NOVEMBER 2026



NEW DENVER MONTHLY

The official newsletter of New Denver Church

A Voting Day Invitation

BY KENZIE VAN ESSEN

I have a proposition for you. It might seem simple, but it can be very challenging to actually follow through on. And I know I'm starting our newsletter with what sounds like an ultimatum, but believe me when I say: this is NOT an ultimatum. It's an invitation.

Somewhere along the way, we as believers lost our grip on what it means to be citizens of Heaven. There's an obsession with sides: who's with whom, and who you're against. Are you on my team, or are you my enemy? We've all fallen into this in some form or another, myself included. But there's another way to sit in the gray, a way to seek understanding from all sides AND to disagree well. If you can't tell already, I'm talking about voting day. It's coming up fast. As in, tomorrow.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," Jesus says near the beginning of his Sermon on the Mount. Righteousness can be a hard concept to grasp, mostly because what does it even mean? Most times the Bible mentions "justice," "righteousness" is somewhere nearby, and we have to ask why. In a biblical context, righteousness means being in right standing with God and with each other. Simple, right? Not so much. Pursuing right standing with each other is hard when the other person fundamentally disagrees with how you vote, and even more so with who you vote for. Vote for the wrong team, and you're out of my circle. Maybe for good. It's a quiet kind of loss, and it's happening in our churches, our families, and our group chats. But Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness." Those who are willing and able to seek understanding, kindness, and compassion for the other find themselves among those Jesus calls blessed.

However long you've been at NDC, you're probably aware that we won't tell you how to vote. But we will gently guide you, and ourselves, toward being more like Christ in all that we do and all that we are. That includes seeking to vote in ways that align with the kingdom of Heaven and Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Spoiler alert: the obvious answer is not what you're thinking, but it always aligns with seeking righteousness in every aspect of our lives. Think of the Beatitudes: meekness, mercy, peacemaking, purity of heart. None of those show up on a ballot, but all of them show up in how we treat one another. In light of this, you might ask yourself, "What would it look like to change my perception from Christianity pervading our culture to Christ permeating my being?"

So, back to this proposition, which comes from a pastor and author I deeply admire, Rich Villodas. He proposes we move from "You're not a faithful Christian if you vote for…" to "You're not a faithful Christian if you don't follow the Sermon on the Mount." Whoever you vote for, may you do it with humility, and may you leave room for the person across the table who sees it differently.

Happy voting, NDC!

Looking Ahead:

NOVEMBER - REGISTER FOR NDC KIDS THIS MONTH - IT'S VERY IMPORTANT

NOV 1 & NOV 15 PRAYER DOWNSTAIRS BETWEEN SERVICES AT 9:30 AM

OCT 31 WOMEN'S COFFEE & CONNECT
9 - 11 AM AT NDC REGISTER HERE

NOV 2 MISSION AND JUSTICE SOCIAL GROUP - DISCUSSING BALLOT ISSUES!
7 PM IN THE LOFT AT NDC - JOIN THE GROUP HERE

NOV 6 & 20 MOMCO MEETING
9:30 - 11:30 AM AT NDC. ALL MOMS ARE WELCOME! REGISTER HERE

NOV 8 MEMBER MEETING AFTER BOTH SERVICES

NOV 11 WOMEN & CO - AN EVENT FOR WOMEN BRINGING TOGETHER MOMCO AND NDC COMMUNITIES
6 - 8 PM IN THE LOFT AT NDC. REGISTER HERE.

NOV 14 CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES OF HOSPITALITY - SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS
10 AM - NOON IN THE LOFT AT NDC

NOV 22 COFFEE IN THE LOFT
AFTER BOTH SERVICES

NOV 26 THANKSGIVING

NOV 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC 6 NDC STUDENTS DECEMBER EVENT
5 - 7 PM AT NDC - REGISTER HERE

DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 3:30 & 5 PM

DEC 27 NO WORSHIP SERVICES. SERVICES RESUME ON JAN 3

FEB 5 - 7 MARRIAGE RETREAT - ALL FULL! REGISTER HERE FOR THE WAITLIST
YOU MIGHT GET PRIORITY AT THE NEXT ONE IF YOU GET ON THE WAITLIST

APR 30 - MAY 2 WOMEN'S RETREAT 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!

Mission & Justice Group

MEETS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH. 7-8 PM.

