



Looking Over the Pulpit—Duayne Meyer

“A million-and-one questions with just one answer: ‘I don’t know.’”

APRIL
2021

*Celebrating
175 years*

I am sure I have used the phrase “*I don’t know*” more often these past twelve months than the previous ten years combined. Along with it, the expressions, “Wait and see,” “We are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst,” “We didn’t expect this,” “We’re drinking from the fire hose,” and “We’re doing the best we can, given what we know right now.” So many clichés, so little time! There are still more expressions, a few of which are not appropriate for polite conversation, much less a pastoral epistle.

Having said this, in the midst of crisis, confusion and chaos we have learned a great deal and we have learned how to do a fair number of new things in a relatively short period of time. The word “*pivot*” has been bandied about as the way to describe the necessary response to the pandemic. I wince when I hear the word in much the same way as when I hear the word Zoom. We have – as many have - adapted and have proved that among the gifts faith and community give us is resilience grounded in memory, hope and God given intellect.

I still find myself using the expression “*I don’t know.*” When will there be in-person Sunday School? When will the children and youth be able to attend church? When will the choirs reassemble? When can congregational singing resume? When can we sit down to have a meal? When will there be a Fellowship Hour following worship? When can we all be back in church at the same time? You guessed it: “*I don’t know,*” not really. But I am hoping, praying and planning for those things to be possible in the next few months and in-time for the fall program year.

Early during the pandemic, NCC’s staff, Trustees and Council, despite not being fully in the know, did what we could to improve air quality inside the building and to ensure those coming and going have the tools needed to be safe and healthy. Within weeks of the quarantine we were livestreaming and videoconferencing, things about which we had previously known little. One thing I know is, while these ways of getting together are helpful, they are not the most satisfying, at least not to this preacher. I know I am looking forward to being together unmasked, unheeded and up close and personal.

And I know it will be a glad day when the answer is no longer, “I don’t know,” or “Not yet,” and instead will be, “Praise the Lord we are back together!” Until then, we will remain resolute, resilient, creative and resourceful as the Holy Spirit has given us the means to be.

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

And on Easter morning I suspect I will, as I have on so many Easters before, be getting ready for worship while intermittently humming and singing, “*I know that my redeemer liveth,*” the familiar Easter oratorio by GF Handel, who, himself, seemed to know a thing or two.

Keep the faith friends,

— Duayne

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday – March 28th Worship at 9:30 am & 10:30 am in person and livestream. Palms will be available at church.

Holy Week Reflections and Sacred Songs “Reflections and Sacred Songs” will be posted to the website and on Facebook Monday-Thursday of Holy Week 3/29-4/1. Pastors Carol Ann Munro and Duayne Meyer, along with some of NCC’s musicians and filmmaker Rob Orr, have put together these daily Lenten devotions:

Monday “Game of Thrones”

Tuesday “Scent of Love”

Wednesday “A Garden Variety Fight”

Thursday “Experiential Learning”

Good Friday – April 2nd at 7:00 pm “*Last Seven Words of Christ*” Tenebrae Service at 7pm. This will be live and livestreamed in and from the Sanctuary. If you’re participating at home, we suggest that you have 7 candles at hand to light and extinguish during the service.

Easter – April 4th Worship at 9:30 am & 10:30 am in person and livestream.

Easter Egg Treasure Hunt at 11am.

Mission Connections “Let us not grow weary of doing good”



NCC has generously provided more than \$300 in Jewel gift cards for families receiving support from Family Promise. Additionally, we have also provided more than 100 snack bags for children in the program and at risk.

Thank you to everyone that has given gift cards and assembled and dropped off snack bags. If you are able to put together snack bags, please place in the plastic bin located in South foyer. These are picked up every Sunday.

Watch for the Easter special offering letter for *One Great Hour of Sharing*. OGHS is a special mission offering given through the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of Love and hope to people in crisis.

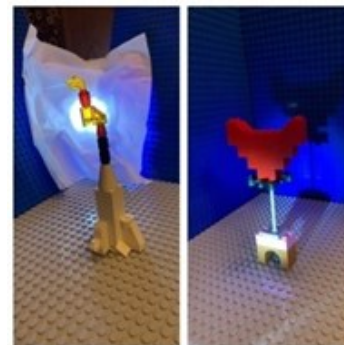


Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

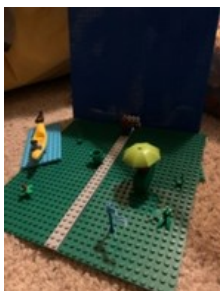
Lenten Lego Challenge

Legos and scriptures? Some NCC families are participating in NCC's Lent Lego Challenge that are emailed out each Wednesday during Lent with Bible passages or stories for families to discuss and then create a response to those scriptures with Legos or other media. Here are a few pictures from select Lego challenges:

John 1:1-5: The Lent Lego Challenge- Build something that gives us light
and
Psalm 51:10:
Make a heart.



Proverbs 3:5-6: The Lent Lego Challenge- Build something that shows something you can do that you had to practice to get good at
and Psalm 119:105: Create a path leading somewhere...through the woods, through a town, up a mountain, at a park, etc.



John 10:2-4, and 14-15: The Lent Lego Challenge- Build a sheep. Bigger challenge: Build Jesus, our shepherd, leading a flock of sheep.



Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Come to the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt, Sunday, April 4 between 11:00 and 1:00 in NCC's parking lot. Come to the check-in table that will be set up in the parking lot and get a page of clues to find the large paper eggs hidden around NCC property. When you find all the eggs, come back to the check-in table to claim your prize. While you are participating in the treasure hunt you can add your prayers to the sidewalk chalk prayers as we pray for Easter's hope and joy to fill our neighborhood, state, country, and world.

