



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

The Current

December 2025

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
- Worship Ministry
- Discipleship Formation
- & Much More!

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The Dawning of God's New Day

Advent is a season of light, bringing flickering hope into the darkest time of the year. Its candles remind us of the coming of Jesus as the promised Savior, sent by the Father in the fullness of time, redeeming the long years of waiting. The lamps of our hearts are lit so we might constantly be prepared to welcome his Holy-Spirit-presence into our lives. And we carry the light of hope as the church stands vigil in anticipation of Jesus' second coming, when God's kingdom comes in all its fullness to bring wholeness to the entire creation.

One of the most prominent lights of the story of the birth of Jesus is found in the second chapter of Matthew's gospel. The Bethlehem star was a beacon that broadcast the gospel, the good news of the Messiah's birth, to magi from the east who represented those outside God's covenant with Israel. As they followed God's starlit invitation to offer their worship to the newborn King, it was the dawning of a new day in God's relationship with the world. The Messiah's message is meant for everyone!

'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' ... When they saw the star, they were overjoyed! On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. (Mt. 2:2,10-11)

Isaiah foretold this dawning of light for Israel and all the nations (peoples) of the world:

- *Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. (Isa. 60:3)*
- *Your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will appear. (Isa 58:8)*
- *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isa. 9:2)*

We who count ourselves as disciples of Jesus live in the light of the Lord. We are called and commissioned by our Lord to share the light of his "Life, Love, & Hope." The goal of all our activities and investment as a congregation is to see lives transformed by the light of Christ that illumines the darkness. May we not settle for business as usual, but labor only and ever to see lives reclaimed through repentance, God's abundant grace flowing into human lives through divine forgiveness. May our efforts be focused on seeing lives redirected in apprenticeship to Jesus, following him step-by-step, where God's wisdom is applied to life through the Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

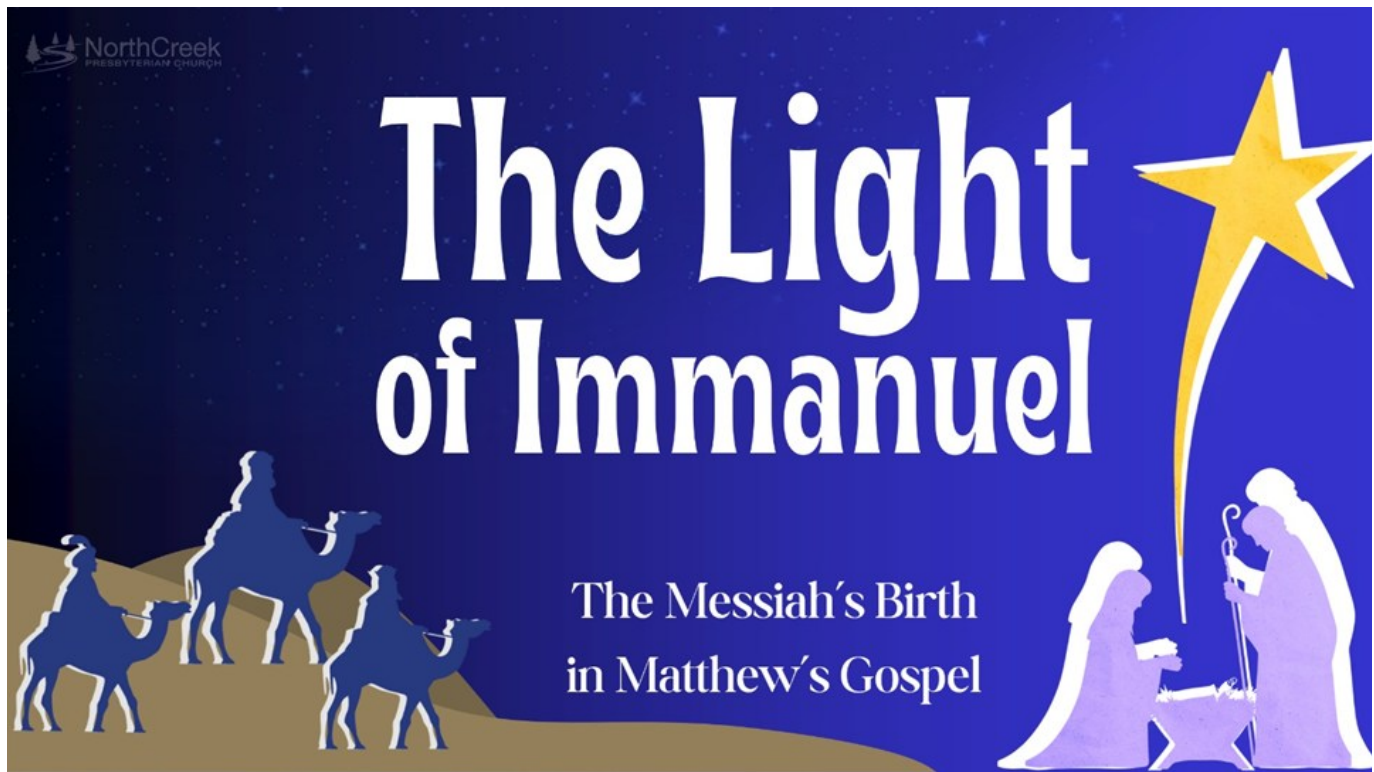
This Advent, how might we appreciate anew the light of Christ that has dawned on our lives? How might we shine the light of Christ so others will feel the warmth of its life-transforming glow? Is there someone in our lives who God is calling us to reach out to personally with the light of Christ?

