



Looking Over the Pulpit—Duayne Meyer

AUGUST
2020

*Special
Edition*

*Celebrating
175 years*

Along with much of the country, and indeed the world, northern Illinois is in its fifth month of contending with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. During this time, we have not been able to enjoy many, if not most, of the familiar and comforting places and experiences where we gather. Facial coverings and social distancing have made even our limited outings something less than satisfying. Is it a smile or a frown greeting us behind the mask? What did I just touch? Did I bring hand sanitizer? Why isn't the guy in line in front of me wearing a mask?

The church's sacramental life, what little there presently is of it, is fairly surreal. Livestreamed memorial services, private baptisms (wearing masks!), postponed or significantly pared down weddings and celebrations that mark significant life events. The St. Peter & NCC 175/75 anniversary celebrations have been postponed indefinitely. Colin Knapp's ordination which should have happened this month may not happen until the middle of next year. The liturgical season between Pentecost and Advent is referred to as "Ordinary Time." But this is anything but ordinary time for anyone anywhere. Ordinary Time has been subsumed into "Covid Time" and it's a global phenomenon.

What I have found remarkable is just how adaptable many of us are. Families, while surely stretched and stressed, are also finding this time has helped to deepen relationships. One of you said to me recently, "My wife and I decided it is up to us to choose what sort of memories we are making with our children. When they look back on this someday, we hope they will not only talk about what was lost but also remember some of the surprising good things and graces that came of such an awful time."

For those who have been sheltering in place, mostly confined to your homes, it is more difficult. And yet, several of you have told me that you speak to your grown children and your grandchildren more than ever. You are navigating Face Time, Skype and Zoom with increased confidence. You are tuning into livestreamed events, including worship, attending online classes, listening to podcasts and more. It seems we have been catapulted and now are lurching forward into a future many of us thought we might not need to pay much attention to at this point in our lives and yet here we are smack dab in the middle of this strange time.

What's so odd to me is that congregational life has fairly easily transitioned to the virtual world, even though this is hardly our first choice; not by a long shot. Worship is posted on the website and livestreamed on Facebook. Small groups, bible studies and Church School are meeting via Zoom. Our boards and committees are using videoconferencing technology in order to continue their work. I half-jokingly commented recently that the days are gone when meetings will be cancelled due to inclement weather. No more snow days!

The church, however, is the "Body of Christ," not the "Virtual, Socially Distant, Disembodied Body of Christ." As human beings we are, by nature, tactile, relational, sensorial. *(next page)* —→

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Office Notes

Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

There are deep meanings – great satisfaction and even transcendence - in the messiness of our human community. For us as Christians we believe that where God’s people are gathered, Christ is there with us. Every impulse we have as human beings and people of faith is to come together – especially in difficult times – and to uphold, strengthen and comfort one another, trusting in and hoping for a better future.

If the weather permits, on Sunday, August 2nd, we will give outdoor worship in the Memorial Garden and colonnades a try. We are asking folks to wear a mask and to bring your own lawn chair. The services at both 9:30am and 10:30am will be 30-40 minutes. We have the means to observe the sacrament of communion in a way in which there is no risk in transmitting the virus.

Provided worship takes place on August 2nd, we’ll evaluate whether this is something the congregation wants to do on an ongoing basis. We will continue to upload Sunday morning worship to the website, giving the congregation the choice of attending in person or virtually.

Before I conclude, I want to recognize the world as it once was is not the world as it is or will be. This is not only an observation related to this present pandemic, but also the tectonic changes happening as it relates to justice and equality, particularly for people of color. To those of us who say, “all lives matter,” I would say, of course that it true. But, in this present time, we want to shine the light on the lives and conditions of people of color, of those caught in generational poverty, and those who live under the relentless storm clouds of terrible, dehumanizing violence. Black Lives Matter precisely because we know we are all brothers and sisters. The belief that all lives matter should fuel our activism not curtail it.

In the coming months and years I am certain members and friends of NCC will join in this important conversation and critically evaluate both our complicity as well as what meaningful actions we can take as a church and as individuals to help to reshape our communities. I suspect some of what we learn and do may be just as unfamiliar, and perhaps uncomfortable, as what we have been doing during “Covid Time.” And yet, as we have found, we are people not only of resolve but also of resilience, those who trust in the one who holds our future.

