

CURRENT

March 2018



*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves
do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*
Psalm 1:3

March Sermon Series

Prequel to the Resurrection

- **March 4** **Sacrifice: The Depth of God's Love**
- **March 11** **Prophecy: Hard Truth Revealed**
- **March 18** **Exile: Our Ache for Home**
- **March 25** **Palm Sunday / Youth Sunday**

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Growing through Brokenness

About this time of year, many of us start to long for a new season of warmer temperatures and extended daylight. As I look out into the waning cold of winter through the window of my study, I'm fascinated by a foretaste of spring growth sitting right there on the sill. During our Family Lent Event last month, we were invited to paint a small clay pot, fill it with soil, and plant wheat seeds. Well, the seeds I planted have sprouted and continue to grow. Growth is happening. But for that growth to happen, everything needed to change.

Author Ann Voskamp tells this story:

"My dad had told me this once. For a seed to come fully into its own, it must become wholly undone. The shell must break open, he'd said, it's insides must come out, and everything – everything – must change. If you didn't understand what growth looks like, you might mistake it for complete destruction."

We may want personal or spiritual growth to come easy, but that's not the way it works with seeds. Growth can look and feel like complete destruction. For us, growth often comes through our experience of brokenness. Ann poetically describes this process of productive brokenness in relation to wheat:

*The seed breaks to give us the wheat
The soil breaks to give us the crop
The sky breaks to give us the rain
The wheat breaks to give us the bread
The bread breaks to give us the feast*

The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to slow down and remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life on the cross for our sins, and to appreciate again the gift of new life that we have because of his resurrection. Jesus uses this image of the death of a seed to describe his death that will bring life:

"Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'"
John 12:23-25

Jesus came to bring us life, his Life. And he knew he needed to die to multiply that life to many, to bring life to you and me and every friend and stranger we meet today. We are the many seeds that Jesus' death produced. And like Jesus, we are seeds who are called to offer our lives to his purposes of growth and his mission of bringing true, eternal life to the people he loves. Like Jesus, we will experience brokenness for the sake of bringing life to others, as we take up our own cross and follow in his footsteps. There are times when we will feel broken; changes will be required, and they will be hard. But in the soil of new life in Christ, this is where the miracle begins. Let's grow!

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Kurt



Spring Spiritual Formation Class & Youth Mission Update

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Spring Spiritual Formation Class

The Cost of Discipleship

Based on the 20th Century classic of the same title, written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What does it mean to truly follow Christ?

When: Sundays at 11am, April 8 – May 13

Where: Youth Room

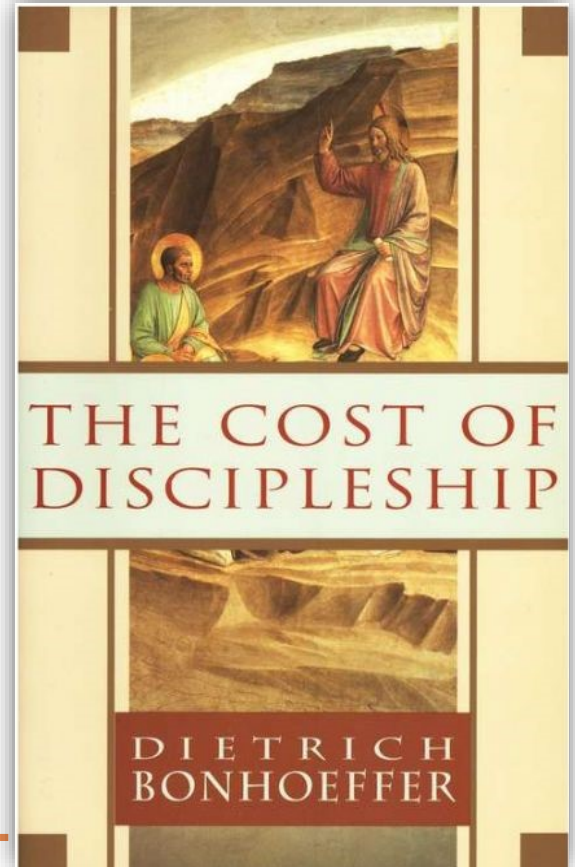
Teaching Team: Pastor Kurt, Eric Jatón, Kate Jatón, Sean Lian, Don Lichty, & Rae Stephenson

Adults & Youth Together!

Two tracks:

1. INTRO: 80-page Summary Guide
2. INDEPTH: 300-page Original Work

Online registration & book sales open in mid-March



Youth Mission Update



Thank you to everyone who supported our team's most recent fundraiser with the purchase of a pizza or a donation. Our Papa Sean's Pizza sale was a big success. Our goal was to sell 80 pizzas and we sold an astonishing 140 pizzas! With the combination of sales and donations, after expenses we raised \$2351.13! So, dare I say we made a lot of 'dough'. There is still a long way to go in our fundraising but I am pleased to share that we are on track to meet our goal of raising \$10,000 to send our youth mission team to Houston this summer and we are grateful for the support. Our next fundraiser will be announced after Easter. Stay tuned.

North Creek on Facebook

In 2018 we are making a renewed effort to be accessible to our members and the public in this way and we hope to be able to join you throughout the week on your Facebook newsfeeds.

Our presence on Facebook takes two forms: a group for members of the congregation to connect with one another and a page aimed at members both of the church and of the community.

