



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

The Current

October 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
- Stewardship
- 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



(Your) Welcome to God's House!

The other day when I was leaving the church office I ran into two people coming into the main doors of our church. A father and his young daughter were coming in to do something he does to serve the Lord. What I remember is what the five-year-old said, with a charming sense of wonder as if this would be big news to me: "Do you know that the church is God's house?!" I enthusiastically agreed with her, and we all continued on our way.

Why wouldn't this truth about the church be big news? For a child, the innocent idea that God lives at church, that one might actually **meet** God somewhere in there, is a very intriguing concept – no doubt exhilarating, yet also a bit frightening. As we mature, we learn more about God's true nature: invisible, omnipresent, not "kept" in a church building. We recognize concepts such as "God's house" to be figures of speech that describe a church building's main function or focus.

And yet... **I think many people would expect to meet God or find God in a church building.** I hope they would, and I certainly hope they would at the church building I'm in right now on 164th Street in Mill Creek.

One of the ways people meet God in the church is through the witness of the people they meet there. They meet God through the kindness of God's people, a warm welcome, and a heart of Christlike service. They meet God as they see how the people in the church interact with each other, love for one another expressed through all kinds of relational weather. They meet God in the spiritual practices they explore with seasoned followers of Christ.

One of the practical strategies of our Project 50 mission goal is to significantly increase the number of connections between younger community residents and North Creek members AT OUR CHURCH BUILDING, otherwise known as "God's house." That's one thing our Play Café outreach is designed to do. Subsequent initiatives will expand the opportunities to include varied activities and other days of the week.

Our church building hasn't always been the center of the daily lives of our church members. Whereas some churches operate as the hub of all the activity in a small community, NCPC draws membership from many neighborhoods, some fairly "far-flung" on the map. Furthermore, for many years, the majority of NCPC members worked at their jobs during the weekday; that seems to have changed with the passage of time.

One of my pastoral goals is to shepherd this congregation into opportunities to represent God by being present at church to greet the people God brings here. It starts with the Play Café, but it's only the beginning. *How will YOU take your part in representing God in God's house as the Holy Spirit guides people here?*

Joyfully in Christ,
Pastor Kurt



Fall Sermon Series: **The Exodus Encounter**



For God’s enslaved people, the exit from Egypt into the wilderness was an opportunity to get to know the LORD who liberated them. Before entering the promised land, there was a decisive desert encounter between human beings and the living God. Moses had a special role in helping the Hebrews get to know the God of their salvation, needing to navigate this redemptive relationship himself. Join us as we follow the Old Testament texts of the Revised Common Lectionary and experience the Exodus encounter ourselves.

October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The Encounter: Life-giving Laws

“Bearing the Name”

October 11

Exodus 32:1-14

The Encounter: Golden Calf

“A Convenient Alternative”

October 18

Exodus 33:12-17; 40:1-5, 34-38

The Encounter: God’s Portable Presence

“On the Move”

October 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

The Encounter: Lasting Legacy

“Face to Face”



October marks the beginning of our annual stewardship focus, as we work our way toward Pledge Sunday on November 15. This year's stewardship 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 campaign mailings will begin later this month, so be on the lookout in your mailbox. Please consider joining us for our featured Stewardship Season events:

- **Dessert & Music Night** at NCPC (Saturday, October 24)
- **The WITNESS Practice** study from *Practicing the Way* (Sundays at 9 AM starting November 1)
- **Small Group Connection Campaign** (Sundays, November 8-22)
- **Pie & Praise Celebration** (following worship on Pledge Sunday, November 15)

Grow Deeper in Faith Through Discipleship Formation

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- Service: Through October 11 | 9 AM | Fireside Room

Continue exploring what it means to follow Jesus through a life of service.

Deacon Sunday Class: How to Serve Each Other by Being a Deacon

October 18 | 9 AM | Fellowship Hall

Join us for a special class exploring the calling of the Deacon ministry and what it means to serve and care for one another as the body of Christ.

Reformation Sunday Class

October 25 | 9 AM | Fellowship Hall

Pastor Kurt will present "*Refuge City: How Calvin's Geneva Welcomed the Word and Spread God's Word*"

Looking Ahead to November & December

Practicing the Way- Witness: November 1–22 | 9 AM | Fireside Room

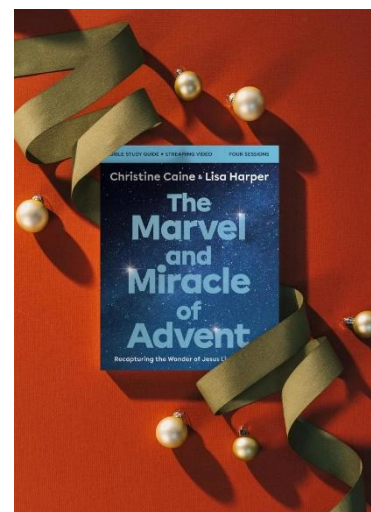
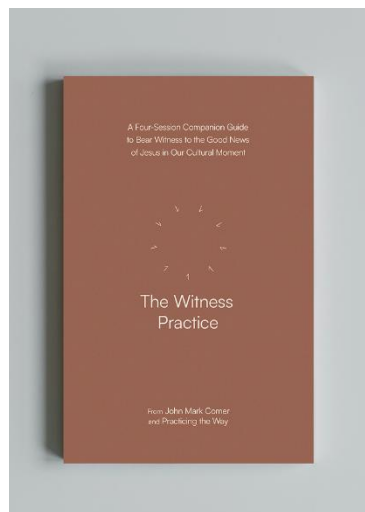
Discover what it means to live as a witness to Jesus in our everyday lives.