May the light of Advent prepare us for the dawning of God's new day. May we hearken with alert interest to the word of God through the prophet Isaiah (43:19, 60:1): **"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? ... Arise, shine, for your light has come!"**

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Kurt





November 30, 2025 – Advent Week

Ancestral Surprises

Matthew 1:1-17

“And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.” (Matt. 1:16)

Isaiah 2:1-5

“Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isa. 2:5)

December 7, 2025 – Advent Week 2

Time to Turn

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matt. 3:1-2)

Isaiah 11:1-10

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. (Isa. 11:3b-4)

December 14, 2025 – Advent Week 3

A Revealing Dream

Matthew 1:18-25

“... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’” (Matt. 1:20)

Isaiah 12:1-6

“Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.” (Isa. 12:6)

December 21, 2025 – Advent Week 4

Global Adoration

Matthew 2:1-12

“...and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. (Matt. 2:9b-11a)

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” (Isa. 60:3)



Advent Video Study: ***Because of Bethlehem***

Join us Sundays at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall through December 21 for an uplifting video study with Max Lucado. *Because of Bethlehem* invites us to slow down, pray simply, and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Together, we'll explore meaningful insights and enjoy fellowship during this season of gratitude and hope.

[Watch the trailer](#)



Advent Meditations

Our *Practicing the Way* Advent Meditations are here! Pick up a copy outside the Fireside Room, or download the PDF below. Let these daily reflections guide you as we journey together toward Christmas and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

[Advent Meditations](#)

Advent Prayer for Studying God's Word

Heavenly Father,

As we enter this Advent season, we pause to quiet our hearts and turn to You. Thank You for the gift of Your Word, which guides and strengthens us. As we study Scripture, open our eyes to see the promises fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with wonder and joy. Give us patience to reflect, humility to learn, and courage to live Your truth. Let Your Word shine light into the dark places of our lives, reminding us of Your faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Help us not only to read but to understand and treasure Your teachings. May the stories of Your people and the prophecy of Christ's birth draw us closer to You and shape our hearts. As we prepare our homes and celebrations, remind us that the greatest gift is not found under a tree, but in the manger.

May this Advent study of Your Word deepen our love for You and fill us with hope, joy, and the desire to share Your goodness with others.

In Jesus' holy name, we pray.

Amen.

Session News & Christmas Eve Services

At our November Session meeting this week, we rejoiced in the momentum that we see happening toward our goals for the church. We heard reports of increasing energy and movement within our ministries, as well as developing vision and dreams for new mission opportunities under consideration. It was a perfect backdrop for us to be thinking about and praying over our 2026 budget, which is our main task at this time of year.

We continue to work on our budget so that it is ready for the new year, and for presentation to you at our annual congregational meeting on January 25, 2026. The news from our stewardship campaign is that our congregation has been very generous in their commitment to the ministry of North Creek. Session's work now is to prayerfully move forward with our mission, determine what that looks like for our North Creek community and beyond. It is an exciting time, full of dreams and conviction, and the faith that God will lead us in this endeavor.

As we approach the season of Advent, we have thanksgiving for all that God has done for our church, for our members and friends who have made our church their home, and who have participated in expanding our ministries and mission to the community. With advent upon us this week, we anticipate the coming of the Lord and focus on hope, peace, joy and love in Christ.

May you each know Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this advent season and beyond.

Christmas Blessings to each of you,

Karen Butler

Clerk of Session



Celebrate Christmas Eve with Us!

Join us on Christmas Eve for a joyful celebration of the birth of our Savior. We offer two worship opportunities:

- Family Service – 5:00 PM A festive, family-friendly service perfect for all ages.
- Traditional Service – 8:00 PM A classic candlelight service with carols and reflection.

