



Looking Over the Pulpit—Duayne Meyer

OCTOBER
2020

*Celebrating
175 years*

The warm weather belies the fact autumn has begun, though the turning of the leaves and shortening of the days make it clear there is no stopping the change of seasons. *“All beautiful the march of days as seasons come and go,”* a familiar hymn celebrates. Perhaps, like me, you hold onto the constancy of nature in the midst of so many crises, challenges and changes as a comfort and reminder that all things run their courses; all things – and all people – have their season. Of course, with global climate change, even the dependability of nature is in question. We live in – and on - a changing world, to say the least. Long ago, St. Paul wrote, “for the creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed (Romans 8.19).” We share this longing.

Many of our neighbors in the coastal south are contending with hurricanes and floods. In California, Washington and Oregon it is wildfires, the likes of which have never before been seen. Add to this, protests over racial inequities and abuses, gun violence that has turned many places into war zones and the political rancor that plagues our state and nation’s capitals and that would plenty to contend with. There is more than a little longing for new and abundant life. But there is this global pandemic and the profound effect it has had on virtually every aspect of family, community and economic life. Given all of this, a change of seasons cannot come quickly enough.

So, then, what are we to do and to be as persons of faith? And with this is the question, what are we to do and to be as a community of faith, as Christ’s church?

First, we lean on and look to our faith and on our faith community for energy, insight, perspective and strength. “We’re in this together,” is not a transient slogan for the church. It is and has been our way of life from the first. Rather than be overwhelmed, we are to make daily choices about how we act, what we do, and what we say and do not say. The purpose of a mature Christian has always been to be light and leaven in a world of shadows and flatness. It doesn’t take a great deal of light to illumine the darkness. It only takes a small bit of leaven to make the bread to rise. As Christians we are to be tangible reminders that creation, and all created ones, belong to God and God’s good purposes. We have been created by a loving Creator and claimed by a redeeming Savior, thereby we are to reflect this truth in the way we live and in what we do.

Second, we gather together as a community to uphold and remind one another of the inherent strength we receive and share in fellowship. Worship – as well as other church gatherings – form and reform us. Yes, we often are inspired, heartened or enlightened, but we are also grounded in a sense of belonging and accountability. I encourage you, whether you feel like you can come to NCC in person or not, to connect via Facebook Live and Zoom.

And finally, we do not lose heart. As St. Paul counseled, “what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.” We navigate the present world, doing our best to make life better for one another, standing up for justice, being generous in our giving and gracious in our dealings. We also keep before us our great hope in God’s presence and providence. We are reminded that only God is eternal and this present time – this unwelcome season - is not. We keep the faith as we walk in faith. That is what it means to be light and leaven in this present, and changing, time.

One way or another – in person or via livestream - I look forward to seeing you in church.

- Duayne

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Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

"Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong."

- Daniel 6:21-22

I have been working on Sunday school lessons for the story of Daniel and the lions., which is recorded in Daniel 6. Briefly, the story involves Daniel, a prophet of the true and living God, who defies King Darius' decree that the people should pray only to the Persian king for thirty days. Daniel, an otherwise law-abiding man, continues to pray to Israel's God as he has always done. Evil men, who instigated the decree in the first place in order to entrap Daniel, of whom they were jealous, report him to Darius. The king is forced to put Daniel into a den of lions where he would be torn to pieces. King Darius is greatly distressed about having to punish Daniel, and he says to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." God does indeed rescue Daniel, sending His angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they do not harm him. Daniel is removed from the lions' den the next day, much to the relief of the king.

I can think of many times in my life when it was easier to turn away from what God wanted me to do and take the easy way out. I've been in situations where my heart was pounding knowing what was right but wanting to choose what was popular. There have been times when I have looked for an easy answer to a hard situation. Maybe you, like me, often look for ways to make everyone happy. What is often hard is to put all that away and listen to God and follow what we know will please God. What was important to Daniel was that he obeyed God regardless of the consequences. My favorite part of this story is how Daniel responds to the King the morning after he's been sentenced to death. "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless". What an awesome example of faith!

-Ronda

There's a lot of things happening at NCC in October! Join in these great classes and activities:

LIFT UP YOUR PRAYERS IN CHALK – CHALK PRAYER PATH

Let's try again and hope for a dry weekend – Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4

Come to NCC's parking lot and spend a little time writing or illustrating your prayers for yourself, family, friends, the community, the nation, the world with sidewalk chalk. Our prayers will join as we lift them to God. Look for the designated area in the parking lot. Please wear a mask and social distance, and watch for moving cars. Bring your own sidewalk chalk or use the individually bagged chalk provided.

Let's see how big our Chalk Prayer Path can get!

OCTOBER'S MESSY CHURCH – FALL COSTUMES AND CARS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 4:30 to about 5:30 P.M.

Everyone, all ages invited!

Come park distanced in the parking lot. Wear a costume. Decorate your car. Vote for your favorite costumes and car decorating, play games like freeze dance, and receive a "treat" from NCC. Come laugh, see friends, get out and have fun! Please wear masks. If you want, bring your own food and drinks and a chair.



