



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

The Current

September 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
- Summer BBQ
- Discipleship Formation
- & Much 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

Rev. Chris Chang, Associate Pastor
Chris@northcreekpres.org

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

Administrative Staff

Kcristell Peña, Administrative Manager
Church@northcreekpres.org

Kris Green, Bookkeeper
Finance@northcreekpres.org

Remote Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday, 1:30 pm—4:30 pm

Support Staff

James ‘Jim’ Kwon, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Facilities@northcreekpres.org

Kate West, Media Supervisor
Media@northcreekpres.org

Johnson Pham, Custodian
Facilities@northcreekpres.org



Praying for God's Kingdom

One of the highlights of our worship services this summer has been the drama team that has acted out the story of Jonah as it is read aloud. What a joy it is to see this Biblical text come alive before our very eyes! Many thanks to drama team members and all the worshippers who support them with attention and appreciation.

Another highlight has been participatory prayer, with many people sharing aloud needs they are aware of that we can lift up to the Lord together. We often have more of an opportunity to do this in the more relaxed and informal summer season, and I'm glad we've leaned into it. One of the hallmarks of a community of Christian faith is how people pray for one another and with one another for the needs of the world. I'm so grateful for your participation in those times of prayer, whether speaking aloud or silently. After I returned from a few weeks of vacation, I dropped in on our Monday morning prayer group, and I can testify that it is still going strong on Zoom. Consider attending, whether week-to-week or a one-time check-in. Lift this ministry up in your own times of prayer, asking God to strengthen and encourage our prayer warriors.

One thing Jesus taught us to pray is from a famous line in the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. **Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**" What does it look like and sound like when we pray for God's Kingdom? What exactly do we ask for? Do we have a particular picture in mind of what it looks like when God's will is done? Noted Christian philosopher and teacher Dallas Willard offers this definition of the Kingdom of God in his book *The Scandal of the Kingdom*:

When we speak of the kingdom of God, we are speaking of a kingdom which works more like a family or a well-functioning neighborhood, where people really do love one another and care for each other. This kingdom is the range of God's effective will – or simply God acting in this world – where what he wants done is done. Jesus' teaching showed us that the kingdom of God is not a thing of times and places; it is a thing of the heart. It is a life that is lived in vital connection with God himself. (p. 14)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if God would paint a picture of what His kingdom looks like? In a way, that's what Jesus did when he told the stories we have come to know as the parables of the kingdom. With these stories – often prefaced by the phrase "the kingdom of heaven is like" – Jesus paints a mental picture of what life looks like when it expresses God's will. This picture is often surprising, and sometimes truly revolutionary. As we explore Jesus' parables in worship this fall, let's consider how they might give us fresh visions of who to pray for and what to pray for, all to the glory of God!

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Kurt



Hello North Creek Presbyterian Church,

It's hard to believe that it has already been nearly a year since I joined the pastoral staff. As I reflect, I am deeply grateful for the many moments of connection through calls, conversations, and fellowship. It has been such a gift to witness the ways God has been faithfully at work in and through the body of Christ.

Some of the highlights of this past year have included walking alongside those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, the challenges of chronic pain, or the pain of broken relationships. It has also been a joy to support our Family Ministries through prayer and presence, and to see my own family grow in relationship with others here. I have been both humbled and blessed to see how God has used the preaching and teaching of His Word to encourage and strengthen His people.

These experiences have brought clarity as I discern the next steps of my calling. After much prayer, I have decided to continue serving at North Creek in a more limited capacity, focusing primarily on pastoral care. At the same time, I am excited to share that I will be dedicating most of my time and energy to my counseling practice at New Ground Counseling. New Ground partners with churches to provide therapy that integrates faith. If you—or someone you know—are interested in seeking mental health support, or would like to work with me personally, you can learn more at newgroundcounseling.com.

