



# CURRENT

NCPC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**April  
2022**

## Our Mission

Responding to Christ's invitation "Abide in me as I abide in you," the people of North Creek Presbyterian Church live out God's mission by connecting to a life-giving relationship with Jesus, and encouraging our community to find meaning and purpose in this same Christ-connection.

We desire to see

- followers of Christ connected to their risen Lord through vital worship and a deep life of prayerful & missional discipleship.
- the body of Christ connected in a healthy, caring community
- the world around us connected to God's extravagant love through the good news we share and the compassion we show.

### Theme Scripture—Psalm 1:3

"Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

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# ***Jesus is Risen!***

## **Easter Sunday, April 17**

*Service Times*

**8:30 AM**

with Children's Sunday School and Nursery

**10:00 AM**

with Children's Sunday School and Nursery

**YouTube Livestream (this service only)**

**11:30 AM**

no Children's program or Nursery



## A Refuge for the Besieged

My heart was touched to watch a video of Christians and Jews from Ukraine reading Psalm 31 as a prayer for God to provide refuge for this beleaguered people. Why Psalm 31? Perhaps it's because of verse 21: *"Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege."* In Ukraine, thousands of people are literally living in cities under siege, gathered in shelters and basements. If you look up the word "siege" in the dictionary you'll find something like this:

"The act or process of surrounding and attacking a fortified place in such a way as to isolate it from help and supplies, for the purpose of lessening the resistance of the defenders and making capture possible."

Yes, that is what's happening in Ukraine. But as people call out to the Lord, with the psalmist they believe that the Lord *"hears their cry for mercy when we call for help"* (in the words of verse 22). We believe that God is responding in ways beyond the limits of human agency, working supernaturally to provide relief, protection, and comfort for those in need. The Lord hears their cry and responds. Yet it is at this level of listening where something amazing happens. God tunes our ears to the frequency of their cry for help. God's mercy activates our hearts, and we respond. Sieges are meant to isolate, but God bridges the isolation with relationships.

Our session is inviting our congregation to open our hearts to the plight of Ukrainians under siege and on the run as refugees. As we consider our personal response, God's mercy will open our eyes to recognize the needs around us, and we'll notice people in our community living under the siege of homelessness and poverty. What can we do? Answering that question is what the **Poverty 101** workshop is all about, a program developed by Everett Gospel Mission coming to North Creek in June (but open to registration now).

Truth is, God is a refuge for all who are under siege – whether the setting is war, poverty, grief, illness, or depression. And God often starts providing refuge by bridging the isolation through relationships. Who would have thought that God could show the wonders of His love even in times of desolation? And yet isn't that the gospel message, the Holy Week story of Jesus' suffering and death that after three desolate days gives way to joy unspeakable and hope eternal? So, if you find yourself under siege, in the final words of Psalm 31, **"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."**

Together in Christ,

*Pastor Kurt*

Currently, we have a "Green Light" to lean into our existing mission statement: "Connecting to a Life-Giving Relationship with Jesus." We'll do this by

...Strategically Speaking

- **Nurturing Opportunities to Grow Closer to Christ along with Others** (*classes, small groups, Bible studies, Sunday School/SBC, youth group, etc.*)
- **Inviting the Community to Connect with Christ through the Ministries of North Creek** (*Welcoming and invitational efforts from every aspect of our ministry line-up; especially including Fellowship, New Members, Worship*)

In our **Strategic Ministry Plan**, we're in the middle of **Year One—Healthy Recovery**. Our *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship* classes have been an important part of that effort. I'll be working with session to evaluate the health of our ministry systems, including staff management and officer training. To see the full summary of our current strategic ministry plan on our website, visit <https://northcreekpres.org/about/our-mission>.



## CONVICTED

### *The Trial of All Centuries*

During Lent, our scripture passages and sermons will follow the flow of Jesus' trial in Jerusalem, preparing us to fully observe Holy Week and celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Along the way, we'll trace the heart convictions expressed by those who participated in and witnessed Jesus' trial, considering our own convictions as we follow our crucified and risen Savior. Each Sunday will feature a dramatic presentation spoken from the first-person perspective of a key character in the biblical narrative.