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.





YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

ALL STUDENTS

GRADES 6-12

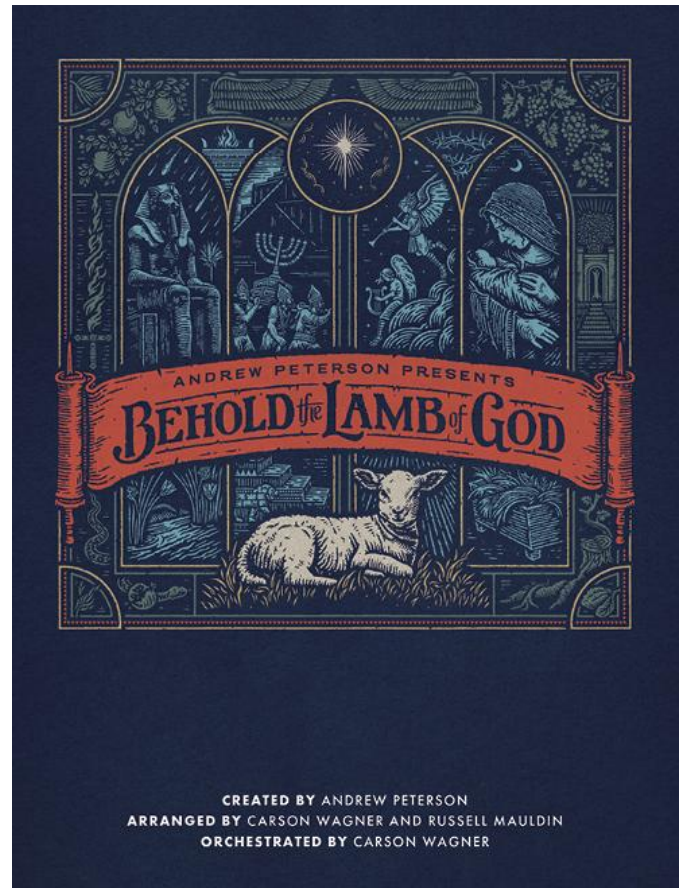
Every First Sunday of the Month
9:00-9:50 AM
Youth Room

Starting Sunday, October 4

Mark Your Calendars for Christmas Concert

NCPC will host our annual Christmas concert on December 12. The concert will feature the NCPC Choir and a chamber orchestra. This year we present Andrew Peterson's Behold the Lamb of God. Andrew Peterson is a Nashville-based songwriter, artist, and novelist, and brings many of those sensibilities into this program. NCPC is most familiar with Andrew as the songwriter of "Is He Worthy?". Behold the Lamb of God is a family-friendly, story-driven program that tells the "true tall-tale" of Christmas and the coming of the Christ. The evening concert is free to the public, and offering will be collected.

More details will come in the weeks ahead!



Meet NCPC's New Instrument

Thanks to a generous gift, NCPC has a new electric keyboard that debuted in worship this past month. The Roland FP-50x is a full-size 88-key digital piano with weighted keys and a rich bank of sounds. The onboard SuperNATURAL sound engine, developed by Roland for their higher-end instruments, responds to touch the way an acoustic piano does.

The upgraded instrument also communicates more cleanly with our sound system. Beyond piano, we can now color a song with grand and reed organs, strings, brass, and many other voices. Those sounds are already proving new interpretations for our musical expressions, which help us discover new layers to our worship and a new understanding of God expressed through music.

It has quickly become a favorite with the worship band. Thanks to Isaiah Esterline, who provided significant research in Roland products.



New Member Class: October 10, 9:30 AM–1:30 PM

Come learn about our Protestant Reformation heritage, the mission and life of North Creek Presbyterian Church (NCPCh), and what it means to become part of our church family. Pastor Kurt and our New Members Team will lead the seminar; register online at northcreekpres.org/ministries/membership.

Deacon Sunday

On October 18, we will celebrate Deacon Sunday and the ministry of compassion and service that is at the heart of our Deacon Ministry. From October 18 through November 1, Care Commitment Cards will be included in the Sunday bulletins. We invite you to take a moment to prayerfully reflect on how God may be calling you to serve and care for others in our church community. If you feel called to serve, please complete a card and place it in the offering basket or the narthex basket after worship. Together, we can share Christ's love through simple acts of care, compassion, and service.