I would be grateful for your prayers and support during this season of transition. I am especially thankful to Pastor Kurt, the staff, and the session for giving me the opportunity to serve and continue partnering with this wonderful community.

With gratitude,

Pastor Chris Chang



When we hired Rev. Chris Chang as our temporary half-time Associate Pastor last year, we knew he was in the process of preparing to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. We hoped that his training and experience in counseling would deepen the level of pastoral care in our congregation, and that has certainly happened! Many have been blessed by Pastor Chris' counsel and care, along with his valuable contributions to our Family Ministry. As he steps into his full-time career as a counselor, we are grateful that he will continue to be affiliated with North Creek in providing pastoral care for a modest yet helpful five hours per week, mostly as a fill-in for me when I am unavailable to respond to needs. As Chris makes this transition, the half-time position he has occupied will become vacant; the session has authorized a team to begin searching for a new Associate Pastor. Please join me in expressions of appreciation for Pastor Chris and prayers for God to bless him in his counseling ministry. Also be in prayer for the new pastoral search process as we trust the leading of the Holy Spirit.

With gratitude,

Pastor Kurt



Living the Parables:

Invited by Jesus into the Revolutionary Reality of God's Reign

What does life look like in God's Kingdom, where "God's will is done, on earth, as it is in heaven?" We look to the parables Jesus told, stories that have the potential to turn our assumptions upside down and empower us to live new lives in Christ.

September 7

Cultivating Growth: The Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

September 14

Powerful Potential: The Seed

Mark 4:26-34

September 21

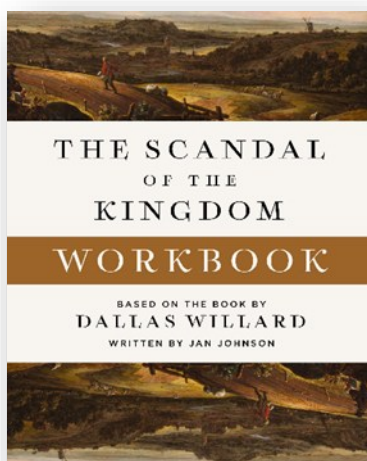
True Value: The Treasure

Matthew 13:44-46; Luke 14:15-24

September 28

Tangled Together: The Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43



INTERESTED IN GOING DEEPER?

Small Groups and Individuals are invited to explore the parables as we go with the help of a workbook based on Dallas Willard's ***The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the Parables of Jesus Revolutionize Life with God*** (Zondervan, 2024).

[Order from Amazon](#)



Back-to-School BBQ

Family Community Outreach

Saturday, September 6, 4-6 PM

NCPC Front Parking Lot & Facility

Make your plans to join us at our second annual Back-to-School BBQ for families in our congregation and community. This early evening of food and fun is one of many ways we “share Christ’s hope” by making Him known near and far. The event gives us the opportunity to reach out to our neighbors, bless them with a joyful celebration, warmly welcome them, get to know some of them, and offer an invitation to join us learning and living the way of Jesus.

Volunteer!

There are several ways to serve, from food service to greeting to hosting children’s activity stations. Thank you to the many who have already signed up to help. If you haven’t done so yet, here’s how. Contact Diana Hunt via email at hdhunt2@gmail.com

Invite Neighbor Families!

Feel free to spread the word to families you know. We ask that all who plan on attending the meal sign up in advance by September 3rd by going to this link online: northcreekpres.org/bbq.

Choir Is Back!

Choir rehearsals have restarted, but it is not too late to join for the 2025-2026 season. The NCPC Choir provides music in Sunday worship and additional services and concerts throughout the year. The choir rehearses every Wednesday evening from 7:30-9:00PM in the Music Room and returns to regular worship on September 7.

A VIEW FROM THE (CHOIR) LOFT:



I have been in the NCPC choir since September of 2023. I joined for several reasons but have received more than I even hoped for.

