

Window

An Oasis of Grace in the Heart of the Community

northfield
community church



Looking Over the Pulpit— Duayne Meyer

MARCH
2021

*Celebrating
175 years*

Despite – and because of- the pandemic, much is happening in and around NCC. And I'm not just talking about leaking roofs, wet walls and 10 feet tall piles of snow! In addition to navigating the virtual world – which is minimally satisfying – plans and preparations continue in anticipation of the reanimation of NCC, when we can set sail together in person. What a glorious day that will be!

With the lifting of some Cook County restrictions the sanctuary can easily accommodate 25 or more people in worship. The chapel is another story and can accommodate about 10 persons in addition to our worship leaders. If you decide to attend in person, please observe physical distancing guidelines and wear a mask. Of course we will continue to livestream via the church website and Facebook Live. We are awaiting the news of when we will be granted Roku and Apple TV channels. As you can imagine, there is a backlog and it may be a few more weeks or even months before we have these channels.

Eleven consecutive days of snow fall has me thinking (a lot!) about gardening, both my in garden here at the parsonage as well as NCC's Community and Butterfly Gardens. I have marked my calendar to remind me when I can plant my seeds indoors, though there is currently eight feet of snow on top of my raised beds. I can't shake the idea that I'll be shoveling snow out of my garden beds on Memorial Day. We shall see.

Speaking of raised garden beds, there are two 8x8 and one 10x10 raised garden beds available in the Community Garden. If you want to reserve one, please email me at dmeyer@northfielducc.org. Also, if you would like to help tend to the Butterfly Garden, please contact me.

Among the variety of things discussed at the last Trustees meeting was the creation of a dedicated fund to receive donations for sanctuary improvements and repairs. This is among the first steps being taken toward refreshing the 60 year old worship space. The list of improvements includes sealing the asbestos floor tiles and installing new flooring in the nave and loft, repairing sanctuary heating units, expanding the width of the chancel to make it handicapped accessible, replacing the pews, cleaning/repairing discolored and damaged walls, replacing/upgrading chancel furnishings and upgrading the sanctuary audio-visual system to include video capabilities. Also being considered is whether it is feasible to install a lift or elevator to accommodate the choir room and organ loft. Stay tuned for more information. (continued on next page) →

Inside this issue:

Mission
Connections 2

Ronda's
Remarks 3

Phrases from
Phyllis 3

175/75th
Anniversary 4

NCC Day
in the Life 5

The Church
Family 5

Office Notes 5

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Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

2020/21 marks the 175th anniversary of St. Peter Church and the 75th Anniversary of NCC. The pandemic meant that the Anniversary Committee had to postpone several planned activities over this two year period. We are hopeful that by late September we might be able to enjoy a variety of anniversary-related festivities into 2022. If you have ideas or want to join the committee, please contact Gary Eberlein at garlineb@aol.com, or Judy Hertelendy at jhertelendy19@gmail.com. In the meantime, we continue to enjoy Gary's excellent monthly newsletter installments and look forward to more of them in the future.

Well, there is more news to share (there always is!), but I trust you will read the rest of the newsletter and, if you have any questions or ideas, you will call or email me. The short of it is that church – your church – continues in our efforts to be faithful, fruitful and joyful in the midst of uncertainty, change and challenge. As we have said on numerous occasions, Jesus called the church into being not because it was all smooth sailing but because the world needs a seaworthy vessel (the church!) that can weather the storms. While we surely appreciate and long for calmer waters, the church was built for rough seas!
– Pastor Duayne

A brief Pastoral note

Late last year we mourned the passing, and celebrated the lives, of two of NCC's dear members, Viva Black and Bob Fricke, stalwarts and saints whom we dearly loved and continue to miss. In the past two weeks NCC has said farewell to two more members of our fellowship.

Kay Cessna, a long-time member before relocating to Texas, died two weeks ago. Kay was regularly in touch with Beth and Anna and was a supportive, prayerful part of NCC, even from a distance. NCC was Kay's church home, even from afar.