Messy Church

Sunday, April 14, 4:30 p.m. on Zoom- "New Creations"

Everyone, all ages, is invited to join in the celebration of Easter's new life in Christ as we explore many ways to use a piece of paper, from playing football, making an adventure hat, creating a surprise ferocious being, or some paper magic. All you need is some paper (and scissors, tape, piece of string, piece of aluminum foil, and markers.) Zoom link will be emailed to NCC families or contact Ronda at rbower@northfielducc.org for the zoom link. Don't miss the fun!



Phrases from Phyllis –Phyllis Scott

The “Four Seasons” April 11, 2021 10:30 Service

Growing up on a small farm downstate, I always looked forward to Easter because it meant a new dress, patent leather shoes, gloves and an Easter hat!! A bonus Sunrise service along with the traditional service meant singing great hymns throughout the morning. This Easter, even though you might not be sporting new togs, I hope you stop and think where you were any number of years ago.

FLASH!

The celebration doesn't end with Easter; it is just a bit different. On Sunday, April 11th, the 10:30 service's theme will be "Four Seasons" and the music will lead you from Vivaldi to Vivaldi. ("What?") Yes, you read it right: Antonio & the Jersey Boys are stopping by NCC. I'm sure you will recognize at least a couple of tunes. Hope to see you there!

May God Bless,
—Phyllis

NCC Day in the Life

*Stories from NCC Parishioners: Judy Hertelendy

I moved to Northbrook with my parents, Grace and Fred Ward, in the summer of 1961 as I started college. At first, we attended Winnetka Presbyterian Church, where Lloyd Ogilvie was the minister. But we were never quite ready to join. We first came to Northfield Community Church on Good Friday in 1962. Each year, several area churches combined for a three-hour worship service from noon to 3pm, with different ministers sharing thoughts on the seven last words of Christ. Parishioners came and went as they were able. We arrived to hear Rev. Ogilvie, then stayed as NCC's Rev. Webb Howard spoke. Something resonated within us, and we began attending NCC regularly, joining later that year. I have been active at NCC ever since.

At that point, the Sanctuary had only been in existence for about a year. The classroom wing and current Youth Room were not yet constructed. I joined the choir and taught at Vacation Bible School each summer, when about 100 children participated. My first classroom was in the Nursery - what is now the storeroom (have you ever noticed the Winnie-the-Pooh paintings on the wall behind the chairs?). Eventually I became active in the Women's Guild, which met monthly for luncheon and a speaker. They also held annual bazaars, where many of the items sold were handmade at workshops held throughout the year, including the quilt hanging in the hallway outside the coatroom. Take a look! *Judy Hertelendy*

NCC All-Church Workday Saturday, May 15, 2021

Mark your calendar and save the date for NCC's first all-church workday in over a year! There will be outdoor and indoor jobs to do. A job list is in the works and will be published in early May. It's good idea to bring garden tools, rags, buckets and cleaning tools with you, depending on where you plan to pitch in. There is also a rumor circulating that a member of the Board of Trustees plans to grill some brats and hotdogs for lunch. Things will get underway by mid-morning and wrap up by 1pm or so. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning.



NCC's Community Garden

There are three spaces available in the Community Garden. Two 8x8 raised beds and one 10x10. Why not reserve a space and come join the fun. It is an all-organic garden, so no pesticides. There is water in the garden. And, there is even the possibility we can get a church member to till your plot. All participants are asked to do is plant a garden and keep the weeds relatively at bay. Anything invasive – like mint – must be planted in a container rather than directly in a raised bed. To reserve a plot, email Pastor Meyer at dmeyer@northfielducc.org or the church office at Office@northfielducc.org.



The Church Family

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Lucille Gabrovich**. We received word that Lucille passed away peacefully on March 3rd. A private, graveside service has been held.

Save the date! **James Brian Smith** is performing an organ recital on **July 18th** at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Flyers for the event will be available in coming weeks. ...

Our prayers are offered for those who are hospitalized or recovering from illness: Kristie Bobart (sister of Glen), David Coleman, David Cyr, Jan Deetjen, Flory Dy, Steven Evenstad, Bill Jesse, Julie Jewell, and Betty Oswald. We lift up in prayer those staying close to home: Lois Katarski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, and Carolyn Stockwell, as well as those in assisted living: Siria Behrens, Marge Fairhead, Jay Lorenz, Mike Parker, Bill Schnell, and Pegeen Soare.

Office Notes

If you are tech savvy and would like to help out with **livestreaming on Sunday mornings**, please contact Lea Jones in the office: ljones@northfielducc.org. The time commitment is approximately 3 hours (or 1 1/2 hours for each service) on Sunday.

Thank you to **Jane Lustig** for donating the delicious soups for the **Lenten Soup and Seminar**.

Thank you to **Judy Hertelendy** for posting the offerings.

Thank you to **Susan Edgar** and **Marlene Feibel** for assembling this Window newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their donations or donate on line! We really appreciate it!

Please note that the **church office hours** are as follows:

Mondays: noon—3:00pm

Tues.-Fri.: 10:00am—3:00pm

The submission deadline for the **May Window** is **Monday, April 19th**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

April Events

- April 2nd** Good Friday
- April 4th** Easter
- April 8th** Mission Board
- April 11th** Messy Church
- April 13th** Board of Christian Education
- April 14th** Anniversary Committee
- April 20th** Board of Trustees
- April 26th** Church Council

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