My primary way of engaging in worship is through music. I pray, I read the Word, I serve others, but music lets me just get caught up in God's amazing presence. That is why I MUST sing! But I don't always sing alone. For anyone who loves music, being a part of the choir is a great way to serve God and be encouraged at the same time.

In choir rehearsal, we go over the technical aspects of a piece of music, as expected, because we want to get that right. Brian and Kristi teach us the notes and the rhythms, the dynamics (soft to loud), and the tempos that we need to produce. But Brian also leads us into understanding the text and expressing that meaning as we sing. We also serve as a small group, sharing laughter as well as concerns, celebrating birthdays and praying for one another. And we have a lesson each week that relates to music being a way to invite everyone into worship each Sunday. When we sing, it's not a performance or a show; it's our worship offering, made available for the congregation to share. And to me, it is the most joyful part of every service.

We welcome you to come join us!

- Louise Ashburn

NCPC's choir is a non-audition choir open to singers of all levels of experience and all voice parts. If you want to know more about NCPC's Music Ministry, please email Brian Armes, Worship and Music Director at brian@northcreekpres.org or fill out the information form on the Music Ministry website.

Discipleship Formation

Continue the Journey:

Know the Theologians, Part 2

Join us on September 7th at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for the second part of our "Know the Theologians" series. This video course features Professors Jennifer and David McNutt from Wheaton College as we explore key figures in church history and their impact on today's faith.

In Part 2, we'll focus on the Reformation and modern thinkers, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, The Wesley Brothers, Karl Barth, and Gustavo Gutiérrez. Together, we'll reflect on their lasting significance for believers today and the ways their ideas continue to shape the church. [\[Sign up here!\]](#)

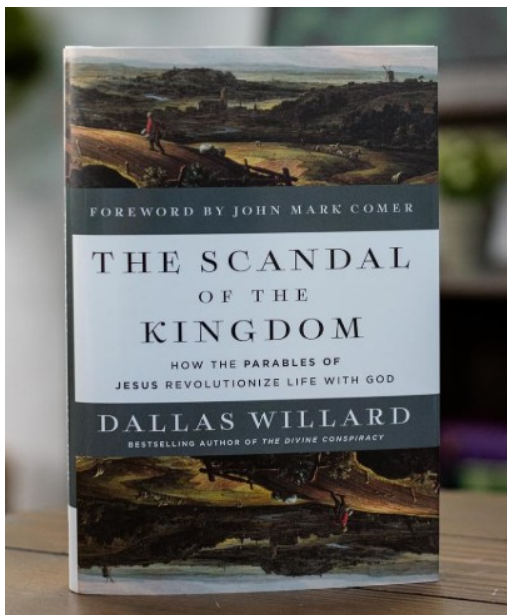


Join a Small Group!

Now is the perfect time to join a small group at North Creek Presbyterian Church! We're studying ***The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the Parables of Jesus Revolutionize Life with God***, exploring how Jesus' parables transform our lives today.

Small groups are a great way to connect, grow, and build community. Share experiences, ask questions, and deepen your faith alongside others. Find the group closest to you! For more information or to sign up, contact the [church office](#).

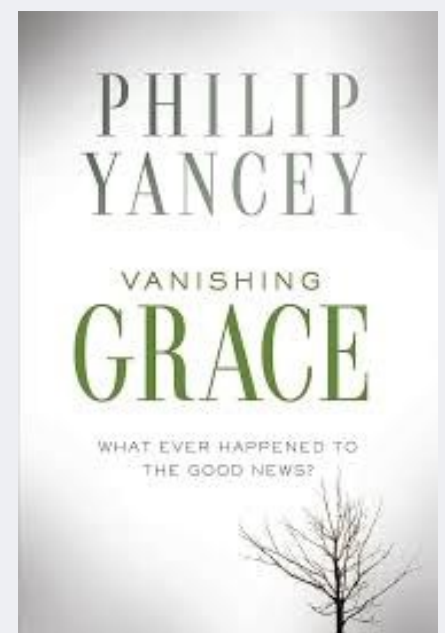
Discover community, explore God's Word, and see how Jesus' teachings come alive in your life!



