



# PEW NEWS

Newberg, Or



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”

**FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY**

Dear Friends,

I wish to share how grateful I am for your hospitality and support during my first month as your new pastor. My wife Karen and daughters Cate and Chiara also greatly appreciate your warmth and kindness. We are having a wonderful time getting to know everyone!

The Sermon series we are exploring during Lent is “Come and Grow with Us”. We are exploring the image of Jesus as the Vine and we as the branches who bear the fruit of God’s love in the world. We are learning how Jesus is our friend and invites us into greater partnership in ministry. We are being challenged by the Jesus way of love and his call to bring unity across the differences that seem to be breaking our world apart. We are learning how the Holy Spirit is our guide and comforter on our journey of life.

During this Season of Lent, I wish to encourage you to continue to grow in love as you abide in the love of Jesus. Lent is a time of self-reflection and prayer. It is an invitation to go deeper with God and to experience God’s grace more fully through repentance and recommitment to the gospel call to love others and to work for peace and justice in places of fear and evil.

As we grow in love, we are reminded that Jesus wishes to give us joy and hope. Lent is a reflective season and an honest one, but also a liberating time as we seek greater freedom in Christ. I hope you can slow down in the coming weeks as we prepare for Easter. Take some time to rest in God’s love and to express your gratitude to God for the gifts in your life. Give yourself permission to also receive forgiveness and to offer yourself grace.

I know many of us are also mourning the loss of loved ones or caring for family and friends who are currently ill. May the love of God be your comfort. Be gentle with yourself as you care for others and remember that God wants to hold you in your pain. As your pastor, I also wish to offer you comfort and spiritual friendship. We are on this journey of life together and we are not alone. God is with us and knows our deepest needs. Let us grow in love together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chris

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## NEWS FROM THOSE WE SUPPORT

**Telile (Light of Hope)** - Telile reports : The political situation in Ethiopia: We don't see mass protests. People are keeping silent at gunpoint as they lose their loved ones. Ask God for justice with peace, especially for those who are suffering at the hand of the very government that is supposed to protect them. Pray for the Light of Hope staff serving in the midst of ongoing unrest.

[As a side note: It was announced very recently that the Ethiopian prime minister resigned and the country is again under a state of emergency. During the last one, many people were detained and rioting broke out. It is not known how this will develop until new leadership is determined.]

**Brian and Julie O'Herin (SIL - Wycliffe)** - The big news is that I [Brian] have decided to step down from my role as International Linguistics Coordinator at the end of September and return to full-time translation work in the project we've been working in, off and on, for the last 30 years. More news about this later.

**Dennis Smith (South America)** - About Dennis and Meribel - Dennis was an honor graduate in speech communications at Wheaton College in Illinois, and subsequently completed a one-year graduate fellowship at the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. The following year, his new home church, First Presbyterian in Evanston, sponsored him on a one-year volunteer assignment as a communication consultant to the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala. Maribel was educated in Guatemala and received training as a bilingual secretary at the National Secretarial School in Guatemala. In 2004, Maribel began to be mentored in holistic therapies designed to help people manage stress and seek wholeness by Karen Woehler, a PC(USA) commissioned lay pastor and retired nurse from Minnesota.

**The Yorks (Cru - Athletes in Action )** - Maureen writes: We're keeping a thankful heart while Erik maintains a robust travel schedule. While the girls miss him a lot, we try to focus on what he gets to do and that we get to stay here through the school year with family and friends. We're developing a vision and bucket list with the girls of things we will see, visit and learn on our way to and when we get to Ohio.

**John & Gwenda (IMCK - Congo)** - The Kasai Christian Medical Institute ("IMCK" according to its French acronym) was established 58 years ago in the (then) Belgian Congo. It has continued operating through wars and political insecurity and has been ranked among the top such institutions in the DRC, but struggles to meet basic payroll and medical supply needs.

