



# NEW DENVER MONTHLY

The official newsletter of New Denver Church

## Better Stories: A Lenten Series

BY NORTON HERBST

Football coaches are funny. They often say to their team before every game: “This is the most important game of the season!” Never mind that Coach said the same thing last week and the week before that and the week before that. This time, he really does mean it.

Have you noticed I often do this with sermon series? Pretty regularly, you hear me say something like this: “Next Sunday, we’re kicking off a new sermon series and it’s one of the most important series we’ve ever done!”

And I truly mean it. Whether it’s something more creative, or more practical, or a good ole-fashioned, dive-into-the-Bible kind of series, I always believe in the potential for God to use a sermon series in a powerful way. When we give our attention to one idea over the course of several weeks or months, sometimes God stirs things up that actually transform the way we think, believe, and live. That’s my hope at least.

Soooo, I say all of that because here we go again. For this season of Lent, we’re kicking off a new sermon series and I truly believe it’s one of the most important series we’ve ever done!

Put very simply: we’re going to ask one extremely consequential question. It’s a question at the heart of what it means to follow Jesus. It’s a question that has often been answered poorly or incompletely or sometimes just wrongly.

And, it’s a question that, if you answer it or it was answered for you poorly, will send you in a slightly wrong direction when it comes to everything you believe about God and yourself, that will, over years, take you farther and farther away from who he really is and who you really are. And my hunch is that a lot of us (maybe most of us) have had this experience. We’re much farther away from understanding God and our true selves than we realize and we need to go back to this foundational question and rethink it.

That’s what I’m going to try to help us do for seven weeks. Which is why: This upcoming sermon series is one of the most important series we’ve ever done!

We’ll kick it off on February 15.

## Looking Ahead:

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### **FEB 1 - FEB 22 REGISTER FOR NDC KIDS IN FEBRUARY**

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

### **FEB 1 & FEB 15 PRAYER DOWNSTAIRS**

### **FEB 13 & 27 MOMCO MEET-UPS 9:30 - 11:30 AM**

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL MOMS - [REGISTER HERE](#)

### **FEB 13 - 14 RESET - A ONE-DAY RETREAT NEAR DENVER**

AT SACRED HEART RETREAT CENTER - [REGISTER HERE](#)

### **FEB 15 *BETTER STORIES*, NDC'S LENTEN SERIES BEGINS**

DON'T MISS THIS! IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

### **FEB 18 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

SERVICES AT NOON AND 7 PM AT NDC - CHILDCARE AT NOON SERVICE, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

### **FEB 22 COFFEE IN THE LOFT**

### **MAR 1 DISCOVERING NDC - FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW OR FEEL NEW TO NDC**

AFTER BOTH SERVICES IN THE LOFT

### **MAR 2 MISSION & JUSTICE SOCIAL GROUP - 7 - 8 PM AT NDC**

### **APR 3 GOOD FRIDAY GATHERING 7:30 PM**

### **APR 5 EASTER!**

### **MAY 1 - 3 NDC'S WOMEN'S RETREAT**

SAVE THE DATE!







# Social Groups at NDC

CHECK OUT THE GROUP DIRECTORY

Now that D-Groups are underway for the spring semester, if a D-Group didn't work with your schedule this semester, you should take an opportunity to explore Social Groups! Social Groups at NDC are meant to build community in a low-commitment environment while exploring an interest or hobby. Some active and ongoing Social Groups include:

- Second Sunday Brunch
- Guys Wednesday Hang
- Ladies' Game Night
- Mission & Justice Social Group
- Creative Writing Group
- Spanish Discussion Group

[SOCIAL GROUP DIRECTORY](#)



## Reset

FEB 13 - 14

If your soul feels tired or disconnected, this one-day retreat might be the reset you've been needing. Whether you're craving rest, space to breathe, or a fresh connection with God, this day is designed for you.

Led by Brian Davis, a certified spiritual director, the retreat offers gentle guidance alongside plenty of freedom — no pressure, no performance. And if a retreat sounds intimidating, you're not alone. We'll help you every step of the way.

Just come as you are... and make space for God to meet you there.

This experience takes place at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center, located just outside Denver, with an all-inclusive cost of \$75.

[REGISTER HERE](#)




## Ash Wednesday Services

AT NOON AND 7 PM ON FEB 18

Ash Wednesday is a quiet, meaningful moment to pause and begin the season of Lent together. In this simple, reflective service, we remember our need for God's grace, receive ashes as a sign of humility and hope, and make space to reset our hearts.

If you haven't been to an Ash Wednesday service, we encourage you to give it a try. There is something powerful in receiving a physical representation of our own mortality.

NDC will host two services this year: Noon and 7 pm. We will offer childcare for kids 5 and younger at the noon service - no registration required.



**ndc kids**  
Mission + Justice Prayer Calendar

|        | Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Week 1 | Families without homes – praying for shelter and stability        | People who are sick – praying for healing and good care                  | Our own hearts – praying God helps us love others well                   | Joshua Station – praying God is with the residents and staff                       | People who don't feel safe expressing their faith – praying for safety and protection | Kids who don't have enough food – praying no one goes to bed hungry    | People affected by racism – praying for equality and unity              |
| Week 2 | People with disabilities – praying for inclusion and respect      | Kids who don't have adults to protect them – praying for safe caregivers | The earth and environment – praying we care for God's creation well      | People trapped in exploitation – pray for freedom, restoration, and new beginnings | People in prison – praying for dignity, justice, and hope                             | People who don't have access to doctors or medicine – praying for care | Kids who feel lonely or left out – praying for friendship and belonging |
| Week 3 | People who are grieving – praying for comfort and support         | People in (insert country) – praying for peace and safety                | Guatemala Church Partner – praying for the students at Vida Real Escuela | People working for justice and peace – praying for strength and wisdom             | People who don't have clean water – praying for safe drinking water                   | Kids who don't have clean clothes or shoes – praying for basic needs   | Our direct neighbors – praying they feel loved and welcomed by us       |
| Week 4 | People affected by war or violence – praying for peace and safety | Kids who can't go to school – praying for education and teachers         | Our NDC community – praying God's hand over our friends at NDC           | People experiencing poverty – praying for opportunity and provision                | Workers who are treated unfairly – praying for dignity and just work                  | People who are refugees – praying for welcome and new beginnings       | People who feel scared or anxious – praying for comfort and peace       |

## KIDS MISSION & JUSTICE PRAYER CALENDAR

## ndc kids Remember verses

### ELEMENTARY

THE FAITHFUL LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER ENDS! HIS MERCIES NEVER CEASE  
GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS; HIS MERCIES BEGIN AFRESH EACH MORNING.  
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NLT)

### PRESCHOOL

DEAR FRIENDS, WE SHOULD LOVE EACH OTHER,  
BECAUSE LOVE COMES FROM GOD.  
1 JOHN 4:7 (ERV)

## ndc families Lent + Easter resources

### FOR BABIES & TODDLERS:

- My First Easter Storybook by Laura Richie
- Easter for Little Ones: God's Big Promises by Carl Laferton

### FOR PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY:

- The Easter Storybook: 40 Bible Stories Showing Who Jesus Is by Laura Richie

[MORE RESOURCES HERE](#)