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The Good News Corner of

North Northfield United Methodist Church

Come to the Corner — Sanders and Dundee in Northbrook, Illinois

November 2025

A Word from the Pastor

By Rev. Dr. Min H. Woo

November is the month of thanksgiving. Because of Thanksgiving Day, our hearts seem to overflow with gratitude more than ever. The Christian life begins right here—with a thankful heart. When we express gratitude toward God, our lives begin to bear the beautiful fruit of thanksgiving.

The Bible speaks of thanksgiving over and over again. Gratitude is not merely a polite word or a pleasant feeling; it is a holy posture of the heart. To give thanks is to align our lives with God's heart and to live in harmony with His grace. Gratitude brightens the spirit, lifts the weary heart, and fills life with peace and joy. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let us pause and remember all that God has done for us, and offer Him our sincere thanks and praise.



True thanksgiving is more than an inward feeling—it is expressed through our words and actions. The word thanksgiving has its roots in the Greek 'Eucharistia', which means "blessing" or "grace." Those who live with thankful hearts already walk in the light of God's blessing. Gratitude opens our eyes to the abundance that surrounds us.

But when gratitude fades from our daily lives, we become like a bird that has forgotten its song. In today's world, it is easy to overlook thankfulness. Even in moments of giving and receiving, we often focus more on what we can gain than on what we have already received. Yet those who believe in God cannot help but give thanks in all things. Every breath, every sunrise, every moment of life itself is a gift of God's grace.

God's grace comes to us in two wonderful forms. The first is common grace—the beauty of the created world. The blossoms of spring, the colors of autumn, the songs of birds, and the vastness of the sea— all of these remind us that life is filled with God's generous gifts. None of these blessings come from our own making; they flow from the loving heart of our Creator.

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The second is special grace—the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. As the Gospel of John declares, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16, NRSV). When we truly grasp this love, our hearts cannot remain silent. Gratitude becomes the natural language of our souls.



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Of course, life is not without its trials. We face seasons of sorrow, uncertainty, and pain. Yet even in the midst of hardship, when we turn our eyes toward Jesus—the Light of the world—our burdens grow lighter and our hearts are renewed. To give thanks in joy and in sorrow, in gain and in loss, is the mark of a mature faith. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Thank God for the starlight, and He will give you moonlight. Thank Him for the moonlight, and He will give you sunlight. Thank Him for the sunlight, and He will give you the light of heaven."

Thanksgiving, therefore, is not a fleeting emotion but a way of life. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NRSV). A thankful heart fulfills God's will and brings glory to His name. The psalmist echoes this truth: "Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God" (Psalm 50:23, NRSV).

So how, then, shall we give thanks? We begin by thanking God with our lips and our prayers. When gratitude moves from the heart to the tongue, thanksgiving takes root in our lives. We give thanks in every circumstance, we worship with joy, we offer our tithes and gifts with sincerity. Gratitude looks back to remember God's past faithfulness, embraces His present goodness, and trusts His future grace.

Thankfulness must also shape our relationships. When we recall the love, patience, and kindness we have received from parents, family, friends, and neighbors, our lives become richer and more joyful. The Apostle Paul again reminds us that thanksgiving is not optional—it is a command and a calling. To thank God, to thank others, and to live thankfully in all things is to reflect the heart of Christ and to grow into the likeness of God's true children.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving season, may we take time to look around and give thanks for everything God has given—from the smallest gifts to the greatest blessings. May we rise each morning with gratitude, end each day in thanksgiving, and let that spirit fill every moment of our lives—at home, at work, and in the church.

Starting today, let gratitude shape your thoughts, your words, and your actions. You will begin to notice small, beautiful changes—your heart will lighten, your vision will clear, and your life will become fuller. Gratitude will open the way for greater joy and deeper peace, drawing you closer to the God who fills our lives with blessing upon blessing.

November: a Month of Gratitude and a Thank You

A very happy November to you! Hope you didn't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on the 2nd!

The Fellowship team received a very generous donation from Andy and Elly Vasallo. They aren't at church very often, but wanted to donate. Maybe we all can thank them when we see them!

November's Coffee Hour days are: Nov. 9 which Fellowship will host and Nov. 23. We still need a host for the 23rd so please consider it. Without volunteers, there's no doings!

Hope everyone has a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

Angel Tree Thank You

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Angel Tree, a program that supports families with children who have a parent in prison. We worked with Faith Community Missionary Baptist Church on the west side of Chicago for over 35 years.

This year their pastors, leaders, Jack and I can no longer oversee this part of the Angel Tree program.

We appreciate your generosity with time, gifts, contacting families, taking the gifts to Faith Baptist Church and sharing a Christmas celebration and meal with their members and the recipient families.



Rev. Woo speaks during last year's Angel Tree program. *Photo by Jean Merz.*

May many lives have been changed through God's work in this program.

If you would like to continue supporting the Angel Tree program, you can donate by calling (800) 552-6435 or visiting angeltree.org.

This year our church is offering donations to Youth Services to provide holiday gifts to needy families in our area. See information on this program elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you again.

— Barb Hartz

North Northfield Supports Youth Services Holiday Gifts

They'll know we are Christians by our love: new Christmas giving opportunity for North Northfield United Methodist Church.