**April 3**

*Soldier of Rome:*

*Twisted Taunts*

Mark 15:16-32

**April 10 – Palm Sunday**

*Salome of Jerusalem:*

*Friends to the End*

Mark 15:33-41

**April 17 – Easter Sunday**

*Mary of Magdala:*

*First View of Vindication*

Mark 16:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:14-16

# Victorious!

## The Triumph of Life in The Rising of Jesus Christ

*"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

1 Corinthians 15:57

### Spring Sermon Series

We take a deep dive into  
1 Corinthians 15 to discover

***what it means  
that Jesus lives.***

The series will partner with a  
Sunday class on Part 3 of  
*Handel's Messiah.*

April 24

***My Redeemer Lives***

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Job 19:23-27

May 1

***Not in Vain***

1 Corinthians 15:12-22

May 8

***Total Triumph***

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

May 15

***Youth***

***Sunday!***

May 22

***Imperishable Future***

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

May 29

***A Triumphant Taunt***

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

June 5

***If God is For Us***

Romans 8:28-39

June 12

***Worthy is the Lamb***

Revelation 5:1-14

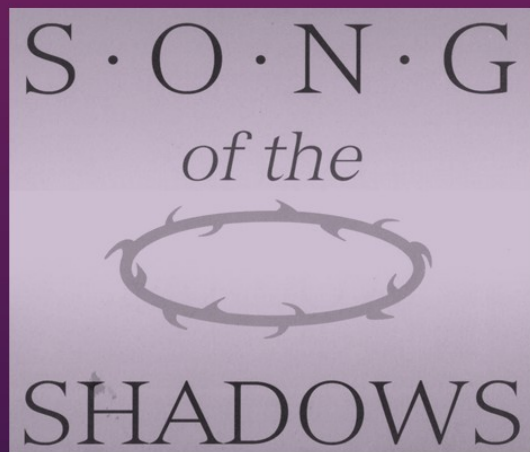
June 19

***Amen***

Psalms 106:48 & Deut. 27:9-26

Revelation 5:14 & 7:11; 2 Cor. 1:20

Shall we walk together for awhile in the shadow of the cross?  
It will not be an easy sojourn, but we will not walk alone.



Good Friday Service, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

## Music Ministry During Lent

**NCPC's Music Ministry continues looking toward Holy Week this month with two ministry opportunities for the season:**

First, NCPC's **Kidz Choir**, directed by Raegina Weber, will be helping with music on **Palm Sunday, April 10!** All children of Sunday School age are encouraged to join and sing. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings, incorporated into Sunday School. Rehearsal materials are also available to take home and practice as a family. Contact Raegina Weber or Brian Armes for more information on this opportunity.

Second, NCPC's **Good Friday** service, celebrated **Friday, April 15 at 7:30PM**, will feature the NCPC Choir presenting Joseph L. Martin's *The Song of the Shadows* and other choral selections. *The Song of the Shadows* is a rich expression of the Passion of Christ with a history of performances at NCPC. While the service is a singular experience, it also serves as a culmination of NCPC's Lenten Sermon Series, "Convicted."

Additionally, the NCPC choir will be exploring selections from the third part of Handel's *Messiah* to correspond with the Easter sermon series. As masking mandates have ended, the choir and worship band continue to have spots available for anyone wishing to join during this season. Contact Brian Armes at [brian@northcreekpres.org](mailto:brian@northcreekpres.org) for more information on joining the choir or worship band.



## We're Hiring!

This month we have two full-time positions that are open, and applications are being accepted. Consider if God might be calling you to apply, and spread the word to others you think might be good candidates.

- **Administrative Manager** – This person manages our church office and provides skills of organization and communication to assist our ministry efforts.
- **Facility Maintenance Coordinator** – This person coordinates activities and tasks related to maintaining our facility and keeping it in clean, secure, working order.

For more information, see our website's [Employment Page](#).

## Staff Coverage

- **OFFICE:** The church office is currently being staffed by faithful volunteers from 10am-1pm Monday—Thursday. The office is closed on Friday. For general inquiries, call them at 425-743-2386, or email [church@northcreekpres.org](mailto:church@northcreekpres.org).
- **PUBLICATIONS:** Church publications are being managed by our student intern, Jon Hill. He can be reached at [office@northcreekpres.org](mailto:office@northcreekpres.org). See the introduction below.
- **BOOKKEEPING:** Kris Green is our remote bookkeeper, and she can be reached at [finance@northcreekpres.org](mailto:finance@northcreekpres.org). She works on our portfolio during afternoons, M-Th, and takes Friday off.
- **IT & CHURCH CALENDAR:** Michael Mallant is continuing to serve us on a part-time basis coordinating these functions. He can be reached at [Michael@northcreekpres.org](mailto:Michael@northcreekpres.org).
- **FACILITIES:** For the time being, the facility is being managed by the Facilities & Grounds Ministry Team. Contact Dan Clark.

