

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

The Current

November 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

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Pastor's Pen

"Small groups provide the ideal environment for the 'one another' commands of Scripture to be lived out. In the context of authentic Christian community, we find the courage to grow, the grace to heal, and the joy of shared purpose." — John Ortberg (Christian author and pastor)

In November, we'll be focusing on small group ministry and helping people who aren't in a group to join one. In the church, one of the greatest gifts God gives us is ONE ANOTHER. In our seasonal gratitude contemplations, we might find that one of the things we are thankful for is the people God brings into our lives to walk with us through the difficulties of daily existence. God gives us gifts in the form of people to relate to, but it works the other way, too. Have you ever thought of yourself as a gift God gives to other believers, so that they don't have to go through life isolated and alone? Makes being in a small group something significantly sacred, doesn't it? There are so many good reasons to join a small group, but I'd like to briefly list three of them here, interspersed with prayers of gratitude thanking God for the gift of people in our lives.

Small groups are great for deepening our walk of faith through mutual encouragement. Our understanding of the church emphasizes the "communion of the saints." We believe that disciples are united not only to Christ but to one another in a covenant community. A small group provides a localized, intimate setting where this theological reality becomes lived experience, allowing members to rejoice together while also "bearing one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

> *"Gracious God, we thank you for placing us in a community of faith where we are never meant to walk alone. Thank you for the blessing of sisters & brothers in Christ who know our names, share our struggles, and encourage our faith."*

God uses small group Bible study to take us deeper into the Word. In the Reformed tradition, God's Word in Scripture holds significant authority (*Sola Scriptura*). The regular study of God's Word is vital for spiritual growth and discernment. In a small group, members encourage each other into active engagement with the Bible: asking questions, wrestling with hard texts, and applying scriptural insights to daily life.

> *"Loving Lord, we praise you for the gift of your holy Word. Thank you for using our small groups to open our hearts and minds to understand your truth more deeply, each member sharpening and being sharpened as we grow in Christlikeness."*

Small groups foster gentle accountability and help form authentic disciples. Our Presbyterian theological tradition recognizes the persistent problem of sin in our human condition. As trusting relationships are built over time, small groups can be a safe environment for mutually confessing our faults and offering encouragement toward new patterns of faithful living.

> *"Sovereign God, we praise you for your sanctifying grace that refuses to leave us as we are. Thank you for providing a circle of trusted friends who speak truth in love and encourage us to walk worthy of the calling we have received."*

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Kurt



A Note of Thanks from Pastor Kurt

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the congregation for the many cards and encouraging messages shared with me during Pastor Appreciation Month in October. I was deeply touched by your kind words and thoughtful expressions of support. Your care and continued prayers are a tremendous blessing and source of encouragement to me as I follow the lead of our Good Shepherd in pastoral ministry.

Gratefully, Kurt

Sermon Series

Stewardship Sermon Series: **Good Shepherd Gratitude**



November 1
Life Abundant
John 10:7-18
"…I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

November 8
My Cup Overflows
Psalm 23
"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing." (Psalm 23:1)

November 15
Bountiful Rejoicing
Jeremiah 31:7-14
"…They will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord…" (Jeremiah 31:12)

November 22
Well-Tended
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
"… the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them." (Ezekiel 34:11)



Advent 2026

Sunday, November 29
Watching the Heavens:
Of Shepherds & Salvation
Mark 13:24-37 & Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Stewardship 2026

November brings our annual stewardship focus. This year's theme is **"GOOD SHEPHERD GRATITUDE."** Psalm 23 famously celebrates the Lord's provision for us, the people of His pasture, as our shepherd. In John's gospel, Jesus claims to be our Good Shepherd who guides us into abundant life. During this series we'll explore how gratitude for God's provision might encourage generous giving, as we consider ways in which God has given to us so abundantly that "our cup overflows."



