

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



Joy in the New Year

PAGE I

FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY

Thank you for joining us for a meaningful Advent season in December. Advent offered us the opportunity to reflect deeply on the gift of the birth of Jesus. We took time to celebrate the story of Mary and her call to carry the blessing of the Son of God. We remembered the message of peace on earth and the joy offered to us in the visit of angels.

May I suggest as we enter the new year, that we build on the momentum of Advent and pray for this to be a year of joy for Newberg First Presbyterian Church. Joy is a powerful word. Joy is what filled Mary when she received the good news that she would be the mother of the Savior of the world. Joy is what the angels proclaimed to the shepherds. Joy is what God wants us to embody as we show love with those in need in Newberg.

Joy is deeper than happiness. Happiness is a wonderful feeling, but happiness is a word that normally implies the absence of sadness. Joy carries a deeper meaning because we can hold joy and sadness together at the same time.

For many in this congregation who are experiencing loss or suffering, happiness feels challenging, but joy is a feeling that brings hope even in the face of sorrow. Joy is a word that fills me with hope as I prepare for 2019. Recently, a group of nearly 30 people from our church participated in Christmas Caroling to various members of our congregation, some of whom are homebound. It was wonderful to see our joy in action as we lifted the spirits of these members.

I believe joy is a feeling Jesus continues to offer us in 2019. We are invited to experience the presence of Jesus in a fresh way in this new year, so that joy overflows in our mission in Newberg. May people who visit our church experience joy and may we all experience joy even as we face loss or sadness.

Grace, Hope, and Love,

Pastor Chris

News from our Mission Partners:

Light of Hope - Taliilee says: Our translation team is working on the edition work of the translated version into Arsi Oromo with the Bible consultant from Wycliffe Ethiopia since March 2017. 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.

Wycliffe SIL – Brian says: I have been focused almost exclusively on the book of Esther for the last month or so, but I also need to compile the introduction for the book of Jonah. We have made the revisions, but they are in several different places, and it is up to me to bring them together.

CRU – Erik reports: AIA has pioneered a worldview experience that is helping Cru as a whole go after our whole gospel scope and overcome ethnic barriers. As it is required training for the whole AIA division, I experienced it with 15 of our new staff. “The Lenses Institute is a five-day intensive training that aims to help the Church fight for Oneness by influencing the way Christian leaders see, understand, and act in our ethnically and culturally diverse world.”

Smiths - Dennis says “We’re especially excited that February 1-2, 2019 the IPC will host representatives of the churches and presbyteries that have active mission partnerships in Colombia, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) and World Mission to breathe new life into the Colombia Mission Network. Let me know if you’d like to join us!”

***Tierra Nueva** – The latest newsletter reports: “We’re growing in our inter-ministry collaboration. We draw from weekly staff prayer, on-site training with The People’s Seminary, and pastoral advocacy. We continually equip and strengthen shepherds who are adept at seeking, finding, and gathering people affected by incarceration, addiction, and immigration.”

*Tierra Nueva is our new partner for 2019. Future news will profile their mission activities.

January Birthdays

4- Chuck Zickefoose

5- Lu Gimbel

6- Joe Sarnacki

8- Janet Andrew

26- Eric Swehla

31- Bob Andrews

Anniversary

15- Pam & Tim Weaver

25- Pat & Keith Harcourt



Nissi Undurthi’s parents, Rev. Dr. Divakar and his wife Prema, joined us for worship while visiting from India.

Christmas Caroling– 28 in attendance this year!





George Fox University Players

Performance during worship on January 13th

Join us and invite your friends!

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY
THEATRE PRESENTS

A thought-provoking experience
through story, drama and
music performed by the George
Fox University Players

LOOK- ING UP

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

2018-19 University Players: → Reid Arthur → Elyse Bradford → Travis Cox → Araya Glancy → Elyssa Winheimer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 1/8– Session Meeting at 7:00 pm.
- 1/10– Deacons Meeting at 2:00 pm.
- 1/24- Finance & Facilities Meeting at 6:00 pm.
- 1/24– Mission & Global Witness 1:00 pm.

Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his email: murphycb@frontier.com
or by calling the church office at 503-538-3313

Our new website address is : **newbergfpc.org**

One
& All

NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



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