Through the end of April, our church publications are currently being managed by our student intern Jon Hill. Connections email, Current newsletter, and website, contact him at [office@northcreekpres.org](mailto:office@northcreekpres.org)

### Jon Hill (office hours Monday & Wednesday)

Hey everyone! My name is Jon Hill, and I'm excited to be working with your church and community as a student intern! Right now, I'm a senior at Northwest University working towards a degree in Communications. Some of my hobbies include movies, music, and Mac & Cheese. I was originally born in Washington but have lived most of my memorable life in Southern California. Eventually it got a little too hot for me, so I came back and now I'm here! I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the upcoming months (Feb—April), and appreciate the chance to serve the community!





As we gathered for the monthly Session meeting last week, we had before us several matters for discernment, discussion, and decision that impact not just our church community, but our impact on the world as well.

## **Ukraine: How to Help?**

Noting a considerable amount of concern and compassion for the people of Ukraine, we talked about what we could do to help. Already, the Mission Strategy Team (MST) and others have been gathering to discuss and pray for the people of Ukraine, and trying to find the best way to help. The MST is looking into partnering with our Presbytery to coordinate next level support. The Fellowship team is planning a fundraiser concert for May to raise money to support the people of Ukraine. We pray regularly for the people of Ukraine, and will continue to do so. With guidance from the MST and others, Session will be preparing information for the congregation on how to help. Look for that on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Staffing Needs**

We also discussed our current staffing needs and our plans for hiring people God is calling to fill our positions. The Administrative Task Force has completed the job description for the Administrative Manager, and will be posting that live this week. We are also discussing recruiting for the position and look to you, the congregation, to communicate with us if God is nudging you or someone you know toward this opportunity. Further staffing position descriptions are in the works and will be finalized and posted as well.

## **Ministry Vision**

Another important topic for Session to consider was prioritizing our ministry needs right now, in light of the immediate limited staff and resources. We are so blessed right now: we have Pastor Kurt, who despite the immense work load, continues to faithfully charge ahead to meet the congregational needs each week. We would like to allow him to focus on spiritual leadership through worship and preaching, also allow time for the task of staff recruiting, and reduce some of the administrative tasks he is doing in the absence of an administrative manager. We are so blessed by our current staff members, each of whom is working hard to make our worship and community life the best it can be. Everyone is going above and beyond! Finally, we are so blessed by congregation members, who consistently show a desire to help, to bring ideas, and to show enthusiasm for where our church is going. As our session, staff and ministry teams work to prioritize the ministries with our vision and goals, your input will be valuable.

Thankful to serve,  
Karen Butler, Clerk of Session

# Family & Children's Ministry 8

## Announcing our 2022 Summer Bible Camp July 11-15, 2022

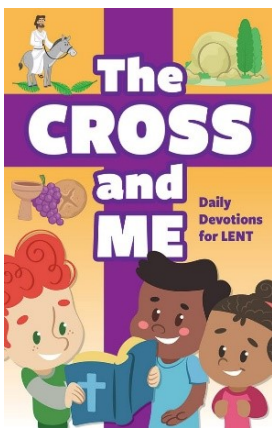
This year we will be back IN-PERSON!  
(with a remote option)



**Families** – Mark the dates on your calendar and make plans to sign up when online registration opens May 1<sup>st</sup>.

April is the time for our **VOLUNTEER DRIVE**. Each Sunday during April, in the Narthex you'll find our delicious menu of serving options. Order from the menu and sign up to help!

## Lenten Family Devotions



### ***The Cross and Me: Daily Devotions for Lent***

True-to-life situational stories and scriptural reflections will help us grow in our appreciation of the cross of Jesus. Daily Lenten lessons from Jesus' parables and sermons are given modern day treatment through scenarios that children encounter each day. Get the whole family involved in reflection and prayer through a gift of this inspiring devotional that children can read alone or with a parent day by day through Lent.

## Bring Your Fish Banks to Worship on April 10!

Each year during Lent, we invite children and their families to collect coins for an offering using cardboard "fish banks" in support of the nation-wide program called *One Great Hour of Sharing*. It's all for people in need! Pick up your fish bank at church (Sunday AM or church office). Color your fish bank, assemble it, and start giving! Collect until Palm Sunday when we'll bring our fish banks to the church!





## Register Now for “Poverty 101”!

The church is offering a free class called ‘Poverty 101’ in conjunction with the Everett Gospel Mission. The class will be held at the church on Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 9:00 to 2:30. Lunch is included!

Poverty 101 is an interactive series of exercises and learning experiences that helps our community better understand the unique challenges of long-term poverty and to assist individuals to better understand her/his own thinking about poverty and those experiencing poverty. It is designed to provide tools that will help each of us and our organization find the best way to engage with and come alongside people who are affected by poverty.



