

NEW DENVER MONTHLY

The official newsletter of New Denver Church

Two Chairs

BY BRIAN DAVIS

Back in 2021 I was given the incredible opportunity to participate in The Praxis, a nine-month spiritual formation cohort for pastors and ministry leaders. And it couldn't have come at a better time. After 24 years in ministry, filled with ups and downs (mostly downs), I was feeling spiritually exhausted. I didn't exactly know what to expect when I set out on that journey, but I knew I needed something.

Our first gathering was an overnight retreat down in the Black Forest, and after introducing ourselves we participated in an exercise that set the tone for my experience in The Praxis and sent me down a very unexpected path. One of our leaders placed two chairs at the front of the room and asked for folks to come up and arrange the chairs in such a way that represented how we felt we were relating with God at the present moment—were you sitting face to face with God, back to back, across the room? Without thinking too much about it, I decided to show a room full of strangers where I thought I was in my relationship with God. I stepped forward, faced one of the chairs toward my new friends, took the other chair and placed it on the balcony just outside our meeting space, and said, "Hey everyone. I'd like to introduce you to Jesus. I really hope you all get along. He's got some great things to say. But, I don't feel like he wants anything to do with me right now, so I'll be out there on the balcony. Let me know when you're done and I'll come back and lead us in a closing song."

As I spoke, I was caught by surprise as I choked on the words and tears filled my eyes. I knew that I wasn't feeling all that close to God, despite spending most of my adult life introducing rooms full of people to God through song, but it wasn't until I heard myself say the words "I really don't feel like he wants anything to do with me right now" that I was faced with just how far away I felt. What I would learn over the next nine months, and subsequently over the next four years, was that God really does want to be close to me, God really does want something to do with me, and that God was never really far away at all.



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Looking Ahead:

NOV 2 - NOV 30 REGISTER FOR NDC KIDS ON SUNDAYS

REGISTERING IN ADVANCE IS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL FOR OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS
[REGISTER HERE](#)

NOV 2 & 16 PRAYER DOWNSTAIRS

NOV 6 CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

6 - 8 PM AT NDC - ALL WRITERS WELCOME

NOV 7 & NOV 21 MOMCO MEET-UP AT NDC - A COMMUNITY OF MOMS FOR ALL MOMS

9:30 - 11:30 AM - [REGISTER HERE](#)

NOV 7 WOMEN, WORK, & CALLING ONE-DAY EVENT IN DENVER

FOR WOMEN LOOKING FOR TOOLS AND INSPIRATION TO INTEGRATE THEIR FAITH AND WORK
[REGISTER HERE](#) - REGISTRATION CLOSING TUESDAY, NOV 4

NOV 9 NDC STUDENTS FRIENDSGIVING (STUDENTS 6TH GRADE AND OLDER)

NOV 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC 1 ADVENT D-GROUP: BREAD IS HOME

5:30 - 8 PM AT NDC. DETAILS AND REGISTRATION [HERE](#).

DEC 6 JOSHUA STATION CHRISTMAS STORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