This month's Mission and Justice Group is meeting to talk about some of the ballot issues and propositions you might find on your ballot.

We have no interest in telling you how to vote, trust us. But it is important to think about voting as a follower of Jesus. AND that might not look how you expect it to look.

As our resident Mission and Justice Director, Kenzie will lead the group through a thoughtful, specific discussion of the ballot measures. Even if you're not a part of the Mission and Justice Social Group, you can still just show up for this specific meeting to learn more and dialogue with others in our faith community about voting.



Women & Co

NOV 11 FROM 6 - 8 PM AT NDC IN THE LOFT

You might have noticed we have a couple of different kinds of women's events happening each month at NDC. We've intentionally chosen a weekend morning and a weekday evening to help accommodate everyone's specific schedules.

Women & Co started as a way to help bring together the MomCo community of moms, which can include many moms who don't attend NDC, and moms and women from NDC who want an evening weekday gathering to connect and relax.

REGISTER HERE

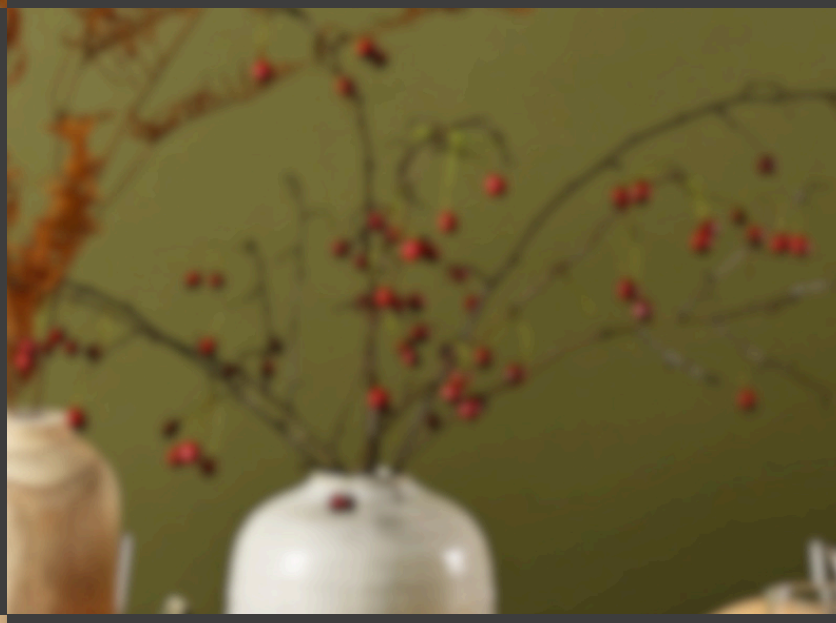
Cultivating Communities of Hospitality

NOV 14 10 AM - NOON IN THE LOFT AT NDC

Michelle Stinson is hosting a workshop-style event to consider ways that we might cultivate new expressions of 'hospitality' in our communities and congregations.

Drawing from the experiences of local ministry leaders and faithful practitioners, this event seeks to:
• Celebrate the good work being done in the Denver area to address issues of community isolation, food insecurity, and land stewardship.
• Inspire new possibilities and renewed expressions of how 'hospitality'— shown towards people and God's good creation—might look in our communities and congregations as we seek to live out the missio deo—God's mission in this world.

No registration necessary. Just show up!