In completing Poverty 101 you will:

- Increase your self-awareness of life history and how that impacts your understanding of those experiencing poverty.
- Explore differences of socio-economic cultures.
- Understand different kinds of poverty – generational poverty, working class poverty, situational poverty, immigrant poverty, and depression era poverty - and how each kind of poverty differently impacts one’s views of self, God, and the world around us.
- Learn about communication/perception differences and how they impact healthy interactions with those experiencing poverty.
- Consider how systems might create barriers to change.
- Learn how your church or organization/agency and you can be more effective in ministry to those affected by poverty and homelessness. It is relational not transactional.
- Learn the difference between effective charity and toxic charity.
- Discover how ministry/service to those affected by poverty homelessness can increase your church/agency's outreach and your appeal to your community while strengthening your church/agency's family.
- Understand that we all share a “marred identity”, that is, from original sin and personal sin, and how understanding this allows us to humbly walk together, assisting each other in our life’s journey and walk with God.

This will be a great opportunity for our congregation to come together around how to be a good neighbor to those who are experiencing poverty in our community. If you are able to attend, please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/egm-poverty-101-at-north-creek-presbyterian-church-tickets-262279453907?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> Questions? Please contact Jill Johnson at [jilljohnson12@comcast.net](mailto:jilljohnson12@comcast.net).

## HOW TO HELP

As people of Christian faith we stand in the gap, praying for the nation of Ukraine.

As people of Christ-like compassion we find tangible ways to lend financial support to those impacted by war.

Inside, you will find ways to be involved and learn how you can help...



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## WE STAND WITH...



# UKRAINE

## PRAYER

- Every Thursday, 7:00p, community prayer service at Spring of Life Church (4711 - 116th St. SW) in Mukilteo
- Every Sunday following the morning service, in the Fireside room
- Every day, you are encouraged to set aside time specifically to pray for peace, safety, and the restoration of Ukraine.

## MORE INFO

Links to prayer guides coming soon. Check the following link for details:

<https://northcreekpres.org/serve/ukraine>



## CONCERT

*Join us for a  
benefit concert  
with MOSAIC*



where: NCPC, sanctuary  
when: May 15, 2022  
time: 6:00 p.m.  
cost: \*FREE

\*All donations will be sent through trusted mission partners.

## PRESBYTERY

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

For information go to  
<https://pdapcusa.org/situation/ukraine>

To give go to [www.pcusa.org/UK22](http://www.pcusa.org/UK22)

## GIVING

- Targeted giving at NCPC may be done by making the notation UKRAINE on checks or online
- The following link will give updated information as it relates to donations and offerings:  
<https://northcreekpres.org/serve/ukraine>



## Be Our Guest!

Forrest and I love to entertain. We love times when we can have people over to share a meal, usually with some meat cooked on the Traeger, with drinks, appetizers, desserts. We love to plan the location; indoors, outdoors? What games shall we play, horseshoes, croquet? What do we need; forks? no spoons? Glasses? No, just soda cans. We think through all these things with our guests in mind. What would they enjoy eating, doing, discussing, that would make them feel welcomed, comfortable, special?

How do you view the new folks who come through our church doors each week? If you have been referring to them as “Visitors” I suggest we change our language and use the more welcoming word, GUEST. “Visitor” implies an a onetime occurrence, not likely to happen again. But a first-time GUEST now demands more care and consideration in how you treat them and ultimately how you welcome and follow-up with your guest.

Think of this in another way, our guest is our “Gift from God”. He gifts us every week with new people coming to North Creek. How we care for that gift we receive matters very much to Him. He is giving us the new faces. Our responsibility is to show our gratitude and commitment by doing our part to turn those new faces into new, fully developing members. He longs to have a personal and loving relationship with all who enter our doors. Our first impression to our guests is important, whether they will continue coming back until they see and understand God’s power, accept Jesus as their Savior, and commit themselves to NCPC through membership is journey that we need to walk beside them. It starts with that first warm smile and “Hello, so glad you’re here!”

This Sunday, look for our “Gift from God” He has sent and treat them as our most special guest.

Blessings,  
Mary Dill Chair - Welcome Team

*“Guests are a Gift from God”*



# Prayer Ministry

# 12

The NCPC prayer chain is supplemented by our prayer group on Monday mornings either at the church or over Zoom. For me, this has been an encouraging group to meet with for a new week, and our fellowship and fondness for each other grows with each time we meet. You are warmly invited to join us.

Prayer has always been an enigma to me. I hear the words, “Prayer works!” but have experienced more that, “God works!!” All dedicated people of prayer that I know or have read about have consistently had questions about prayer but have ended that pursuit with a commitment to intercessory prayer. One advocate of prayer says that intercessory prayer is coming into the presence of God and inviting others through our intercessory thoughts to join us.

