

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018



Newberg First Presbyterian Church

# PEW NEWS



JOHN 15.5

“ I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing”

PAGE 1

**FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY**

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I join this community as your new pastor! I still remember my first trip to Newberg, Oregon in 2005, when I visited George Fox University as an admissions counselor and recruiter for Fuller Theological Seminary. I was impressed from the beginning with the warmth of this town. A few years later, my parents moved here and, in 2015, I relocated here with my wife Karen and daughters Cate and Chiara. I sense God's sovereignty and goodness in bringing us to Newberg and partnering with you in ministry. My calling in life as a pastor is to enable people to receive the grace and love of God. I understand that God is most fully revealed in the incarnate Son of God,

Jesus Christ. I look forward to following Jesus with you and helping us rest in God's love, love one another, and live out Christ's mission in this world of love, peace, and justice. My favorite verse in Scripture is taken from John 15:9. Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you, abide in my love." My desire is to be a healthy pastor who lives a grace filled rhythm of life, beginning each morning in prayer, receiving the love I need from God in order to love others well. As a certified spiritual director who is receiving a Doctor of Ministry in spiritual direction, I look forward to listening to your spiritual journeys and to hearing your ideas for ministry.

My background includes ministry experience in higher education at both the college and graduate level and in church ministry, working with all ages. My hope is to help us grow both spiritually and numerically as we partner in ministry with the community of Newberg and George Fox University. My wife Karen is an adjunct professor at George Fox and an Affiliate Assistant Professor at Fuller Seminary in Historical Theology. My daughter Cate is age ten and a fourth grader at C.S. Lewis Academy. Our youngest daughter Chiara is age 5 and attends preschool at Creative Kidz. Cate loves horses, playing with her friends, and all things social, and Chiara enjoys dancing, singing, painting, mermaids, and fairies. Both are enthralled with our new cat, Jasmine.

Thank you for warmly welcoming us into your community! I am excited to partner with the wonderful staff and leadership of this church as we share the gospel in word and action. I know God has great things in store for us as we learn to abide in Jesus and bear the fruit of God's love with one another, here in Newberg, and throughout our nation and world. May the Holy Spirit be our comforter and guide on this journey.

With Deep Gratefulness,

Pastor Chris Murphy

---

## NEWS FROM THOSE WE SUPPORT

**Telile (Light of Hope)** - Telile reports : "Our translation team is working on a Bible version translated into Arsi Oromo with the Bible consultant from Wycliffe Ethiopia. He comes twice a month or every other week and spends 5 days at a time with the team. Every time he comes they were able to finish a book or two depending on the size of the book. They have already completed 11 of the 39 books and 28 books to go. Our plan is to complete the edition by the end of 2018 and make it ready for publishing in 2019 or sooner." We are also continuing our collection of funds to purchase desks for a Light of Hope school. Our goal is 40 desks, equaling a goal of \$3200.

**Brian and Julie O'Herin (SLI - Wycliffe)** - My next overseas trip will be in April and May next year, Lord willing. There is an SIL linguistics gathering in Georgia, and from there I plan to go to Russia to meet with the translation team. We hope to do a final consultant check on Ruth, Jonah and Esther (after which they can go to publication), as well as collectively do some long term planning. I will likely be stopping briefly in Germany and the UK on my way home to meet with various people.

**Dennis Smith (South America)** - It was a privilege to have Dennis and Meribel visit us last month. We are fortunate that Dennis' parents live on the Oregon Coast which allowed us to have Ben, their son with them as well. They spent the last 3 months of 2017 visiting churches across the nation. Their ministry reaches the entire continent of South America and they have a number of partners from different denominations to assist them.

**The Yorks (Cru - Athletes in Action )** - One aspect of leadership development we oversee is the theological development of our staff to give them a strong biblical foundation and framework for lifelong fruitful ministry. Maureen is stepping into the role as theological coordinator as part of her job description. Eric is involved in administrative activities for both Cru and AIA, and they will eventually be based in Ohio.

**John & Gwenda (IMCK - Congo)** - IMCK PAX Clinic in Kananga and also working for IMA World Health. The renovation final stage, the Women's Center, was under construction, when intense conflict broke out in the Kasai province during the past year. Renovation stopped for some months, but the construction staff kept the area guarded and swept clean. Work resumed recently.

---

## LENT

### **Come and Grow With Us**

During this upcoming season of Lent, Pastor Chris Murphy will be leading us through portions of the Gospel of John and helping us explore our own spiritual formation as followers and friends of Jesus. We will seek to grow together as people who abide in the love of Jesus and bear the fruit of love and compassion towards others. We invite you to attend Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14th at 6:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday is a meaningful time to ponder God's grace and our own mortality. Holy week this year will also include our annual Maundy Thursday service and a special Good Friday contemplative retreat and worship service. We hope this Lenten season will encourage you to rest in God's grace and love and to deepen your commitment to grow in love. Come and grow with us!

Blessings,  
Chris

### **The Experience of Lent** **By Karen Murphy, Ph.D.**

#### ***What is Lent?***

Lent (meaning “springtime”) is a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) prior to Easter which the early church set aside as a time of preparation. It is a time of preparation of one’s heart, mind, and soul, which allows one to fully embrace, experience, and live into the depth of the Paschal mystery that is presented to us in Christ’s death and resurrection. It is a time in which we are called, in continuity with other Christians throughout the ages, to pray, repent, fast, listen, refocus, and remember.

