not grow weary of well doing,” and a word of thanks to you for sharing your resources, I also – on behalf of the church – want to say, “you’re welcome.” Over the years, somewhere in the midst of Sunday School or worship or late-night conversations or watching the sun rise, you took to heart the message that your Christian discipleship is a not only a matter of belief, but also action. If we are *saved by grace through faith* (Eph. 2.8), then our actions find their source in gratitude, a natural byproduct of which is generosity.

So, Merry Christmas dear church. Bless you for, well, being you: a rather genuine, generous and faithful bunch assembling at, and dispersing from, this little corner of Wagner and Willow. Keep dropping your drops in the bucket, keep whittling away at it through your kindness and sharing and serving. In this season, and in every season, keep the faith.

-Pastor Duayne

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Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower



Some of NCC's children and teens brought to us an important Christmas message on December 15th as they led worship at the 10:30 service with their Christmas program " **Christmas: FAQs** "

ANSWER KID 3: But it's the beginning of the Christian story. We have seen what the shepherds saw. Through that birth in a stable two thousand years ago, God has broken into our lives. God has come to us and continues to come to us in our sorrow and joy. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us.

QUESTION KID 3: So maybe all the details aren't so important after all.

ANSWER KID 3: They're interesting, but the most important message of the Christmas story is that God loves us enough to send Jesus to us. That's a lot of love - more than we can measure or ever understand.

QUESTION KID 3: Then maybe what we ought to do is just thank God for loving us so much.

NARRATOR: I get it now! It's just like the angels said, "Good News of great joy for all people!"

Thank you to the NCC's children and teens who brought us this incredible message. They were all awesome! There is something special about the story of Christmas coming from children and youth.

An extremely big thank you to Kim Scott for leading the music for the program, her planning, and leading rehearsal time. Thank you to Rose Vakili, Stephanie Gustafson, Jen Andrew, Trish Andrew, Donna Cox, and Payton Townsend for all their work with the children throughout rehearsals and the program. Thank you also to the Board of Christian Education providing a wonderful pasta lunch after the program. Thank you to all NCC's congregation and friends who came to support the children and share in the joy of the birth of the Christ Child.

May you rejoice in the miracle of God breaking into our lives, and loving us this Advent and Christmas season, and every day in our sorrow and our joys. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us!

Thank you! -Ronda

HAVE YOU BEEN TO MESSY CHURCH YET? Messy Church welcomes everyone – people of all ages. Everyone is invited to join with the Messy Church community worshipping God with creativity, celebration, hospitality, and fun. You don't need to be a family with children and teens to attend. Come and do crafts. Come and relax and color. Come to meet new people and get to know others better. Come for a good meal with friends. Come and worship our awesome God. You are welcome! Share God's good news and love. Bring grandkids, nieces, nephews. Bring your neighbors. You are invited to Messy Church!

JANUARY'S MESSY CHURCH - "Give us this day our daily bread" is Sunday, January 12, 4:30 p.m. Come explore God's gift of "daily bread" and its meaning for us with activities like a flashlight puzzle piece hunt, basket weaving, mosaic art and more, a delicious dinner, and a celebration worship. Everyone is invited so don't miss out on the fun! *(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*

Help is needed: NCC is in need of more 1½ or 2 yard pieces of printed fleece to make Linus no-sew blankets. Please bring before January 19th if you are able to help. There is a container in Ronda's office for the fleece. We are also collecting food boxes of all kinds for a January 12th's Messy Church activity. Needing just the outer boxes, not containers that have touched the food. There is also a container in Ronda's office to collect these items. Thank you for your help!

Music Notes –Phyllis Scott

Since becoming interim Choir Director a couple of months ago, I have been warmly welcomed by so many, and helped countless times by choir members, staff, and congregants. Not a surprise (it's one of the characteristics I cherish most about NCC) but lovely nonetheless.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make the transition as smooth as possible. I have really been excited to work with the choir and with Eileen. I look forward to continuing to make music with you all this winter!

Christmas Eve, 10:00 p.m. Service: Choir & Strings will rehearse at 8:30pm. Come hear such lovely tunes as Gesu Bambino, Child of Hope, Breath of Heaven, Shepherd's Pipe Carol, and O Holy Night.

Looking beyond Advent and Christmas, we have...

December 29th 10:00 a.m. Ecumenical Service at Lutheran Church of the Ascension

January 5th: When the Angels' Song is Silent by Beale ~ With the hoopla of the holidays behind us, carols no longer being played, we must remember that the *promise* of Christmas is only just starting. Christ's birth has changed the world forever... the glory of Christmas begins.

January 12: The People Who Walk in Darkness by Choplin

January 19: Gospel anthems

~May God Bless, Phyllis



Mission Connections

Messy Mission: Making No-Sew Blankets for Project Linus and Sewing Inspirational Hearts for worn by NICU moms then placed with their infant on Sunday, January 19 at 4:30 p.m. We need lots of hands of people of all ages for this time to make fleece no-sew blankets to provide a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. No skills necessary. If you can hand stitch, there will also be an opportunity to make flannel hearts that moms who have infants in the NICU wear close to them, then place with their infant to comfort them with the scent of their mother. So come to NCC's fellowship hall for an hour or so, and spend some time making gifts of love, enjoying time with wonderful people, having a snack and warm beverage, and being part of a community of faith sharing God's love. There will be cartoons and quiet activities for those too young to make blankets and hearts.