May God bless you and yours,
Pastor Duayne Meyer

175/75 Anniversary Celebration –Gary Eberlein

Where would we be without . . . Women in the church

The record from the first church shows the first baby baptized was the daughter of Philipp Mentzer, born on June 6, 1845. Although all of the general activity records from that early congregation were lost, there is a mention of a Ladies Auxiliary organized in 1866. However, the 1913 Anniversary book confirms that Der Frauenverein, a Ladies Fellowship, formed in 1887 with a written constitution. The translation from the segment on women opens with the statement; *“The women, who first of all through Christianity have held their proper social place as wives and mothers, naturally as the helpmates of their husbands, not as their servants, have as a result of their profound lives as comforters and their intense religiosity, always in that religious spirit had the greatest influence in the church.”* (next page) →



Ladies Fellowship c.1900

175/75 Anniversary Celebration (continued)–Gary Eberlein

A photo of Der Frauenverein pictures thirty-one women, showing a wide range of age in a group that is said to have had significant influence in the life of the church. Later it states; *“The portrait of a Christian women's group may therefore reveal as its object not only the financial support of the congregation, but on the contrary, first and foremost, the development of the individual members as dutiful wives and mothers and as zealous guardians of the Christian way of life in church and home.”*

The segment on women in the church ends with listing the names of all the active ladies and the statement; *“On the occasion of the congregational anniversary, may the Women's Fellowship be encouraged to continue, and may its blessed work be passed on from generation to generation.”*

The first choir c.1880 was considered a most important advance in church life and the photograph of *Sänger der Sonntagsschule* (Singers of the Sunday School) shows that seven of the sixteen members in their teens are girls.

With the construction of the “Community House” in 1925, Sunday School, Evangelical League, Good Samaritans, Junior Girls Treble Chorus, Church Orchestra, writing and presenting plays, The Choral Singers, Girls Junior League Basketball team and membership on the Anniversary Committee are listed as activities populated by women taking advantage of new-found opportunities made possible in the new facility.

Pictured In the 1937 Home-Coming Souvenir book are officers of the church and auxiliary organizations where women outnumber the men eleven to eight. The “very active” Ladies Auxiliary is re-organized into the *Cultural Unit* – programs on current affairs – the *Home Improvement Unit* – topics of interest presented by outside speakers or members, and the *Handcraft Unit* – needlecraft, quilting and handwork.

Moving through the post WWII years Myrtle Rugen, a teacher and principal in the Glenview public schools, became Church School Superintendent, and pictured in the 1955 Yearbook we find the teaching staff consisting of seventeen women and two men. The Church choir in 1955 has nineteen women and eleven men and the Women’s Guild (formerly Ladies Aid) becomes a Member of the National Women’s Guild sending children to camp, underwriting athletics, supporting an orphan at the Bensenville Home, and supplying many needed articles to the congregation. Another organization, the Women’s Neighborhood League, is sponsoring the Cradle Roll in addition sending young people to camp, making donations to the Elmhurst Grant-in-Aid fund, sponsoring yearly rummage sales, and working with the Women’s Guild on the annual “Church Night” (later the Turkey Dinner).

Additionally, we find more women serving on Church Council, becoming Sponsors/Leaders in both the Junior and Senior Youth Groups and women made up half of the 110 Year Anniversary Committee in 1955 and chaired the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

During the 1960’s – 2000+ Women’s Fellowship, now organized into “circles” each meeting the diverse and unique interests of its members, while teaming together for major events such as the Bazaar with its locally made crafts, cookie walk, luncheon, and deli.

Handcraft Group and Quilters continue their amazing contribution to the church and community with their work. Among the many completed quilts one very special was designed and made to commemorate the bi centennial in 1976 consisting of a square for each church family plus embroidered signatures of President Ford, Vice President Rockefeller and other well-known people at that time.

Since the 1970’s four very talented women have served as Choir Director and several organists were women.

Women Interim Ministers guided the congregation through sometimes difficult transitions leading to where we are today.

Note: A word of appreciation and thanks to Vicki Otis for the translation from the German quoted in this article. Anyone interested in a copy of the complete section should contact me, Gary Eberlein, or Lea in the office.

