



NorthCreek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LIFE. LOVE. HOPE. IN CHRIST.

The Current

April 2026

Our Mission

We are cultivating a thriving community of faithful Christ-followers who

- Grow deep spiritual roots in a **life**-giving relationship with Jesus
- Extend God's **love** by serving others with Christlike compassion
- Share Christ's **hope** by making him known near and far

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Pastor's Pen**
- **Sermon Series**
- **Holy Week**
- **Music Ministry**
- **Announcements & more**

Connect with us:



425-743-2386



www.northcreekpres.org



Church@northcreekpres.org



621 164th ST SE

Mill Creek, WA 98252

Ministry Staff

Rev. Kurt Helmcke, Pastor
Kurt@northcreekpres.org

Brian Armes, Music & Worship Director
Brian@northcreekpres.org

Administrative Staff

Kcristell Peña, Administrative Manager
Church@northcreekpres.org

Pasha Jurgensen, Bookkeeper
Finance@northcreekpres.org

Support Staff

James 'Jim' Kwon, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Facilities@northcreekpres.org

Kate West, Media Supervisor
Media@northcreekpres.org

Johnson Pham, Custodian
Facilities@northcreekpres.org

Blanketed in the Comforting Weight of God's Eternal Promises

Five days into the month of April we will celebrate Jesus' victory over death on Easter Sunday. Accordingly, I'd like to share with you a devotional entry I recently wrote for this year's Pittsburgh Seminary Lenten Devotional. It lifts up the powerful comfort that comes from knowing that our eternal future is secured by our risen Lord, based on a text from 2 Corinthians 4:14-18 and my reflections on a really cool thing that our very own Silver Thimbles quilting group did a few months ago. Here it is...I hope it encourages you.

Quilts have a powerful capacity for transmitting comfort. That's exactly what the Holy Spirit has been doing through our congregation's quilting group, who recently shared with me the names of several people they had given a handsewn quilt. I praised God as I pictured each of these recipients being comforted in their afflictions by the Holy Spirit along with a quilt delivered by these agents of care.



In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul shares honestly his own struggles in a way that invites us to consider our own. Some struggles present themselves as minor inconveniences; others threaten to unravel the very fabric of our lives. Those of us called by God to ministries of care get a front row seat to observe the suffering of others. As our Lenten journey draws closer to Holy Week, we ready ourselves to witness the suffering of Jesus for our sake.

We are well-acquainted with the aspects of life and loss that drain us of our hope and give rise to feelings of discouragement. Paul's bold claim that "we do not lose heart" (v. 16) seems remarkable. What gives Paul such hopeful confidence in the face of what he knows is "wasting away?" He describes a renewal of our inner nature that is happening day by day, springing from an eternal source, a "weight of glory" that when compared to our afflictions make them seem light. It's a confidence we have because "the one who raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus" (v. 14).

This eternal weight of glory that we have in Christ is like the comfort of quilts, the old-school version of today's weighted blankets, prescribed for those who suffer from stress and anxiety. The weight of the blanket provides something like a human hug, deep pressure stimulation that settles us into calmness. This describes well what happens when we consider ourselves blanketed in the comforting weight of God's eternal promises.

Prayer: God of all comfort, thank you for those who receive your comfort and pass it along to others, sometimes with a quilt that wraps us in warmth. Remind us of the eternal weight of glory we have in Jesus that wraps us in comfort amid our afflictions, renewing our hope. Amen.

Living into Easter hope,

Pastor Kurt



Advancing the Gospel

Spring
2026



Inspiration from
the Early Church

April 26

Confident Discipleship

Acts 16:6-15 & Philippians 1:1-11

May 3

Joyful Discipleship

Acts 16:16-40 & Philippians 4:1-9

May 10

Encouraging Discipleship

Acts 17:1-15 & 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

May 17

Bold Discipleship

Acts 17:16-34 & 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

May 24

Collaborative Discipleship

Acts 18:1-17 & 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:7

May 31

Reconciling Discipleship

Acts 18:18-28 & Ephesians 2:11-22

April 12 – Guest Preacher

Dr. Reeder will speak from her extensive missionary experience

April 19 – Guest Preacher

Rev. Kathy Giske, Director of Middle East Partners, will deliver a timely message



Holy Week at North Creek Presbyterian Church

Holy Week is the most sacred stretch of the Christian calendar, a journey that moves from remembrance and sorrow to the joy of resurrection. It invites believers to reflect deeply on the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry and the hope that emerges from the empty tomb.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 PM

Maundy Thursday invites us to remember the Lord's Last Supper with His disciples. On this sacred night, we reflect on the final moments Jesus shared in the upper room before His arrest and crucifixion. The service highlights three profound events: Jesus washing the disciples' feet, His new commandment to love one another, and the institution of the Lord's Supper. The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, meaning "new commandment."