OCTOBER'S POTLUCK STUDY, WITHOUT THE POTLUCK!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:00-5:00 P.M. ON ZOOM.

"The State of Lake Michigan" with Jon Shabica

Join Jon Shabica on Zoom as he shares his incredible knowledge of Lake Michigan and find out about the state of the lake.. Please register for this program by emailing rbower@northfielducc.org to receive the Zoom link.

(No cost)

175/75 Anniversary Celebration –Gary Eberlein

The Church Is Alive with the Sound of Music – the first 100 years

Forgive me if I borrow from *The Sound of Music*, but I believe it works so well for us here at NCC (it worked even better before Covid19). Let's look back at the church mid-to-late 1800's.

No detail is known about that little church building on Dundee Road in Northbrook. The only interior photo was taken after the building was abandoned revealing no evidence of a piano. So, was there music in the worship services? The answer has to be a resounding YES! Based on the translation from the 1913 Anniversary book leaves little doubt. *"As long as this congregation has existed, it has been enthusiastic about singing. The elders tell stories about evenings when they would hurry across country to choir practice. Back then, choir-singing was not left just to the young folks, for even grandfathers took their places in the choirstalls to sing God's praise. When in the dark of night the singers traveled homeward from the choir rehearsal to their own individual farms, one could hear their solitary singing all over the prairie. In fact, even behind the plow and along with the swoosh of the scythes, while milking the cows and on the threshing-floor, they sang old choir songs and practiced new ones. Thus it was no wonder that in spite of meagre times, almost everyone in the congregation could say: "My heart leaps up and cannot be sad." What a great relief it was in those difficult days to have singing during hard work as the source of such a cheerful mind."* The article goes on noting the spirit of the singers and their dedication to the choir in spite of choir rehearsals in the *"mugginess of summer evenings and the befouled roadways of winter."* The author ends with *"May this congregation's joy in singing never peter out, and as long as our goal is to sing the praises of the One in Eternal Glory.."*

Piecing together some of the more significant events of music history in the church after the new building was completed in 1863; c.1875 Mr. Shermer donated the first pipe organ and the record shows the organization of the first official choir about the same time. In 1897 Mr. Shermer's pipe organ was replaced with a new up-dated instrument that served until 1925 when a group of members raised the funds for another new organ with the air pressure supplied by and electric blower.

Soon after the completion of the Community House, a 30-piece orchestra "spontaneously brought about by the young people of the church" was formed in 1926. A professor of music, C. G. Stanger from Elmhurst College, was so impressed by the enthusiasm of the group he agreed to become the director leading instructive rehearsals on Friday evenings. In 1932 Elvin Christman took over as director of the group that played concerts, special occasion church services and accompaniment for musical plays presented in the community house. Of course, early church music history cannot be complete without the then-famous St. Peter Church thirty-five-member Kitchen Band during the 1920's.



Some interesting notes; in May of 1924 the church council authorized the purchase of four dozen song books in English for use in the church, in the 1930's each choir member was charged \$2.00 dues for the church year (about \$47.00 in today's money), in 1937 a "Treble Chorus" was organized to prepare young girls for future participation in the adult choir. Closing out the first hundred years, from the 100th Anniversary booklet in 1945 *"Through the war the choir has been faithful in the beautification of the worship services with music. Other members have contributed their talents in the rendering of instrumental and vocal selections."*

Again thank you to Vicki Otis for the translation from the German that opened our eyes to music in the early church.

Mission Connections

Let us not fail this Fall to continue serving others as an
incredibly committed, caring community!



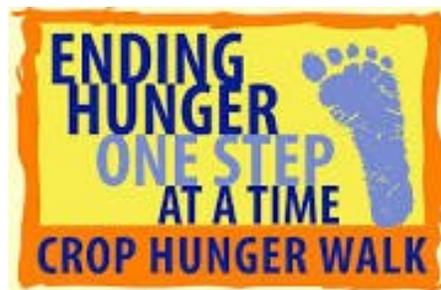
At the time of this writing it's the eve of the Autumnal Equinox. Covid 19 or not, Fall will arrive in less than 12 hours. By the time some of you first read this, NCC will be in the midst of our 16th consecutive CROP Hunger Walk efforts.

As a result of the pandemic, this "Walk" will look and feel very different. It's starting later, will end sooner, yet in the end our goal will help achieve the only goal of Church World Service (CWS): *Everyone Will Have Enough!*

Now our NCC challenge is to try to better our own outcomes reached in 2018, (\$27,000+) and 2019 (\$28,000+). CWS ranked you, NCC congregants (aka "Team NCC"), as #3 Team in the USA. To put this in perspective, our Glenbrook CROP Hunger Walk had about 15 Teams, NCC being one of them. In 2019 there were approximately 800 Teams throughout the country. If each Walk only had 10 Teams, out of 8,000 you would be the bronze medalist.

CWS General Guidelines for this Walk:

- No organized gatherings.
- Majority of donations only online (NCC 50%+/-)
- Online donations will be secure and easy to make.