[DONATE OR VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

DEC 6 NDC'S VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY 6 - 8 PM

FOR NDC'S 2025 VOLUNTEERS

DEC 21 THE DARKEST NIGHT - 7 PM AT NDC

AN INTEGRAL GATHERING IN ADVENT FOR ALL WHO GROAN AND WAIT AND LONG FOR CHRIST

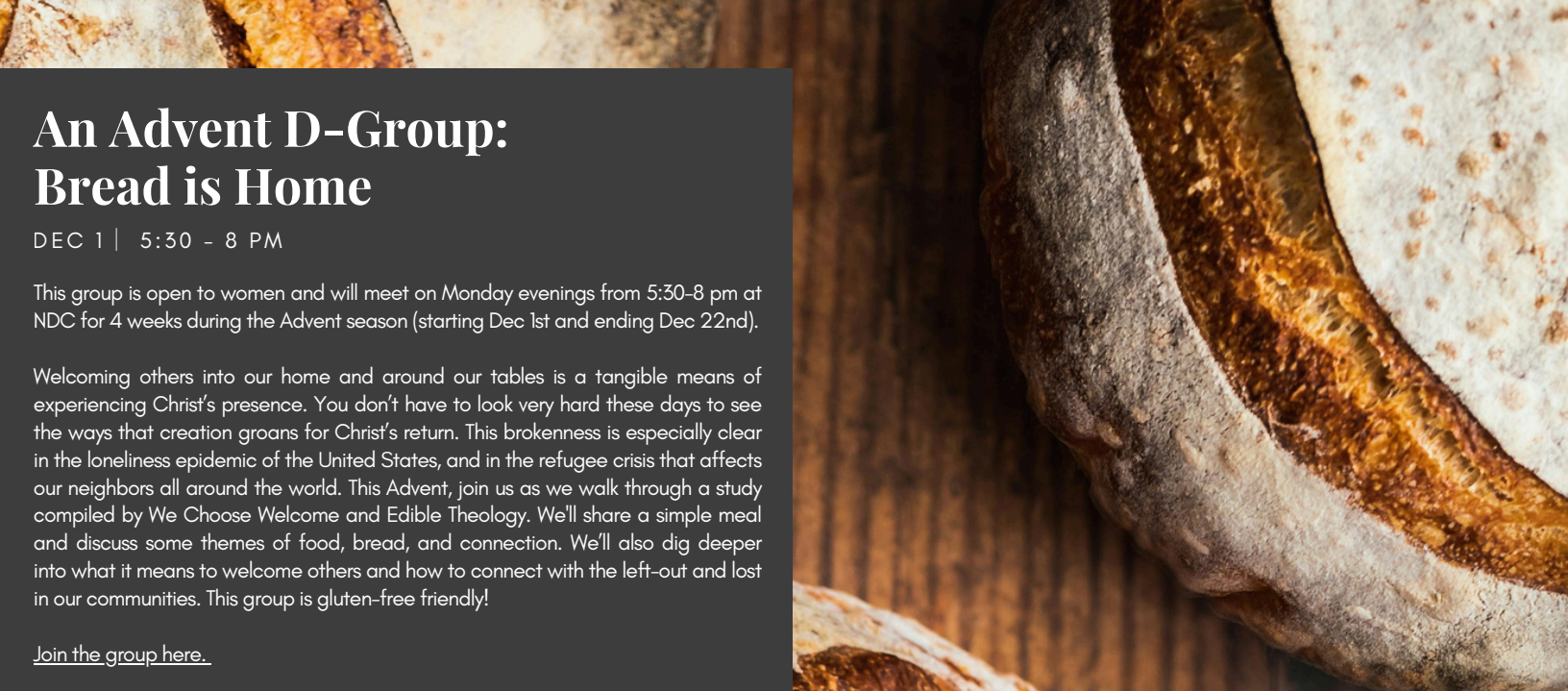
DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

3:30 AND 5 PM

DEC 28 NO WORSHIP SERVICES

JAN 23 - 25 - MARRIAGE RETREAT - ALL FULL

[REGISTER FOR THE WAITLIST HERE](#) - SIGNING UP FOR THE WAITLIST DOES HELP US PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS



An Advent D-Group: Bread is Home

DEC 1 | 5:30 - 8 PM

This group is open to women and will meet on Monday evenings from 5:30-8 pm at NDC for 4 weeks during the Advent season (starting Dec 1st and ending Dec 22nd).

Welcoming others into our home and around our tables is a tangible means of experiencing Christ's presence. You don't have to look very hard these days to see the ways that creation groans for Christ's return. This brokenness is especially clear in the loneliness epidemic of the United States, and in the refugee crisis that affects our neighbors all around the world. This Advent, join us as we walk through a study compiled by We Choose Welcome and Edible Theology. We'll share a simple meal and discuss some themes of food, bread, and connection. We'll also dig deeper into what it means to welcome others and how to connect with the left-out and lost in our communities. This group is gluten-free friendly!