CARING COMMITMENT CARDS		
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10		
☐ Provide transportation to church or an appointment ☐ Make a meal and deliver it ☐ Create a homemade card ☐ Provide tech support ☐ Serve as a Sunday morning Prayer Partner ☐ Assist with handyman or home maintenance tasks ☐ Bake cookies for a memorial service	☐ Visit people in their homes with a deacon ☐ Visit people in the hospital ☐ Make a caring phone call ☐ Write and mail a card ☐ Serve Communion to homebound individuals (must be Deacon or Elder) ☐ Join the Monday Prayer Team ☐ I already call or visit:	CONTACT INFORMATION Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____ Phone Number: _____ Comments or questions: _____
Name of recipient: _____		

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BECOMING A DEACON.



Play Café Is Off to a Wonderful Start!

There's a new sound filling the halls of North Creek: the joyful sounds of children playing and families connecting! On September 15, we launched Play Café, a new Project 50 ministry created to welcome families with young children into our church community. Across our first three gatherings, we've welcomed 30 different families, and many have already returned for more than one gathering! Families enjoy free play, pastries, and coffee while parents and caregivers have the opportunity to connect and build community.

Play Café is a natural extension of our mission to Grow Deep, Extend Love, and Share Hope. We are deeply grateful for the volunteers who faithfully give their time, as well as the vision, prayers, and stewardship of our church leaders and elders who helped bring this ministry to life. As Play Café continues to grow, we invite you to help spread the word by sharing our promotions with a friend, neighbor, or family in your community. Play Café meets Tuesdays from 10 AM–1 PM, and we'd love to welcome you and your little ones!

Music Night

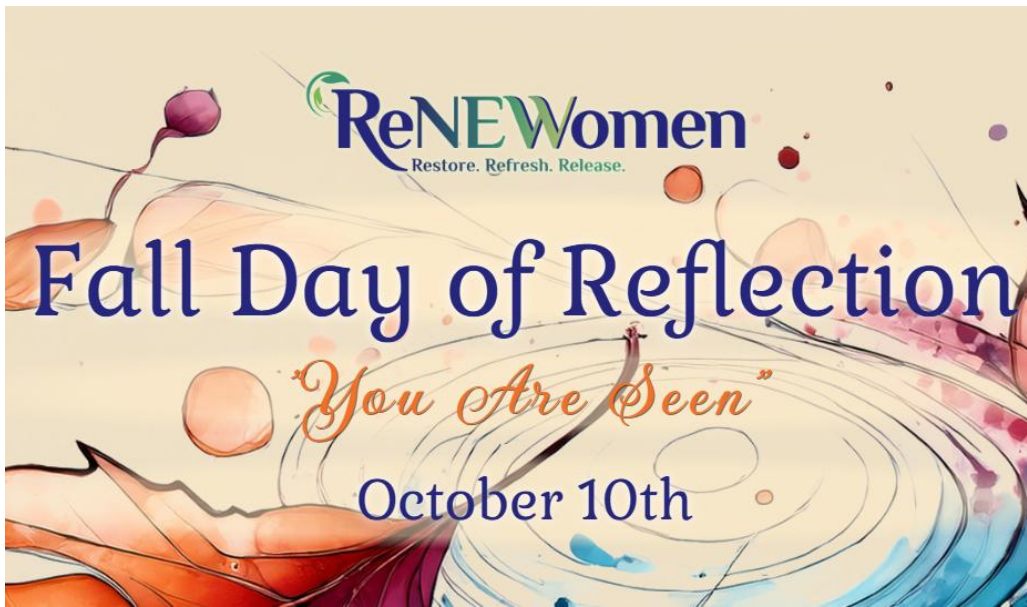
You are invited to a special evening of live music, delicious desserts, and fellowship at NCPCh.

Enjoy vocal performances by Jeffrey Brewer, featuring Easy Listening, Country, Musical Theatre, Southern Gospel, and Traditional Gospel.

Saturday, October 24 from 6:30–8:00 PM

This is a free event, but registration on our [website](#) is requested. Donations are welcome and will go directly to Jeff.





Renewal Ministries Northwest invites you to a Fall Day of Reflection, a gathering created especially for women who are longing to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with God. Inspired by Psalm 46:5, *"God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day,"* this special day will offer time for worship, prayer, encouraging messages, and meaningful fellowship with sisters in Christ. Come step away from the noise and demands of everyday life and allow your soul to be nourished, restored, and renewed in God's presence. Join us Saturday, October 10, from 9:30 AM–2:30 PM at NCPC. The cost is \$59 with lunch or \$49 if you bring your own lunch, with snacks provided. Learn more about her events on their [website](#).

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

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

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**

LIFE LINE SCREENING®
The Power of Prevention

A woman with grey hair, wearing a green button-down shirt, is smiling and making a heart shape with her hands. She is positioned in front of a large, stylized white graphic of a person with arms raised, set against a blue and yellow background.

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at NCPC on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please see below to get more

info about how you can sign up. There is no time like the present to act!

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001
- Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](#)
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607