Rev. Ted Roos passed away on February 14th. Without going into great detail (which both Warren Wiggins and I could!), I will simply say this about Ted: he was and continues to be to me a hero in ministry and in life. Ted celebrated his 100th birthday last year and was sharp and active to the very end. Both Ted Roos and Bob Fricke were for me sources of support and trusted Christian brothers and colleagues whose nudges from time-to-time were just what this pastor needed and needs. They will be missed.

“Well done thou good and faithful servants”.

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



Those tuning in to Livestream worship on February 21st hear from Matt Siemers, Executive Director of **Mobile Care Chicago**. Matt shared there is a Wine Tasting fund raiser coming up on Thursday, March 11th. Visit www.mobilecarechicago.org to learn more about this organization on the frontline of medical and dental care in Chicago. On the front page of the website are instructions for how to sign up for the virtual wine tasting Thanks to all who have already donated to Family Promise! The mission continues...

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

We have many Lent Activities!

Two Lenten Soup and Seminars with a Twist

- ◆ Wednesday, March 3 – “Pandemic Possibilities?”
- ◆ Wednesday, March 17 – “Connecting Stories: An Evening with Singer/Songwriter Christopher Grundy”

Please see details of these seminars on the back of the calendar sheet.

Messy Church

Sunday, March 14, 4:30 p.m. on Zoom- “What’s Holy Week All About?”



Everyone, all ages invited, to explore the story of Holy Week with a Holy Week box, string art cross, Holy Week/Forget Me Not Flower Pots, and making your own praying hands pretzels. Join in for an afternoon of fun and friends. Contact Ronda no later than the afternoon of Friday, March 12, so Messy Church items can be delivered to your door and to receive the zoom link.

Lenten Be Kind Adventure

Don't forget to work on you Be Kind Bingo to keep focused on ways to be kind to others, look for kindness, and be kind to yourself. If you didn't receive a Lenten Be Kind Bingo kit in the mail and would like one, contact Ronda rbower@northfielducc.org. Send Ronda pictures or experiences we can share on Facebook (no names will be included), add to the comments at Sunday worship, and for a Kindness presentation after Easter.

Lenten Lego Challenge

NCC and Messy Church families are invited to join in a Lenten Lego Challenge coming to your email boxes each Wednesday in Lent.

Phrases from Phyllis –Phyllis Scott

"When Lent rolls around, I find myself wondering what to "give up" this year. Sweets? -- the old stand-by. Then a friend sent this and I realized this wise man had a lot of good suggestions. So I thought I'd share...

Fast This Lent? (in the words of Pope Francis)

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness, fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.

And I might add: Don't go a day without humming a song. It will give you peace.

May God Bless, -Phyllis

175/75 Anniversary Celebration –Gary Eberlein

175/75 Anniversary Celebration – securing Clergy over 175 years

It is the year of our Lord eighteen-hundred fifty-three and we have arrived in what is known as the state of Illinois, Northfield Township in the county of Cook not too far from a rapidly growing town called Chicago. Our sir name is Eberlein and we have arrived from Germany to establish a homestead on some fine crop land with a good stand of timber and a source of good water with the promise of a better life for our family and our future generations. Several families have welcomed us speaking our native language, German, and having established themselves on surrounding farms, proved to be of great assistance as we begin the familiar but arduous task of making a living off the land.

Almost immediately we were asked to join them with other local mostly farm families to gather at a small church, some distance from our property. They were excited to say the small congregation had welcomed just a year ago the first resident pastor and his family since their small church building was erected in 1845. It seems that for seven years they had been served by a number of circuit ministers.

Who was this first resident pastor to serve this early independent band of Reformed and United Lutheran families calling themselves the *German Evangelical Church of Northfield*. In the sparse records of that first church it is noted that his name was the Reverend Ernest Serfling. An Ancestry* search revealed he had studied for the ministry in Nürnberg, Bayern, Germany and served as minister in the Dienstädt, and Kleinbucha, parish, in Eichenberg, Germany. His first wife (1833) died shortly after the birth of their first child, a daughter. He remarried in 1835 and raised eight more children. The family of ten, leaving his first daughter behind, departed from Hamburg aboard the "Irma" in steerage arriving in New York on August 6, 1852. The research goes on to say "they first settled in Cook County, Illinois, where Ernst was for a time a minister at the United Evangelical Reformed Church of Northfield (formerly the German Evangelical Calvinistic Reformed United Lutheran Church). It was while they were in this area that their oldest daughter Minna died from cholera. They later moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota, where their children homesteaded." We can only use our imagination for what they must have thought when it came to their arriving at that small one-room church building on the prairie of Illinois. The record provides no information for housing a family of ten, but one source suggests that he served the congregation for two years.