All are welcome to attend one or both services. Come and share in the hope, joy, and wonder of Christmas at North Creek Presbyterian Church!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Saturday, December 13, the North Creek Choir invites everyone to their annual Christmas Concert. This year's program is titled Great Joy and expects to be a festive celebration of the Nativity through music. This year's program features many familiar seasonal favorites and classic carols written or arranged by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa, John Purifoy, Ken Medema, Craig Courtney, Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagensberg, Gustav Holst, Joseph M. Martin, and others.

In addition to the choir, a 16-piece orchestra will provide accompaniment and additional music, and NCPC's Deacon Beth Carleson and Elder Craig Carleson will share readings for the season. A cookie reception will follow the concert. All the community is invited to this free event.

Christmas celebrations at NCPC also include two worship services on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5 PM and at 8 PM. Both services will include scriptures, carols, and candlelight.

NEW ROBES

This advent, the North Creek Choir will debut their new choir robes. These blue robes were a gift to our choir from First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish. These robes will be worn occasionally to aid our worship services. Much appreciation is extended to Kate West in helping make the arrangements for these robes.



Family Advent Service Project

December 7th | 4:00 PM

Thank You for Your Donations!

We are so grateful for your generous donations! Your support is helping us prepare care bags for our unhoused neighbors this Advent season. Every contribution makes a real difference, and we are blessed by your kindness.



We invite children, youth, and families to join us on December 7th at 4:00 PM as we come together to assemble the bags. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to serve side by side, showing compassion and love to those in need while making meaningful memories together.

Come be part of this special family outreach and help spread hope this Advent!



Whirly Ball January 31st

We're excited to announce another fun outing to Whirly Ball! Last year was such a blast, we can't wait to do it again. Mark your calendars for January 31st and plan to join us! The discounted cost per participant is \$10, and a family will pay up to \$40. Family Ministry will cover the rest, making it easy for everyone to participate.

Be sure to visit our [website](#) today to register. All students who have yet to submit the Medical Release & Permission form will need to do so before the event.

Ministry Update:

A Gift of Hope for Lena and Her Daughter

Dear Church Family,

We're happy to share a recent story that shows how your prayers, support, and generosity are making a real difference in people's lives.

Through our outreach ministry, we were able to assist Lena, a 45-year-old single mother who lives with her 17-year-old daughter, Paula, in Kazakhstan. Life has been especially challenging for Lena since she lost her permanent job. She now works part-time at a bakery as a saleswoman, doing her best to make ends meet. Her daughter, Paula, is a college student pursuing her education without a scholarship. While college tuition is free, there are still daily needs and expenses that put extra strain on their limited income.

Lena lost her mother seven years ago and has no remaining family to turn to for help. Despite these hardships, she continues to persevere for her daughter's sake.

Thanks to the continued support of North Creek Presbyterian Church community, we were able to bless Lena and Paula with a food package, along with funds to cover their utility bills for the next three months. Their response was one of sincere gratitude and relief.

Lena was deeply moved and said,

“I feel like Jesus Himself visited us.”

This simple yet profound statement reminds us of why we serve — to be a reflection of Christ's love and presence in the lives of those who are struggling. It's moments like these that remind us we are not just meeting physical needs — we are part of God's work in bringing comfort, hope, and light.

We share this not to boast, but to remind us all that the love of Christ is alive and active when we serve one another in practical ways. Every donation and every prayer contributes to these moments of grace.

Please continue to support this ministry, whether through giving or keeping families like

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

With gratitude,

The Good News to Kazakhstan Ministry





Renewal
Ministries Northwest

Advent Gathering

Light Shines in the
Darkness...and His Name is
JESUS!

December 6th
9:30am - 12:30pm

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great LIGHT: on those a LIGHT has dawned...for unto to us a child is born!" Isaiah 9:2,6

Join us as we enter the **Holy Season of Advent** together! At this retreat we will reflect and pray with the words God spoke into the heart of the great prophet Isaiah to declare, "He will be called..." The name JESUS is packed with promises that bring us into the light. Promises to deliver, heal, and revive our souls like nothing else can!

Scan the barcode
or visit
renewalminnw.org



Sponsored by
Renewal
Ministries Northwest

Renewing Chapel at
Renewal Ministries Northwest Office
16300 Mill Creek Blvd
Mill Creek, WA 98082

Facilitators

Rev. Dianna Kunce

Rev. Denise Easter

Date and Time

Saturday, December 6 from 9:30am-12:30pm

Registration

Cost: \$49, includes handouts and snacks

Location

Renewing Chapel at Renewal Ministries Northwest Office

16300 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Space is Limited

Register Today!