This Year's Theme: *His Mercy is More*



Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 PM

Good Friday invites us to remember the crucifixion of Jesus and the depth of God's love shown through His willing sacrifice. This solemn service will lead us to pause, reflect, and consider the meaning of the cross in our own lives. The North Creek Choir will lead us in Taizé worship. Together, we will enter a space of quiet devotion as we contemplate the love revealed through Christ's suffering.

This Year's Theme: *That We May Receive Mercy*



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 and 10:00 AM

On Easter morning, we gather to remember the miracle of the resurrection and to celebrate the everlasting mercy of God. This is the day we rejoice in the hope that never fades and the love that triumphed over the grave. Whether you've been part of our community for years or are seeking a place to experience the joy of Easter, we would be honored to worship with you. We will hold two identical services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM. 10:00 AM service, which will also be livestreamed. The Nursery and Kid's Sunday School will be offered at the 10 AM service only.

This Year's Theme: *Everlasting Mercy!*

Thank you all for supporting our effort to fund raise for the new *Sing! Hymnal*. We far exceeded our expectations and our \$5,000 goal! God is good! Our order with Crossway will be placed this month and we expect our new hymnals to arrive later this spring. If you still wish to contribute to the fund, please contact the church office. In the coming weeks, *The Sing! Hymnal* page on the church's website will transform into an information hub with FAQ, resources, and helpful links to aid in exploring this new hymnal.



HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS

Good Friday's service, **Friday, April 3 at 7:30PM**, will feature the NCPC Choir leading worship in the style of Taizé. This service will include choral works as well as congregational singing through repeated choruses, reflective readings, and meditative silences. Joining the choir will be flautist Maia Nemes who was featured in last winter's Christmas Concert.

Easter Sunday – April 5 – will once again include the NCPC choir and brass quintet. The brass ensemble is comprised of Inglemoor High School students and alumni! At the conclusion of the service, all are invited to join the NCPC Choir in the loft for the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel's *Messiah*. This unique expression of praise has become an anticipated event for the NCPC Choir, alumni, friends, and family. This invitation is open to all in worship attendance. Sheet music will be provided!

We hope you will attend and draw closer to God through the music of this season.

A Journey of Biblical Proportions

From April 11-22, Pastor Kurt will be guiding a group of 24 of Jesus' disciples on a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey to visit biblical sites, particularly those on Paul's Second Missionary Journey. Please pray for the health and safety of the group and that each traveler would find their faith deepened by the experience. Here's a day-by-day outline to guide your prayers:

Saturday, April 11

Depart from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Sunday, April 12

Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey, then take short flight to Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city and capital of the province of Macedonia

Monday, April 13

Tour of Kavala (ancient Neapolis) and Ancient Philippi

Tuesday, April 14

Tour Thessaloniki and Berea, ending the day in Kalambaka

Wednesday, April 15

Tour of the famous Cenobitic Monasteries of Meteora on the way to Athens

Thursday, April 16

Excursion to Ancient Corinth

Friday, April 17

Cruise to Ephesus in Turkey, via the island of Mykonos

Saturday, April 18

Arrive in the Turkish port of Kuşadası to visit Ancient Ephesus, then back on the water to visit the nearby island of Patmos, where John received the Revelation

Sunday, April 19

Tour of the island of Crete with a stop in Santorini

Monday, April 20

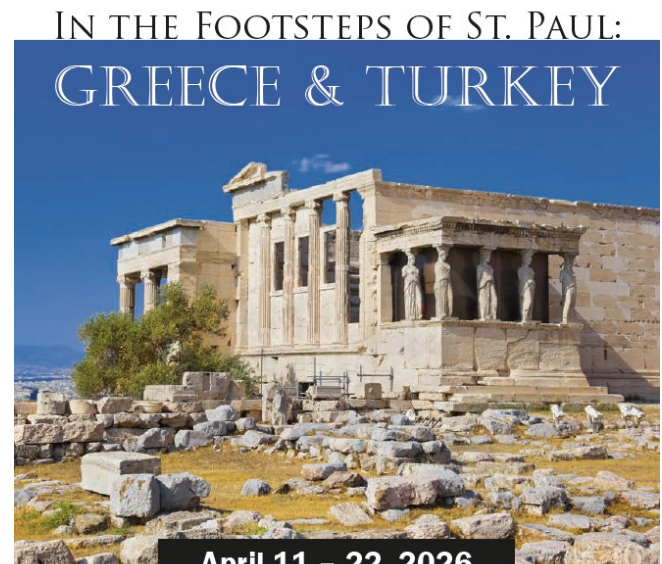
Cruise concludes and the exploration of Athens begins