Good Shepherd Gratitude has the power to transform us from the inside out. In Christ we find abundant life, as John 10:10 reminds us: *"...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."* Psalm 23 invites us to consider what it means that the Lord is our shepherd through powerful mini testimonies such as "I lack nothing" and "my cup overflows." This recognition frees us to wholeheartedly celebrate as Jeremiah prophesied, that God's people "will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord" (Jer. 31:12). The true source of our stewardship is found in this, that we are well-tended by our divine shepherd, the sovereign Lord who searches for His sheep and looks after them (Ezekiel 34:11).

Our annual Stewardship campaign features the opportunity for each of us to invest in God's Kingdom as we offer our gift to the Lord. **We'll gratefully respond to our Good Shepherd's provision by filling out and turning in a pledge card on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**.

Pledge cards will be mailed to member households prior to the first Sunday of November (they'll also be made available at the Welcome Center at church). In gratitude for what God has provided for this congregation through your generous offerings, we encourage you to continue to give through proportionate and planned financial giving in response to the question, **"What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"** Our emphasis is on the giver's need to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the church's need to receive. The money we give to the church is an act of devoted faith that draws us closer in union with God. In the process, the church's mission and ministry are supported through a percentage of our incomes (the concept of tithing).

This year we consider our offering to the Lord in light of the abundant provision of our Good Shepherd.

A Stewardship Prayer:

"Loving God, we thank you for the rich abundance in our lives. Open our eyes to see that, in being so blessed, we can, in turn, abundantly bless others. Open our hearts to feel the powerful generosity of your Spirit and let go of our fear and judgment. Open our ears to hear the needs of this church and community. Open our minds that, whenever called, we offer the world our measureless love, our generous time, our unique talents and treasure. Quicken our hands to your service, breathe your Spirit into us and touch us with the life of Christ. Amen."

Grow Deeper in Faith Through Discipleship Formation on Sundays

At North Creek, we believe following Jesus is a lifelong journey. Our Discipleship Formation ministry provides opportunities to learn from the teachings of Scripture alongside others in our church community. Through study, conversation, and shared reflection, we seek to deepen our understanding of Jesus and God's mission in the world while growing in faith and connection with one another.

Upcoming Classes

Practicing the Way – Witness: November 1–22 | 9 AM | Fireside Room
Discover what it means to live as a witness to Jesus in our everyday lives.

Advent Study: The Marvel and Miracle of Advent
November 27–December 20 | 9 AM | Fireside Room
Join Lisa Harper and Christine Caine as we prepare our hearts for Advent and reflect on the wonder and miracle of Christ's coming.

Whether you are looking to deepen your biblical understanding, explore questions of faith, or simply connect with others, we invite you to join us.

Grow Deeper in Faith Through Small Groups



For three Sundays in November (8th, 15th and 22nd), we will be emphasizing our small group program and providing opportunities for you to hear more about it, sign up for your own small group, or possibly join an existing one.

Unlike worship services and adult Sunday school, small groups provide the opportunity to strengthen and share your faith at a deeper, more personal level, get to know people in the church better and receive support for your own journeys through life. For many people it can be the most rewarding aspect of the overall worship and fellowship experience.

A presentation will occur at worship on November 8, and an information table will be staffed after each service for additional questions. You can also sign up now on the church website at northcreekpres.org/ministries/small-groups .

We hope to begin forming groups starting in January.

Session news



At Session's October meeting, we began with a New Member Reception for our newest members (to be presented on November 1st), heard a bit of their stories, and shared a bit of our own. It is such a joy to welcome fellow believers who are new friends to our congregation and now members. Welcome, Evelyn and Susan!

Session then got down to business; we had before us an agenda that included (dreaded?) preliminary budget discussions, facility use topics, and a continuation of our discussion over the past few months of caring for our aging building in the midst of growing our ministry to the community around us. We had great, thoughtful discussions on each of these topics as we seek to steward our resources for God's mission here at North Creek.

As a member of Session, one of the things I appreciate most about serving on Session is the respectful collaboration as we discern and decide what can be difficult topics. Each of us has our own mindset and experience that we bring to discussion. By the end of this meeting, I believe each of us on Session felt encouraged and confident in God's leading of our church. You'll hear more specifics as we progress through the process of stewarding our resources as we pursue God's plan. In the meantime, thank you for your own stewardship and for all the ways we all work together to support God's mission.