During this season, we pray for grace, grace to see ourselves as we truly are. We pray for strength, strength not only to see our desperate, limited, and often desolate humanness, but also for the strength to see God as He truly is, with arms open wide, waiting to refresh us with hope, compassion, and peace. We pray that the Spirit of the living God will empower us in fresh, new ways as we seek to serve, to learn, to live, and to love. We repent of the times that we have fallen short, of the moments when we have not been kind, when we have not lived justly, when we have been selfish and fearful, when we were not present to the people around us.

During this season, we choose to fast, sacrificing our own desires, wants, and needs, in order that we may be re-sensitized to the needs of the world around us, to the cries for love and the cries for justice. We set aside our own incessant cravings that we may hear the ever-present still, small voice of God speaking to us in the midst of a world filled with noise, with busyness, with “doing,” with mindlessness. We fast in order that we may hear again, that we may recognize our own longings for life, for healing, for love, that we may live mindfully in the present, truly seeing one another as sons and daughters of God.

---

## LENT CONTINUES

And, finally, during this season we remember. We remember that we are but dust, that we were created from dust and to dust we shall return. We remember that we were bought with a price, that we are not our own, and that we are deeply, deeply loved in the midst of our brokenness, in the midst of our shortcomings, in the midst of our failings, and in the midst of our weakness. We are reminded that God is ever present, never changing and that we are forever held by His great mercy. Lent is a time of prayer, repentance, fasting, remembering, and celebrating what and whose we are. During this Lenten season, may you experience God's gracious and loving presence as you wait in expectation for the day when, by His Spirit, all is made new.

### *Lectio Divina:*

Mark 1: 9-13 "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him."

***Read the passage slowly three times and respond to the following questions.***

*What word or phrase stands out to you?*

*During this season of Lent, what do you feel called to fast from in your life in order to refocus your attention on God?*

*What spiritual practice(s) would you like to add into your life?*

*What aspects of your life feel like a "desert" experience? How do you need God to meet you?*

## 2018 Budget Report

The 2018 budget is preliminary at this point and will be finalized at the February Session meeting. So far, the pledges received total \$101,682. We have budgeted for \$115,000 in pledges and \$165,360 in total income including non-pledged giving and reserves. In 2017 \$125,000 was budgeted and \$129,476 was received from those who pledged. We recognize that we have lost some members in the last 2 years, but still have many generous people in our church family.

This year \$202,858 is budgeted for expenses compared to \$194,120 last year. The increase represents an increase in costs, even though our mortgage payments, our Presbyterian Mission pledge and our per capita expense will all be less. And there will be no automatic 2% pay increases. This leaves a shortfall between budgeted income and expenses of \$37,498.

We are excited about starting off in February with a new pastor and with renewed enthusiasm. We are hopeful that there will be increased participation in the church and in giving. And we are very grateful to all who have pledged.

Finance Committee

### **Henderson House, McMinnville, Oregon**

2017 has given the clients and staff at Henderson House so much to be thankful about. This year we replaced the shelter with a new confidential location. We have maintained strong relationships with community partners and active engaged volunteers. We've been able to offer a new domestic violence support group in Newberg and started a "Girl's Circle" program that addresses self-esteem and violence prevention. We are also thankful for bilingual staff and volunteers that make it possible to work with families throughout Yamhill County.

We are most thankful for the opportunity to work with clients like Sue! Sue and her children called our 24-hour hotline seeking help with an abusive relationship. She recognized that she and her children were in danger but didn't know how to proceed toward safety. After that phone call, Henderson House staff were able to relocate them into our confidential shelter, connect her with community resources that would lead her to self-sufficiency, and with time, into her own home. Through ongoing support with Henderson House staff and support groups, she and her children, journey to a new, safer life.

Taken from a letter to the Deacons thanking the church for our support. We will be focusing on Henderson House the month of February. Look for their Wish List on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

---

## From the Brudevolds

Dear Friends:

Carole and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making this past year such a wonderful experience. Outside of a few issues that had to be resolved, the pressure was small and your graciousness was large. We are happy to have been part of a transition which I feel positions you well for future growth. We trust that you continue to focus on reaching out to the community with the gospel of good news, and make this campus a place where various groups can come together to learn the wonderful news of God's salvation. You have been faithful and persistent in your outreach and we trust that God will continue to bless your ministry.

Grace and peace,

Duane and Carole Brudevold

## Birthdays

4– Lory Albright

4– Douglas King

9– Don Albright

16– Jim Bonsey

17– Jeanie Monahan

17– Dick Sahagian

19– Carl Patrick

22– Doug Delano

23– Sharon Riha

27– Wilma Loeks

---

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2/6– Personnel Meeting at 4:30  
2/8– Deacons Meeting at 1:00  
2/13– Session Meeting at 7:00  
2/22– Finance & Facilities Meeting at 5:30  
2/22– Evangelism & Mission at 1:00

One  
& All

Christian Education meets on a different day at the home of Sylvia Stater.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEWBERG  
NORTH COLLEGE STREET AT MISSION DRIVE  
(501 MISSION DRIVE)  
NEWBERG, OR 97132



WORSHIP. FOLLOW. INSPIRE.