The Wider Church

Illinois Conference calls new conference minister, **The Reverend Molly Carlson.**

A graduate of The College of Wooster with a BA in mathematics and Pacific School of Religion with a Masters of Divinity, Rev. Carlson brings a wide range of experience to the position of Conference Minister. She has been ordained within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 19 years and has held Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing with the United Church of Christ for the last 8. Molly's service in a variety of contexts, including local, regional, and national settings of the church, has taken her to Indiana, California, South Dakota, Oregon, and Tennessee. She has served as an interim minister, church planter, solo pastor, head of staff, and church consultant. For more information, check out the Illinois Conference website: <http://ilucc.org/illinois-conference/>

What's Happening

Congratulations Pastor Duayne!

My how time flies... June marked Duayne's **20th Anniversary** at Northfield Community Church. We are certainly blessed to have him and his family as part of the church.

AND

July 14th marked the **35th Anniversary** of Pastor Duayne's Ordination.

We included some congratulatory videos in the June 21st service which can be seen at this link: <https://vimeo.com/431097747>

Congratulations Duayne! And thank you! We are blessed!



Charlie Shabica and Diana Lord came up with a unique way of celebrating the **35th Anniversary of Pastor Duayne's Ordination.** They fired off a (small) cannon in his honor.

Our prayers are offered for Viva Black, Kristie Bobart (sister of Glen), Loyal Carlson Jr, David A. Cyr, Jan Deetjen, Flory Dy, Linda Eberlein; Steven Evenstad, Marge Fairhead, Jamie Garard, Bill Jesse, Julie Jewell, Mitzi Smith, and those shut-in or staying close to home: Bob Fricke, Lois Katarski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, Carolyn Stockwell; and those in assisted living: Mike Parker.

NCC's Response to Covid-19

Measures NCC has taken to help ensure the safety and well-being of those who attend in-person gatherings

- Per state mandate, inside NCC's facilities, members and friends are asked to wear a facial covering
- Signage has been placed in entryways indicating social distancing practices
- Partitions for safe distancing in the sanctuary and chapel have been created.
- A touchless door entry sensor has been installed at the southwest entrance
- Disposable masks and hand wipes are available at all entryways
- Hand sanitizing stations have been placed at entryways
- Touchless soap dispensers have been installed in the washrooms and kitchen
- Touchless thermometers are available as needed.
- Beginning in September, "fogging" of the facilities will take place before and after gatherings to eliminate viruses from surface areas.
- Ionization generators will be installed on the HVAC systems to eliminate airborne pathogens.

If you would like to make a donation to help with these Covid-related expenses, you may do so through the website or by sending a check made out to NCC with "Covid-19 expense" in the memo section.

Office Notes

The church staff continues working from home and, perhaps, intermittently from the office as we schedule different times to come in order to avoid contact. If you need to get into the building, please Pastor Duayne at 847.361.6088.

Special Thank You to **Susan Edgar** for helping to assemble the Window Newsletter

Special Thank You to **Judy Hertelendy** for entering giving data, preparing and mailing the quarterly statements.

Many Thanks to **Tracey Buchman** for the beautiful flower arrangements at the entry doors and in the memorial garden and for the upkeep of the memorial garden. **If you'd like to help Tracey** with watering the flower pots or weeding the garden, please contact the office or contact Tracey directly.

Please watch the website and your email inbox for updates regarding church news and events. Please contact the office if you want to add or delete an email address on our email blast distribution list, ljones@northfielducc.org. If you do not have access to the internet and want updates via mail, please leave a message at the church office, 847-446-3070.

- The **Upper Room** devotion booklets for July/August are available. Please call or email the office if you would like us to mail one to you.
- The **ANNUAL MEETING** has been postponed and is expected to be held in September. In the mean time, the terms of the officers have been extended to September.
- **THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to send in their donations or donate on line! We really appreciate it!

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

August Events

- Aug 2nd** Outdoor Worship 9:30 & 10:30
Aug 10th Anniversary Planning Cmte
Aug 13th Mission Board
Aug 18th Board of Trustees
Aug 24th Church Council
Aug 30th Teen Night Zoom

Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. On the Preacher's Porch
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar

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