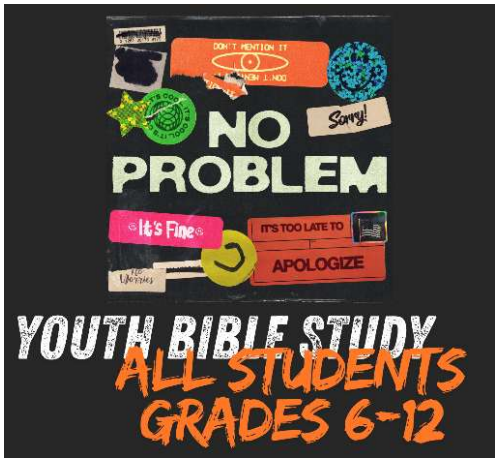
North Creek's Play Café



has experienced a terrific response in its first 6 weeks! We are hosting a lot of children ages 0-5 and their parents, grandparents, and caregivers each week, accompanied by lots of activity, laughter, and squeals of joy. And that's just the kids! We are so thankful that God has led us into this project, and that the community members report to us what a blessing it is. We are also thankful for a team of wonderful volunteers who greet, serve, and bless the families who visit. Not to mention the church staff who support us as well.

Each Tuesday morning, we welcome children to play while their parents or guardians take time to relax with a warm drink and pastry, or chat with other families, or play with their children. We are so blessed to be able to provide a warm and welcoming place for families to do something fun. Come by and check it out, or sign up to volunteer

Sunday Youth Devotional



Students in grades 6–12, join us this Sunday, November 1, from 9:00–9:50 AM in the Youth Room as we explore what it means to love others, including giving and receiving forgiveness. We hope to see you there!

Save the date: December 6th for our last meeting of the year!

Mark your calendars!





Car Care Bag Assembly & Youth Game Night

Join us on November 21 from 4:30–5:30 PM to assemble car care bags for our unhoused neighbors. Our youth are invited to stay for a Lights Out Game Night from 5:30–8:00 PM, where dinner will be provided!

Youth Christmas Party

Ready to kick off Christmas break? Join us December 16 from 7:00–9:00 PM for a night of Christmas fun, good food, and time with friends!





3rd Annual Whirly Ball Outing

We're kicking off 2027 with our 3rd Annual Whirly Ball event! Join us for some friendly competition and a fun start to the new year. More details are coming soon!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – DECEMBER 12

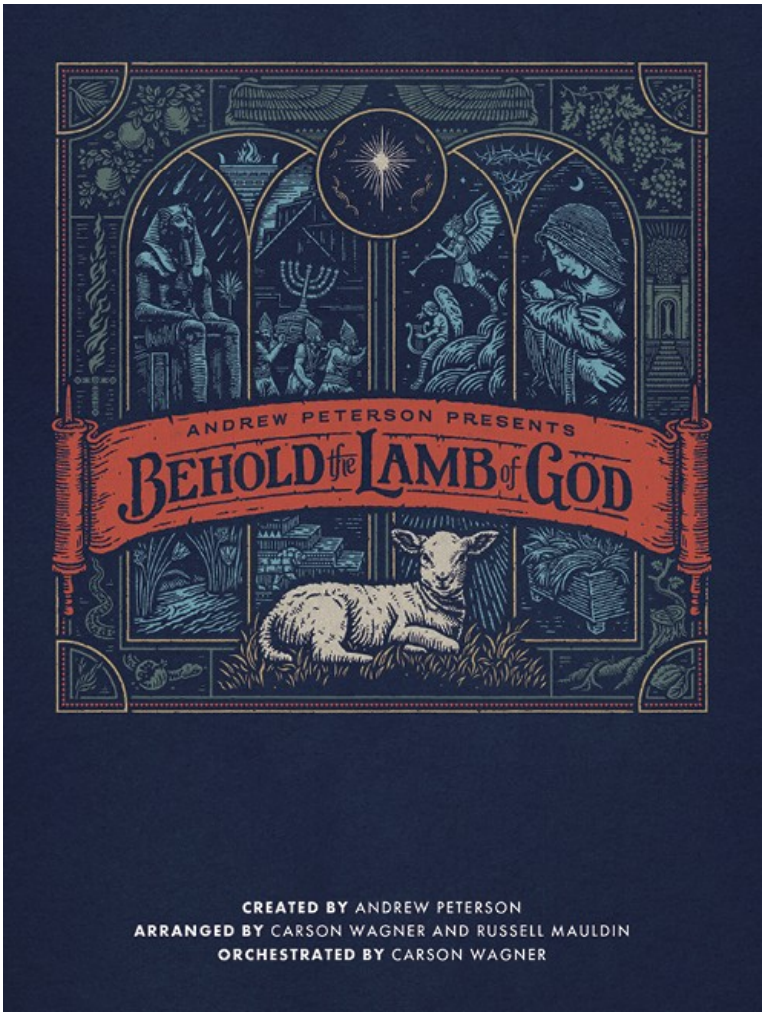
The North Creek Music Ministry is excited to once again invite the NCPC family, friends, and surrounding community to our Christmas Concert!