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Redemption

(By Karen Murphy)

*Shattered images  
Reflections despised  
In mirrors  
Drowning in pools  
Of hopelessness  
Despair.  
Vulnerability  
The Divine within  
Deep calling to deep  
Restoring  
Redeeming  
Re-mem-bering  
Fragmented pieces  
To self  
God  
The world  
The other  
Overflowing with abundance  
With Love.*

## Friendship Loaf Outreach

We are a loving church family. Perhaps you are a longtime member, can you remember the first time you set foot in FPC of Newberg's sanctuary? More importantly, can you remember why you came back a second time? For our family, it was Hawk Au who took time to sit with us during Fellowship and share a treat and some conversation. I can't even remember what we discussed but I do remember, we came back the following week...and the next one...and the next one...

I would like to say that as a member of this church, I continued the tradition of embracing visitors with the same grace and ease, but it never came that easily to me. I wanted to reach out and share how amazing we are with others, but it seemed "intrusive". I guess I thought if people liked us, of course they would come back! Thanks to the suggestion of past Deacons who visited other churches while they traveled, they brought the idea of visiting people in their homes to drop off bread and an invitation to return to FPC. After some trial and error, a few church members brought loaves when they had time to bake. Another created little bags with a thank you, while yet another produced a pamphlet that gave information about our hours, mission and a little history. So simple and yet such a great way to involve church members in an outreach to those who pass through our church. If you would like to extend the love and fellowship of Christ by helping welcome new members consider joining in one of the following ways: bake small loaves of bread (labeled to avoid allergy challenges), volunteer to pull loaves from the freezer when you see new faces in Church (there are more every week!), help distribute the bags after church and invite guests to walk over to the Fellowship Hall to meet others, or simply sit with someone new so they can feel the love of Christ that flows over coffee and whatever other goodies are shared.

Well, Jesus fed 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish! We should be challenged to need to feed so many. Right now, we give out a few loaves each week and these little loaves have become a way to connect with new faces in our Church. A little loaf of bread, some information about our church family and an invitation to return the following week. Who knows where our Friendship Loaves might lead us?

-Chris McCourt

Loaves can be dropped off anytime at the church office.

DESKS for Ethiopian Students

We thank you for your generous donations of \$2,330 in our efforts to send \$3,200 to Light of Hope's ministry as they build schools and furnish them. Each desk accommodates three students! We are very close now, with only \$870 left to reach our goal! Wonderful!! Thank you again! The Mission Committee



**Shred Day** *with* **Krispy Kreme DOUGHNUTS**

**Support NHS Grad Night**

**Saturday, March 10**

**8am – Noon at** **point S**  
TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

**To Shred:**  
**\$5 suggested donation per bag or box**

**Some of the many benefits to shredding personal documents:**

- Peace-of-Mind knowing that your personal documents have been destroyed properly & securely.
- Protect Trees from being cut down to make new paper. This will also cut down on the energy & water used to process the lumber.
- Protect your identity.
- Declutter your home or office.

## Birthdays

- 1– Craig McCourt
- 2– Max McCourt
- 2– George Monto
- 18– Doris Fenstra
- 19– Pat Goodman
- 27– Elaine Johnson
- 27– Karen Murphy
- 28– Ray Johnson

While praying one day a woman asked, "Who are you, God?" He answered, "I Am". But, "Who Is, I Am?" she asked, He replied, "I Am Love, I Am Peace, I Am Grace, I Am Joy, I Am Strength, I Am Safety, I Am Shelter, I Am Power, I Am The Creator, I Am The Comforter, I Am The Beginning and The End, I Am The Way, Truth, and The Light". With tears in her eyes she looked toward Heaven and said, "Now I understand. But, who am I?" God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered, "You Are Mine".

## Anniversary

- 19– Pidge & Joe Steve
- 22– Mary & Bob Andrews
- 26– Janet & Robert Andrew

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3/1– Deacons Meeting at 1:00  
3/6– Personnel Meeting at 3:00  
3/13– Session Meeting at 7:00  
3/22– Finance & Facilities Meeting at 5:30  
3/22– Evangelism & Mission at 1:00

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



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