-Gary Bannister

# Personal Testimony

*Starting this month, we are featuring stories from members of our congregation about their experiences with God. If you would like to include a story, feel free to submit it by the 20th of each month for inclusion of the following months edition.*

From Gary Bannister:

Before I began teaching (1963), I was in a church that taught about the grace of God but encouraged a life of “don’t do this” and “don’t do that.” It was not until a friend of mine who had become a Christian through Young Life asked me to help him start a new club at South Kitsap High School that I learned what the grace of God was in practice and in my heart instead of just in my head. Where one of the “don’t do this” was dancing, I found myself as a chaperone at a high school dance. When I was listening to teen-agers talking about Jesus there on the sidelines, my concept of grace began to change dramatically.

My experience with my young friends in Bible studies and camp experiences at Malibu continued to expand my appreciation of the relational strengths of the grace of God. I continue to be thankful for these young friends.

*Looking Ahead...Starting Sunday, May 1*



Did you know that Handel's *Messiah* doesn't end with the famous Hallelujah Chorus? Join the adventure as Pastor Kurt leads an exploration of the "after-Easter" story in the powerful *Part Three* of Handel's masterpiece of gospel proclamation.

## **Sundays at 9am, Fireside Room, May 1-29**

**May 1 – Beyond Hallelujah, Jesus Lives**

*"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"*

**May 8 – Raised to Life with Trumpet Accompaniment**

*"The Trumpet Shall Sound"*

**May 15 – Video Concert Performance: *Messiah*, Part 3**

**May 22 – A Win for the Ages**

*"O Death, Where is Thy Sting?" & "But Thanks Be to God"*

*"If God Be For Us"*

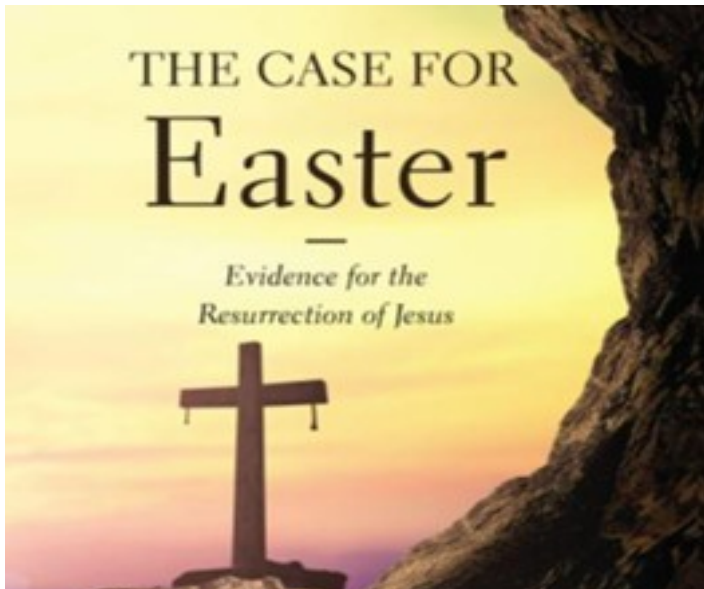
**May 29 – A Never-ending Crescendo of Praise**

*"Worthy is the Lamb"*

## The Case for Easter

The Case for Easter is written in a journalistic style that probes the core issues of the resurrection. Lee Strobel retraces the startling findings that led him from atheism to belief.

Join us at 9 am in the Fireside Room on **April 3 & 10**. Remote attendance on Zoom is available - Meeting ID: 873 7313 1425. Books are available at church for free.



## Small Groups are Forming!

Small groups provide an opportunity to share faith & life together.

Our Small Group Ministry Vision Statement: is *“Nurturing opportunities to grow closer to Christ along with others in Small Groups.”*

To sign up or for more information, call Joan Eble 425-787-2489.

## OAM Event

The Older Adult Ministry team (Wise Guys) invites you to another informal time of visiting and fellowship in the Fireside Room on **April 13th, 1:00 to 2:30pm**.

Come see your friends, visit, play table games and enjoy fellowship together. This is a drop-in event, come and go as you please. There will be no agenda or program....just visiting together.

Bring a game or two! Please bring your own beverage for yourself (optional). Masks are optional, but welcome. Hope to see you there! No need to sign up...just come and visit!

For more information contact Kathy Hulet, Elder at 253-376-3035.

Dates for the next OAM events, all in the Fireside Room, 1-2pm

April 13

May 11

June 8

July 13

August 10

Wise  
Guys