For decades, our church congregation has participated in the Angel Tree and Samaritan's Purse giving ministries during December.

These projects were led by our dedicated members **Barb Hartz**, **Jean Merz** and **Pat Mackie**, who spent countless hours preparing, communicating, and ensuring that the gifts we gave met our commitment to these organizations and were delivered on time.

Packing a shoebox with essentials and treats and selecting a toy and clothing item that would bring a child both happiness and a physical reminder of Jesus' love for all children are fond memories that all North Northfield members share. We greatly appreciate the hard work and leadership of Barb, Jean and Pat and fully understand the inability to continue in those roles after so many years.

So, beginning this year we have a new opportunity to meet local children's needs — we will participate in the **Youth Services Holiday Gift Program**, which serves under-resourced families.

Who will be helped? Eligible families are identified through their children's participation in afterschool or summer programs, Study Buddies, and partnership with local schools and risk assessment services.

Learn more specifics about the Youth Services Holiday Gift Program at: www.YSGN.ORG/HOLIDAY-GIFT or call (847) 724-2620.

How can you give?

You can make a monetary donation that the organization will use to purchase gift cards for a child or family. Look for labeled envelopes for making a cash donation. You'll find those envelopes on a table in the church narthex.

If you prefer to write a check instead, please make it payable to *North Northfield United Methodist Church* and **be sure** to write "Youth Services Holiday Gift" on the memo line.

You can place the labeled envelope with your cash donation or your check in the offering plate.

The church will then write and deliver one check reflecting the total amount donated by our members. **Donations are requested in our church office by no later than Sunday, Nov. 23,** to meet the Youth Services deadline for 2025 giving.

Youth Services staff are delighted and very grateful that our church members are interested in helping to meet local children's needs through their organization, which is sponsored by <u>Wintrust Bank</u>. The organization seeks to collect \$100 for each eligible child. **A monetary gift in any amount is greatly appreciated.**

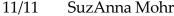
November's Bible Memory Verse

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6–7)

November Birthdays

Why not save this sheet and pray for these fellow members on their birthday?

11/1	JoAnne Furlong	11/16	Sarah Rao
11/4	Betsy Fresen	11/24	Caitlyn Marsh
11/4	Marilyn Biederer	11/25	Amy Manelli





North Northfield Activities

- North Northfield fall outdoor cleanup day, Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to noon
- All Saints Sunday (observed), Sunday, Nov. 2.
- Administrative Council, Sunday, Nov. 2 after morning service.
- Engage Africa at North Northfield, Sunday, Nov. 9
- Coffee hour after morning service, Sunday, Nov. 9 and tentatively Nov. 23.

Recurring Activities

- Choir rehearsal, Thursdays at 7 p.m.
- Adult Sunday school, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., Education Building.
- Children's Sunday school (during morning service).
- Praise and prayer before Sunday service at 9:45 a.m. (also available on Zoom by joining online service early).
- Ladies Group, Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall.
- Small Group, next meetings Wednesday, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19, 5 p.m., Education Building.

North Northfield United Methodist Church

797 Sanders Road, Northbrook, Ill. 60062 | 847.272.2250 | peace1@northnorthfield.org | northnorthfield.org | facebook.com/northnorthfield Sunday services: 10 a.m. (join us early at 9:45 a.m. to sing praise songs!)

Pastor — Rev. Dr. Min H. Woo, (224) 633-8002; mhwoo21@yahoo.com Choir Director — J.D. Rich Pianist — Mathew Nall



Calendar

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

The people of the United Methodist Church®

Join us for worship, **Sundays, 10 a.m.**Invite friends!

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 Greg Hartman Memorial Service, 11 a.m. HCC* PGM†	27	28 Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	29	Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	31 Reformation Day Yoga, 10:00 a.m.	North Northfield fall outdoor cleanup day, 9 a.m. to noon
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 All Saints Day (observed) Administrative Council, 11 a.m. HCC* PGM† Daylight Saving Time ends.	3	4 Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	5 Small group, 5 p.m., Education Building Happy Christian Church worship service, 6 to 9 p.m.	Worship team, 6 p.m. Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	7 Yoga, 10:00 a.m.	North Northfield annual church conference, 4 p.m. SPRC, 3:30 p.m.
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Engage Africa at North Northfield Coffee hour after service Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	10	Veterans' Day Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	12	13 Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	14 Yoga, 10:00 a.m.	15
16 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†		18 Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	Small group, 5 p.m., Education Building	Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	21 Yoga, 10:00 a.m.	22
Thanksgiving Sunday Christ the King Sunday Last Sunday after Pentecost Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 Coffee hour after service (tentative) HCC* PGM†	24	25 Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel choir, 7 p.m. A.A., 7:30 p.m.	26 Northbrook community Thanksgiving service, 7 p.m., location TBA	27 Thanksgiving (church office closed)	Yoga, 10:00 a.m. (Church office closed)	29
30 First Sunday of Advent United Methodist Student Day Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	1	2 Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall <i>A.A., 7:30 p.m.</i>	3 Small group, 5 p.m., Education Building	4 Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	5 Yoga, 10:00 a.m.	6

^{*} HCC, Happy Christ * HCC, Happy Christian Church, 12:30 p.m. service (in Korean)

[†] PGM, Prayer Garden Ministries Full Gospel Church, Christian education, Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.