What's Happening

NCC has an opportunity for you to learn how to share your story! Don't miss a free 3 hour story telling workshop given by NCC's very own Praise Band singer **Stephanie Rogers** on **Sunday, January 26, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** in the chapel. Join Stephanie as she leads this fun afternoon of games and story prompts that are designed to help us recall and share our personal narratives. Stories are what connect us to each other, and in sharing our personal stories, we develop compassion and community. In this workshop, we'll borrow from theatre and improvisation, and we'll play some inspiring games before we use writing prompts to remember some of the stories we'd like to share either with each other, or with our families and friends. Stephanie has a theatre degree from Northwestern University and is currently completing her master's degree in writing at National Louis University. Stephanie hosts and produces a storytelling and music show called **Story Jam**. You can see more about Stephanie at <http://www.hipchick.com>.

We Extend our Sympathy to the family of Doris Wooden. Doris passed away on December 12th.

Our prayers are offered for Tom Behrens, Kristie Bobart (sister of Glen), Loyal Carlson Jr, Keith Cooper, Jan Deetjen, David DeHorn, Flory Dy, Cynthia Holmberg, Bill Jesse, Julie Jewell, Bruce Johnston, Sung Park, Larry Townsend, & Stan Xidas; those shut-in or staying close to home: Bob Fricke, Lois Katarski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, Sue Minnick, Carolyn Stockwell; and those in assisted living: Mike Black, & Mike Parker.

Office Notes :

All 2019 donations should be postmarked or delivered to the church by December 31st.

The office will be closed December 30th—January 3rd.

The deadline for the next **NCC Window** is Monday, January 20th.

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

First Class

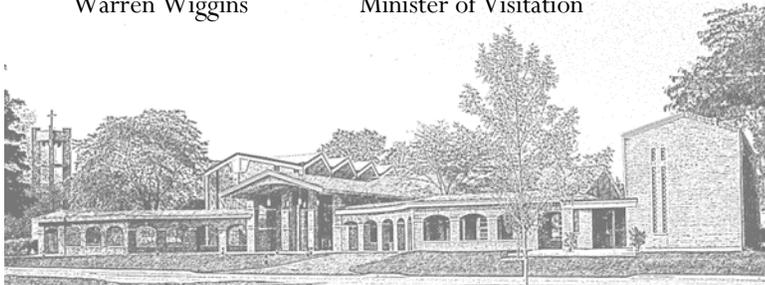
NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

January Special Events

Dec 30th—Jan 3rd Church Office Closed
3rd 4:00 pm A Just Harvest
6th 9:30 am Advent Cleanup
9th 7:00 pm Mission Board
8th 4:30 pm Messy Church
16th 10:00 am Partners in Christ
19th 4:30 am Messy Mission
21st 7:00 pm Board of Christian Ed
21st 7:00 pm Board of Trustees
26th 10:30 am Scout Sunday
26th 1:00 pm Story Telling Workshop with
Stephanie Rogers

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



Northfield Community Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed 7:00 PM CA	3 Office Closed 4:00 PM A Just Harvest	4 8:00 AM Relevant Bible Study
5 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:15 AM Sunday Seminar 9:30 AM Worship and Praise 10:30 AM Traditional Worship	6 9:30 AM Christmas/Advent Clean up 	7 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:15 PM James Bible Study	8 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice	9 7:00 PM CA 7:00 PM Mission Board	10	11 8:00 AM Relevant Bible Study
12 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 	13	14 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:15 PM James Bible Study	15 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice	16 10:00 AM Partners In Christ 7:00 PM CA	17	18 8:00 AM Relevant Bible Study
19 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 Mission	20  Window Deadline	21 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:15 PM James Bible Study 7:00 PM Board of Christian Ed 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	22 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice	23 7:00 PM CA	24	25 8:00 AM Relevant Bible Study
26 9:00 AM Choir Practice 9:15 AM Sunday Seminar 9:30 AM Worship and Praise 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 1:00 PM Story Telling Workshop	27 7:00 PM Church Council	28 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:15 PM James Bible Study	29 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice	30 7:00 PM CA	31	



January Activities at NCC



Messy Church - "Give us this day our daily bread..."

Sunday, January 12 - 4:30 p.m.

Come explore God's gift of "daily bread" and its meaning for us with activities like a flashlight puzzle piece hunt, basket weaving, mosaic art and more, a delicious dinner, and a celebration worship. Everyone is invited so don't miss out on the fun!

Mission: bring non-perishable food items for the Northfield Township Food Pantry.



Messy Mission: Making No-Sew Blankets for Project Linus and Sewing Inspirational Hearts worn by NICU moms then placed with their infant

Sunday, January 19 - 4:30 p.m.

A time for all ages to come together to use hearts and hands to help others. Come to NCC's fellowship hall and join in the making of fleece no-sew blankets that will provide a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. No skills necessary. If you can hand stitch, there will also be an opportunity to make flannel hearts that moms who have infants in the NICU wear close to them, then place with their infant to comfort them with the scent of their mother.

Come for an hour or two, and spend some time making gifts of love, enjoying time with wonderful people, having a snack and warm beverage, and being part of a community of faith sharing God's love. There will be cartoons and quiet activities for those too young to make blankets and hearts.



Share Your Story! - Free Story Telling Workshop by Stephanie Rogers

Sunday, January 26 - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone has stories to share! Join Praise Band's Stephanie Rogers as she leads a fun afternoon of games and story prompts that are designed to help us recall and share our personal narratives. Stories are what connect us to each other, and in sharing our personal stories, we develop compassion and community. In this workshop, we'll borrow from theatre and improvisation, and we'll play some inspiring games before we use writing prompts to remember some of the stories we'd like to share either with each other, or with our families and friends.