Tuesday, April 21

Tour of the Acropolis and Areopagus (Mars Hill)

Wednesday, April 22

Depart from Athens International Airport and return to Seattle



Led by Pastor Kurt Helmcke

For Pastoral Care during April 11-22, please contact the church office for and Kcristell will route your call as appropriate.

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER

Director: YOU
Starring: YOU

ACT I	HOUSING AND CARE OPTIONS	KELVIN CHANG
ACT II	SENIOR CENTER	JANET ZIELASKO
ACT III	CARING TRANSITIONS	CHRISTINE VISSER
ACT IV	FINANCE	RYAN BLUME
ACT V	LEGAL	PAUL MCCONNELL
ACT VI	GRIEF & MEMORIALS	REV. KURT HELMCKE

Have you and your loved ones taken the time to prepare a will? Have you considered the options that you or your parents might prefer? Finance and Joyful Life are pleased to offer free classes to assist you! Thursdays in the Fireside Room at 6:30 PM from April 9 - May 14. **Sign up today!**



The Finance Team, in partnership with the Older Adult Ministry: Joyful Life, warmly invites you to “Get Your Life Together,” a six-week series designed to help you plan confidently for the future.

Join us on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

Each week features a presentation on a different topic to guide and support you in your financial planning journey. We encourage you to come, learn, and discover the importance of thoughtful planning for your children, loved ones, and yourself as we navigate the different stages of life together. We hope you’ll join us!

You are invited to attend and are welcome to bring family and friends along with you.

Classes will be held on Thursdays, starting April 9th and continuing through May 14th.

Register today at northcreekpres.org/ministries/joyful

ReNEWomen
Restore. Refresh. Release.

Spring Day of Renewal

April 25th

9:30am-2:30pm

"But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind."
-Isaiah 40:31

Join us for a refreshing and soul-stirring **Spring Day of Renewal**, designed exclusively for women seeking spiritual growth and fellowship. Step away from the busyness of life and enter a sacred space filled with worship, prayer, and inspiration.

Sponsored by **Renewal Ministries Northwest**

Event Location:
North Creek Presbyterian Church
621 164th St SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Both Rev. Denise Easter and Lynette Habegger teach women to find their true identity in Christ, operating in fullness, peace and freedom. Rev. Denise is an ordained minister in the PCUSA and co-founder of Renewal Ministries Northwest. Lynette is a women's Pastor at a church in Nashville, TN and a Certified Life Coach.

Scan the barcode or visit renewalminnw.org

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

North Creek Presbyterian Church
621 164th Street SE
Bothell, WA 98012
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings**.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Save on Life Line Screening

NCPC will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on April 29th. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993.

Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer to all North Creek members which will identify your risk level for the following diseases:

1. Carotid Artery Disease
2. Peripheral Arterial Disease
3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
4. Atrial Fibrillation

Click [here](#) or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:
Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 800-324-9458 and use promo code HABC001

Visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC



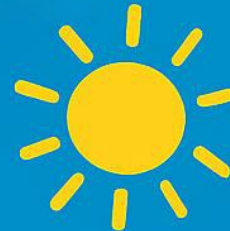
Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

OPPORTUNITY

Support the church office and
Summer Bible Camp.
Flexible part-time positions.



Email Church@Northcreekpres.org

Calling all College students and this year's High School graduates!

Our church is excited to offer a paid summer internship for students looking to gain hands-on experience while supporting our church office and Summer Bible Camp (SBC).

- Flexible, part-time hours throughout the summer
 - Open to current College students and 2026 High School graduates
 - Paid internship designed to balance work and summer fun
- This internship is a great opportunity to build skills, serve the church community, and earn income during summer break; all in a supportive, faith-filled environment.

Interested?

To express interest or learn more, email Church@northcreekpres.org. Kcristell, our Administrative Manager, would love to meet with you and share additional details!