[Join the group here.](#)



Joshua Station's Christmas Store

DEC 6

Mile High Ministries' Christmas Store invites Joshua Station families to shop for their children's gifts at just \$5 each, preserving the joy and dignity of giving. You can help by donating funds or by purchasing gifts from the preferred list and delivering them unwrapped by December 1. Alternatively, you can support us by volunteering on the day of the event, which is scheduled for December 6.

Ways to support the Christmas Store:

- [Volunteer on Dec 6](#) - Spots fill up quickly. Read the FAQs about volunteering [here](#).
- Shop the [Amazon wish list](#).
- [Donate](#) straight to the Christmas Store.



Advent 2025

NOV 30

In the early church, Advent originated as a season independent of Christmas. It was a time during the darkness of winter when Christians lamented the darkness of their lives and the world around them, and they longed for Jesus to return and make everything right again. The word Advent means "coming" and referred to the anticipation of Christ's return.

Historically, Advent is the beginning of the church calendar year. This year, Advent begins Sunday, November 30th and goes through Christmas Eve. Themes of Advent include longing, waiting, expectation, and hope.

Join us for the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

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Part of my participation in the cohort was a monthly meeting with a Spiritual Director, a practice that I had only heard mentioned by folks who seemed super spiritual. As it turns out, it is a practice that dates back to the 3rd century when the Desert Fathers and Mothers offered guidance to spiritual pilgrims who were seeking wisdom, counsel, and a deeper devotion to Christ. The more I walked with my director, the more I wanted to learn about this practice, and the more I started to see a lot of crossover between Spiritual Direction and what I do in leading worship. In the fall of 2023, I enrolled in a certificate program at Denver Seminary to become a certified Spiritual Director myself, with the desire to offer the same companionship on this journey of faith that my director and the leaders of The Praxis did for me.

Now, I get it—Spiritual Direction might sound a little “woo-woo” to some of our more intellectual, don’t-make-me-get-all-in-my-feels crowd. And I know that I’m not offering much in a way of a description as to what Spiritual Direction actually is in this short article. But if this has at least made you curious, or if you’ve been feeling the way I felt—like God is far off and may not want a whole lot to do with you—Spiritual Direction might be a good way to start dismantling some of those misconceptions and discover just how close God actually is.

If you’re curious about pursuing Spiritual Direction, I would love to answer your questions and perhaps even begin this journey with you! Maybe we’ll sit in a couple of chairs and just enjoy one another’s presence.

Please find me after one of our gatherings on Sunday mornings or email me at brian.davis@newdenver.org to get the conversation started!

What I would learn over the next nine months, and subsequently over the next four years, was that God really does want to be close to me, God really does want something to do with me, and that God was never really far away at all.

— Brian Davis





Advent is upon us in **ndc**kids

Hey Families,

Advent is right around the corner (beginning Sunday, Nov 30)! Here's everything you need to get started.

- NDC Kids Advent Guide [HERE](#)
- NDC Families Resource Guide (see the Advent/Christmas Resources in each section, divided by age group) [HERE](#)
- NDC Kids Songs for Christmas Spotify Playlist [HERE](#)

Remember verses

ELEMENTARY

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, TELL GOD ABOUT EVERYTHING. ASK AND PRAY, AND GIVE THANKS TO HIM. THEN GOD'S PEACE WILL WATCH OVER YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (NIRV)

PRESCHOOL/TODDLERS

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER.

PSALM 106:1 (NIRV)

NOTE: ALSO 1 CHRONICLES 16:34; PSALM 107:1; PSALM 118:1, 29; PSALM 136:1; JEREMIAH 33:11

questions about ndc kids?

volunteers email marin at marin.herbst@newdenver.org
parents email emily at emily.schulz@newdenver.org