Women's Bible Study

Starting September 9th through October 14th, the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will read Philip Yancey's thought-provoking series, *Vanishing Grace: Whatever Happened to the Good News?* This booklet and video series will explore how we can effectively share and embody God's grace in our lives. You are warmly invited to join us for any or all of the following sessions:

- Sept 9: Introduction to God's grace (program materials will be distributed after class)
- Sept 16: The Problem: Societal assessment
- Sept 23: What does Grace look like?
- Sept 30: Grace expressed: servants, artists and pilgrims
- Oct 7: Grace and the Good News
- Oct 14: Light on a hill – Grace shines forth



Celebrating the Lives of Our Beloved Saints

This September, North Creek will celebrate the lives of three cherished members of our church family: Folky Tegman, Alta Johnson, and Tom Heestand.

Their faith, love, and dedication have left a lasting mark on our community, and we honor their memory with gratitude and affection.

We invite all who knew them to join us in celebrating their lives:

Folky Tegman

North Creek Presbyterian Church, Mill Creek, WA
Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 11:00 AM

Alta Johnson

Quail Park, Lynnwood, WA
Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM

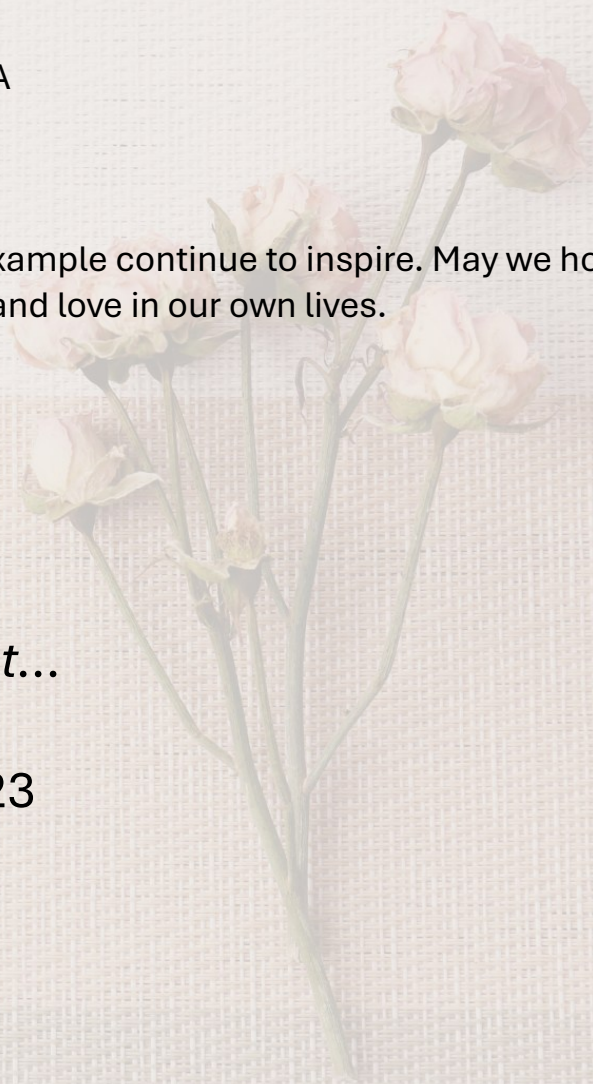
Tom Heestand

North Creek Presbyterian Church, Mill Creek, WA
Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 2:00 PM

Though they are no longer with us, their spirit and example continue to inspire. May we honor their lives by carrying forward their faith, kindness, and love in our own lives.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant...
enter into the joy of your master."*

– Matthew 25:23





Bringing persons with disAbilities and the community at large together into relationship