On Saturday, December 12, the North Creek Choir, joined by orchestra friends, will present Andrew Peterson's Behold the Lamb of God – a song cycle that tells the "true tall-tale" of Jesus' coming.

Andrew Peterson is a writer, artist, and songwriter most familiar to NCPC for his song "Is He Worthy?" Over 25 years ago, he created the Behold the Lamb of God concert. Peterson has said of the work, "When you really look at it, there's a narrative flow to the Bible. It's God telling us a story. That's the heart of Behold the Lamb of God." He also notes that even after singing these songs for years, "every year this story moves me, centers me, realigns my affections… we can sing it literally thousands of times and still feel a sense of wonder, gratitude, and awe."

This concert is a fantastic opportunity to share the wonder, gratitude, and awe of Christmas with your family, friends, and neighbors, as well as a wonderful time to introduce them to Christ. The concert begins **at 6:30 PM** (doors open at 6 PM). **It is free to the public**; an offering will be collected to help offset the cost of this and future concerts. We hope to see you there.

To learn more about Behold the Lamb of God, visit www.andrew-peterson.com/about-btlog.





After worship on November 15, please join us for Pie & Praise. Enjoy a selection of sweet and savory pies, uplifting music, and warm fellowship as we give thanks for God's many blessings. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you.



Renewal Ministries Northwest invites you to an Advent retreat. Two dates are offered; learn more on their website!

Good News to Kazakhstan: A Warmth That Means More

For Natalia, winter is more than a change in the weather.

Living with a disability and unable to work, Natalia depends on a pension of approximately $190 a month. On that limited income, meeting everyday needs can be difficult. When the cold of winter comes to Kazakhstan, something as basic as keeping her home warm becomes a serious concern.

This year, local church leaders brought firewood to Natalia's home.

Imagine the relief of seeing that supply of wood arrive—knowing that, for a while, there would be warmth in the house and one less worry to carry. But the gift was about more than firewood. It was a tangible reminder to Natalia that someone knows her circumstances, cares about her, and is willing to help.

Natalia's story is one small picture of what Good News to Kazakhstan is able to do through relationships with local churches. Along with practical help such as food, meals, household necessities, and assistance for elderly and disabled people, the ministry supports children and youth, churches, pastors, and ministry leaders. In each situation, the goal is the same: to care for people and share the love of Christ.

North Creek Presbyterian Church has an important part in making this ministry possible. Through the faithful prayers and generosity of its parishioners, North Creek continues to stand alongside our brothers and sisters in Kazakhstan as they serve their own communities. Your partnership reaches far beyond a financial gift—it becomes meals shared, families encouraged, churches strengthened, and people like Natalia reminded that they are not alone.

We give thanks to God for the privilege of serving together, and we give heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of North Creek Presbyterian Church for faithfully making this ministry possible.

Thank you for helping bring warmth, hope, and the love of Christ to Kazakhstan.