NCC General Guidelines:

- End of campaign to be Sunday October 18.
- Increase Walker online registrations.
- Online fund raising to reach beyond NCC.
- Support for all online Walkers on request..
- Streamlined fund collection process for Walkers (no envelopes)
- NCC's webpage (for secure online donations through CWS system)
- All NCC Walkers will have help to set up their individual webpage on request.

Detailed information emails will be sent to our NCC Walkers. Procedures will be similar to previous years. Please help make this year's to be as successful as possible. More info to come.

Office Notes

The Sanctuary Choir is planning a virtual meet and greet on **October 6th** at 7pm via Zoom.

We continue to order flowers for the sanctuary worship services. If you would like to help defray the cost of these flowers, you may make an online donation, drop off or mail in a check with "Flowers" in the memo/notes. The cost per week is \$40. Please contact the office for more details.

Now that we have returned to in-person worship we have a need for ushers for both services. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Jordan or Lea Jones in the office.

Also, the schedule for **Worship Leaders** has resumed. If you had been scheduled as a Worship Leader and have any questions or need a current schedule, please contact the office if you need a schedule.

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

The submission deadline for the **November Window** is **October 19th**.

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 have been 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.

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, Lucy Landon (Judy Hertelendy's sister), Mitzi Smith, and those shut-in or staying close to home: Bob Fricke, Lois Katariski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, Carolyn Stockwell; and those in assisted living: Mike Parker. .

What's Happening

Congratulations to **Cortney and Samuel Meyer** on the birth of their son **Brooks Boyd Meyer** on September 18th, and to big sister Elle. Congrats also to proud grandparents Duayne and Beth Meyer Even though Brooks arrived seven weeks ahead of schedule, both baby and mother are doing fine. Welcome to life Brooks!

Congratulations to **Harry and Molly Kaplan** on their wedding which took place on September 25th.

Congratulations to **Niko and Megan Xidas** on the birth of their daughter **Nora** on Tuesday, September 15th. And congratulations to Nora's happy grandparents Stan and Kim Xidas!

We Celebrate:

The **15th anniversary** of **Mike Pott's** serving as our pianist of the Contemporary Service. Thanks Mike for sharing you gifts!

The **baptism** of **Christopher Patrick Curry, Jr.** Topher is the son of **Lee Kaplan** and **Christopher Curry**, grandparents are **Loretta** and **Allan Kaplan**.

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

First Class

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

October Events

Oct 3rd & 4th Chalk Prayer Path
Oct 8th Mission Board
Oct 11th Messy Church
Oct 20th Trustees
Oct 25th Potluck Study
Oct 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



Northfield Community Church

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please check the NCC website for the most current Calendar information: www.NorthfieldUCC.org</p>	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Virtual Event Key F – Facebook live W – Link on the website: www.northfielducc.org Z – Zoom event, ask staff for an invitation</p> </div>			<p>1 1:00 pm A Just Harvest</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9:00 am Virtual Relevant Bible Study Z Chalk Prayer Path</p>
<p>4 9:00 am Sunday Seminar Z 9:30 am Worship and Praise F 10:15 am Pre-school Sunday School Z 10:30 am Traditional Worship F 10:45 am Virtual Sunday School Z Chalk Prayer Path – All Day</p>	<p>5 Nursery School begins 7:00 pm Women's Small Group Z</p>	<p>6 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Z 7:00 pm Choir Meet and Greet Z</p>	<p>7 8:00 pm Men's Small Group Z</p>	<p>8 7:00 pm Mission Board Z</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:00 am Virtual Relevant Bible Study</p>
<p>11 Stewardship Kick-off 9:00 am Sunday Seminar Z 9:30 am Worship and Praise W 10:15 am Pre-school Sunday School Z 10:30 am Traditional Worship W 10:45 am Virtual Sunday School Z 4:30 PM Messy Church</p>	<p>12 7:00 pm Women's Small Group Z</p>	<p>13 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Z</p>	<p>14 8:00 pm Men's Small Group Z</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:00 am Virtual Relevant Bible Study</p>
<p>18 9:00 am Sunday Seminar Z 9:30 am Worship and Praise W 10:15 am Pre-school Sunday School Z 10:30 am Traditional Worship W 10:45 am Virtual Sunday School Z</p>	<p>19 7:00 pm Women's Small Group Z</p>	<p>20 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Z 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Z</p>	<p>21 8:00 pm Men's Small Group Z</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:00 am Virtual Relevant Bible Study</p>
<p>25 9:00 am Sunday Seminar Z 9:30 am Worship and Praise W 10:15 am Pre-school Sunday School Z 10:30 am Traditional Worship W 10:45 am Virtual Sunday School Z 4:00 pm The State of Lake Michigan Z 6:00 pm Teen Night</p>	<p>26 7:00 pm Church Council Z</p>	<p>27 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Z</p>	<p>28 8:00 pm Men's Small Group Z</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 9:00 am Virtual Relevant Bible Study</p>