If you are a member of the church family but not yet of our congregation's Facebook group, feel free to request an invitation to join and our staff and active members will do our best to include you as quickly as possible.

On our public-facing page, we are working to provide content that both provides a good sense of life at North Creek and offers news and connection to those who already attend.

If you are a social media person, we invite you to like or follow our public page as one more way to stay tuned in to the life of the church.

Our youth, children's and nursery ministries also host separate pages aimed at participants and parents.

[Like us on Facebook](#)



Prayer Ministry

Gamblers who would try to increase their chances for success might take action to "stack the deck" to favor a certain outcome. Five NCPC

couples who appeared in the video vignettes as part of the sermon on Sunday January 26 were identified as having long and successful marriages. All the couples related that prayer was important to their relationship. Three couples are regular participants in the NCPC Prayer Group. Were the couples all selected at random from the congregation? Is success in marriage and regular prayer statistically significant? Is there a cause and result relationship between regular prayer and success in marriage? Was "the deck" stacked? Is it really true that couples who pray together stay together? Want to improve your odds? What would/ could/ should you do?

-Prayer Ministry

North Creek is Hiring a Choir Director

We are looking for an enthusiastic , knowledgeable choir director to begin in June 2018 after the retirement of our beloved Hal Hunt. **[See Job Description Here!](#)** Please send resume and cover letter to northcreekinfo@gmail.com

2018 North Creek Men's Retreat

Mark your calendars and save the Date- April 20 thru 22. We're heading to Tall Timber this year for more exciting fun. Look for additional information from the Men's Ministry Team soon.



Cultivating Faith
RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES FOR
NOURISHING YOUR CHILD'S INNER LIFE

A parenting Seminar with
Heather Ingersoll, PhD

- **When:** Sunday, March 11, 2-4 PM
- **Where:** North Creek Presbyterian Church
- **Who's Invited:** Parents with children of any age
- **Is there childcare:** Yes but you must register by Sunday March 4th to take advantage
- **How Do I Register:** Register on the North Creek Presbyterian Church website on the Children's Page
- **Why Should I come:** To learn about guiding your children through a culture that tells them they aren't enough

The world we live in is constantly changing. There are new ideas, new trends, new fashions, and more every day. As we age and grow older we learn to not fall for every new theory, follow every new leader with a billion-dollar idea, and adhere to every fashion. But how do we impart that wisdom and teach it to our children. Especially when our culture tells our kids that they need to look better, be better, eat tide pods, and follow every new trend to be good enough and to fit in. The answer to that begins with our faith and looking at what God says about who we are and what our worth and value is. Dr Heather Ingersoll, a former children's director at North Creek Presbyterian is coming to help us wrestle with that very issue. Cultivating Faith is a parenting seminar that deals with this topic and parents of children of any age are invited to come and learn about how we can talk with our children about their identity, self-worth, and more. We hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,
Nathan Wagner
Children's Ministry Director.



Hope for Haiti



Benefit Concert

Sunday, March 18th, 2018 at 6:00 PM

A benefit concert for the
Friends of Bertrand,
Haiti featuring:



MOSAIC
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

North Creek Presbyterian Church
621 164th Street SE; Mill Creek, WA 98012
www.northcreekpres.org

Benefit Concert for Haiti Construction: NCPC, March 18th, 6:00 PM

Please mark your calendars to attend the Mosaic Arts Northwest Choir and Orchestra Concert. This renown choir and orchestra will perform free at North Creek Presbyterian Church, March 18th at 6:00 PM.

Mosaic Arts Northwest Choir and Orchestra is 80 member strong formed by members of 28 churches and 10 denominations from throughout Western Washington.



Since their formation the group has performed in churches and concert halls around the Pacific Northwest and as far away as Leon, Spain.



Kitchen to be replaced by fundraiser

All proceeds (a free-will offering) will benefit the people of Bertrand, Haiti (North Creek's sister-church in Haiti) by funding the construction of a much needed Kitchen



Pastor David stirs rice & beans in current kitchen

Come and enjoy this exceptional concert, be inspired by the presentation of the Word of God through art, and help fund a badly needed kitchen building in the impoverished community of Bertrand, Haiti.

Thank You and hope to see you at the concert



Comfort by
candlelight
an evening with **kathy troccoli**

Times are dark.
Even believers are weary
She will sing-she will share
Encouragement, Hope, Truth and Love

Saturday, May 5, 2018 • 7 p.m.
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

North Creek Presbyterian Church
621 164th St SE | Mill Creek, WA 98012
(425) 743-2386

iTickets.com/KathyTroccoli

Comfort by Candlelight Concert

Don't miss this opportunity to hear the multifaceted Christian artist, Kathy Troccoli, perform at North Creek Presbyterian Church on May 5, 2018. Currently touring the country with her "Comfort by Candlelight" evening, Kathy sings and shares her personal story with the audience, adding just the right dose of humor. Having enjoyed three decades of success, both in Christian music and in the mainstream arena, she is just as comfortable singing her heart out in a stadium alongside Billy Graham as she is belting out a big band tune or crooning a jazz standard at the Metropolitan Room in New York City. Among her hits are "Everything Changes" and "I Can Hear Music" (recorded with the iconic Beach Boys).

Get your tickets by April 1!

There is no cost for this concert, but tickets are required. To get your complimentary tickets, email Trish at

renewalministries@live.com, or go to iTickets.com.