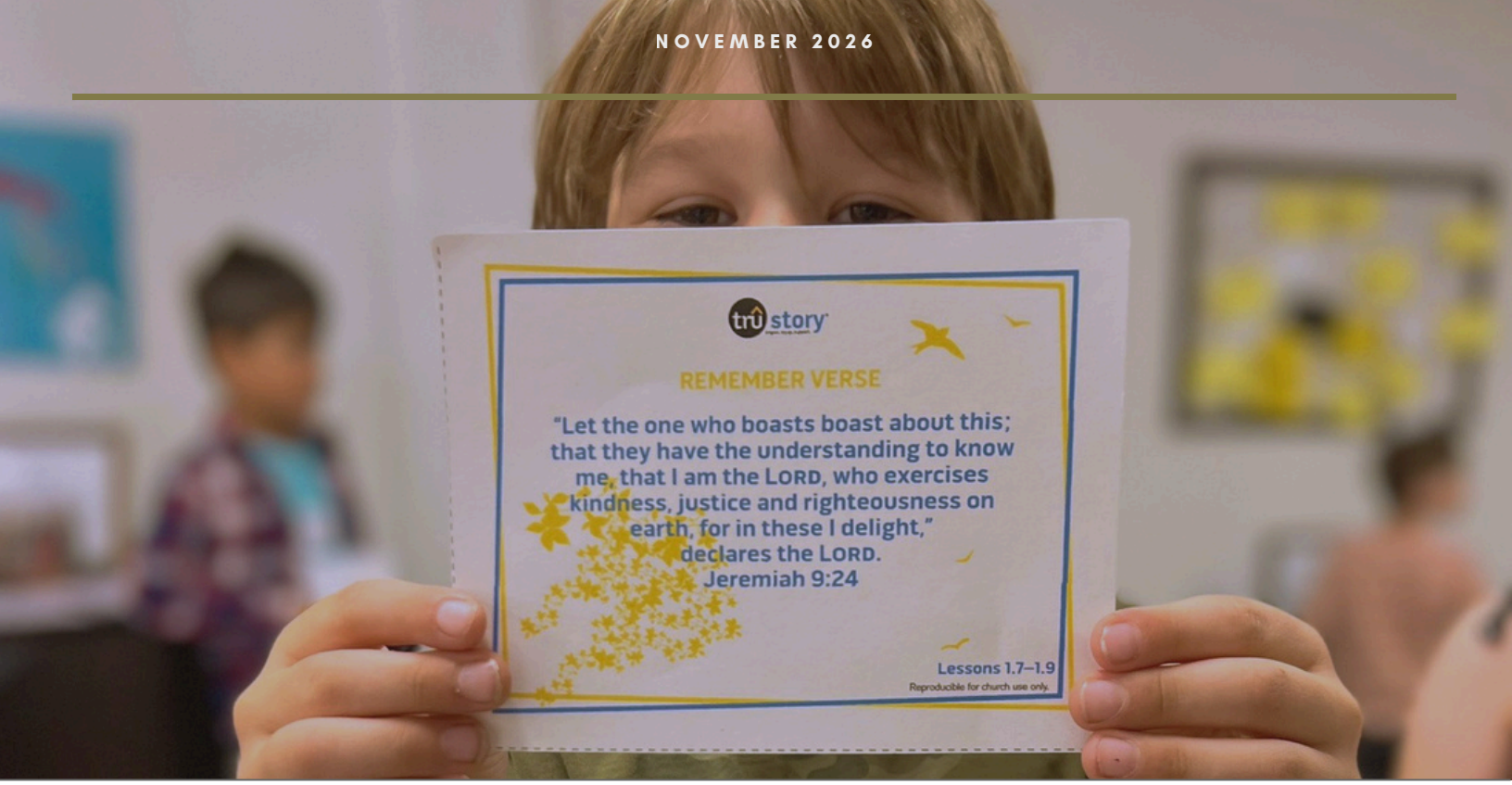
The Loft Co-Working Space

WEEKDAYS 9 AM - 3 PM

A couple of weeks ago, we launched the co-working space at NDC, and it's been such a joy to see people use the space for all kinds of resasons.

If you missed the memo, just join the group and you'll get an email with some etiquette and guidelines, plus the door code for the month.

We hope to see more of you over the coming weeks! For those who have used the space, feedback is always welcome. Just email Sara Knopp at sara.knopp@newdenver.org.



Fun news in ndckids

This year, for the first time in NDC's history, we are putting on a kids' Christmas Pageant! If you don't know what a Christmas Pageant is, it's a live, amateur performance put on by children that acts out the biblical story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Plan on attending church on Dec 20 to see all the precious kids participate in this fun and creative endeavor!

'Tis the season... now?

At NDC, we've curated a list of great resources as you start thinking about Advent and the season of giving for your kids. Check it out here.

Remember verses

ELEMENTARY

LORD, I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU WITH ALL MY HEART. I WILL TELL ABOUT ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU HAVE DONE.
PSALM 9:1
(NIRV)

PRESCHOOL

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER.
PSALM 107:1 (NIRV)

ndcstudents

DECEMBER 6, 5-7 PM AT NDC
FOR NDC STUDENTS (6TH - 12TH GRADE)