Dinner of Champions

25th Anniversary of Eagle Wings disAbility Ministries

September 7th at 6 PM

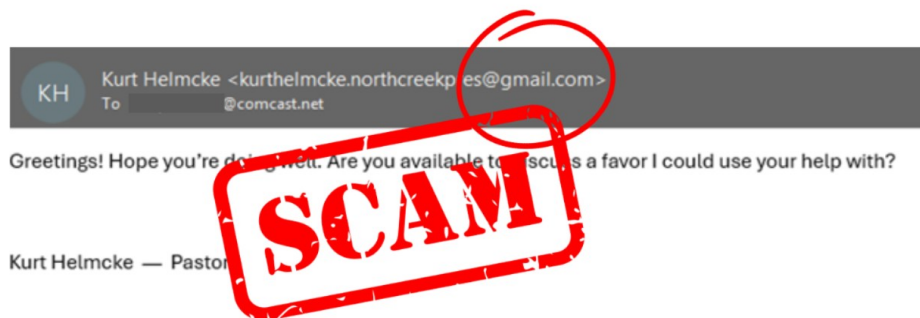
Get ready for an evening of celebration and generosity!
Join us to celebrate 25 years of God's faithfulness.

[Purchase tickets here](#)



Pirate's Bash Volunteers Needed!

Please consider signing up to volunteer for the annual Pirate Bash Event on Saturday, September 20, from 4-6 pm. This event is sponsored by Eagle Wings, serving people of different abilities. There are many volunteer opportunities. To learn more or volunteer, email Reneé Dittman at Renee_dittman@frontier.com. For more information on Eagle Wings or to donate to their great work, visit their website: eaglewingsministries.org



Security Notice: Protecting Against Phishing and Scam Emails

In recent years, North Creek Presbyterian Church has, unfortunately, been the target of phishing and scam attempts. This began more than five years ago when a church directory was compromised, and scammers obtained email addresses of members and friends of the church.

These individuals are aware that Pastor Kurt is our pastor and have been creating fraudulent email accounts that appear to come from him, for example, addresses such as **Kurthelmcke.northcreekpres@gmail.com**. While these emails may look convincing, they are not from Pastor Kurt.

The most common scheme involves requests for gift cards or money. Please be assured that Pastor Kurt will never ask for such contributions by email. Any legitimate financial needs are met through official church channels by our leaders and staff, and benevolence assistance is approved by our Elders and Deacon Ministry, with funds issued directly through our bookkeeper's office.

What to Do If You Have Fallen Victim to a Scam

If you believe you may have responded to a fraudulent email or shared funds with a scammer, take the following steps immediately:

- **Stop communication.** Do not reply to the scammer or provide any further information.
- **Report the scam to authorities and local law enforcement.**
 - Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov.
 - Notify your state consumer protection office, if applicable.
- **Notify your bank or card provider.** If you sent money, contact your financial institution right away to see if the transaction can be reversed or accounts secured.
- **Inform the church office.** Let us know if you received or responded to a fraudulent email so we can alert others in the church community.

How You Can Protect Yourself

To guard against scams and strengthen your personal email security, here are a few important steps:

- **Verify the sender.** All official church communication comes from our domain: @northcreekpres.org. Emails from Gmail or other public providers should be treated with caution.
- **Look for unusual requests.** Be skeptical of urgent appeals for money, gift cards, or confidential information.
- **Do not click on suspicious links or attachments.** If something feels "off," it probably is.
- **Confirm directly.** When in doubt, call the church office to verify whether a request is legitimate.
- **Improve your security.** Use strong, unique passwords for your accounts and enable two-factor authentication whenever possible.
- **Report and delete.** Mark suspicious messages as spam or phishing in your email program, then delete them.

By staying alert and informed, you can help protect yourself and our church family from these scams. Thank you for taking steps to safeguard your information and for helping us maintain a safe and trustworthy community of communication.