Supplying the early pioneer churches with ministers was not an easy task. A bit of further research notes that as German immigrants began to flood into the region, the need for German-speaking pastors became critical. By 1837, pastors from missionary societies in Switzerland and Germany began arriving in St. Louis to minister to German frontier communities. In 1840, six clergymen organized the *Deutsche Evangelische Kirchenverein des Westens* (German Evangelical Church Society of the West). Beginning as a local pastors' association, the organization eventually consolidated with other similar Midwestern groups to form the *German Evangelical Synod of North America*. The (ESNA) was an important denomination in the life of the German immigrant community. Of the UCC's four denominational predecessors, the ESNA had the most congregations in the St. Louis, Missouri Valley and southern Illinois regions. These ministers spread northward into Iowa, northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota first as circuit clergy and later as settled pastors.

Our 1845 church was organized as an independent, self-supported congregation and remained so until 1913 when it joined the Evangelical and Reformed Church and then became the United Church of Christ in 1957. Six ministers served the church between 1845 and 1863. The "new" 1863 church on Shermer Road and the modern building on Willow Road following the 1961 fire were served by a total of eighteen resident pastors (not counting interims like Rev. Clint Collins) before merging here at NCC.

*The Ancestry information provided by the *Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchgemeinde Mehna* regarding Ernest Serfling and his family.

NCC Day in the Life—Charlie Shabica

Summer 1940 The Northfield Community Church began as a Sunday school held in parishioners' homes, organized by Elsa Stoffers and Dorothy Boyington (who was living with her parents at 735 Happ Road). Dorothy had taught Sunday School at the Wilmette Congregational Church for about 15 years, so had plenty of experience. And on January 9, 1941, the Northfield Village Board met and the Sunday School was granted permission to meet in the village hall every Sunday morning. The Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans were meeting at Sunset Ridge School that was built in 1929. Sunday school enrollment ranged from 15 to 35 kids who were drawn to the exuberance of teachers who helped them make Valentines, corsages for their moms and Thanksgiving and Christmas projects for the childrens' ward at the county hospital and a small hospital for black folks in Greenwood, South Carolina.

ANNOUNCEMENTS March 6, 1941 Sunday School Activities: The primary department of the Northfield Sunday school has begun a new project on shepherd life and will soon visit the sheep pens at Techny and observe the animals there. Another phase of the project will be to spin yarn on an antique spinning wheel, and knit it into a useful article. Many interesting articles on wool are being collected for a scrap book of the project.

Images from NCC Past – 1948 The First Confirmation Class – May 16, 1948.

Left to right: Marlyn Happ, George Van Valkenburgh, Ann Kapheim, William Clavey, June Odegaard, Eric Medrow, Carol Lindholm, Phyllis Clavey.

Location: Northfield Village Hall



The Church Family

Our condolences go out to:

The family of **Ted Roos**. Ted passed away on Sunday, February 14th. Details of a memorial at Covenant Village are pending.

Carol Goff on the passing of **Don Harrigan**. Don had heart surgery earlier this month and was unable to recover from the surgery. He passed away on February 17th. Service plans are pending.

The family of **Kay Cessna**. Kay passed away peacefully on January 30th. A livestreamed memorial service was held on February 24th.

Pat Melling, Krisi Meling Ramel, and Jayden Ramel on the recent death of Jayen's father.

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

Thank you to **Susan Edgar** 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 **April Window** is **Thursday, March 18th**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

March Events

Mar 9th	Board of Christian Education
Mar 10th	Anniversary Committee
Mar 11th	Mission Board
Mar 14th	Messy Church
Mar 16th	Board of Trustees
Mar 18th	Partners In Christ
Mar 22nd	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

