

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 19
ISSUE 4
APRIL 2019



PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



The Joyful Season of Easter

FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY

Spring is here and the Season of Easter is upon us. Easter is the most important season within the church calendar. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that Christ has defeated death and we can find peace in knowing that we will spend eternity with God in Heaven. The beauty of eternal life is that it can begin right now as we follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We can live without any fear of death. We can live with the joy of the resurrection!

During the Season of Lent and as we enter the Season of Easter, we are invited to receive afresh the grace of Jesus in our lives. During Holy Week we will have multiple opportunities to deepen our experience of God's grace.

April 14th - Palm Sunday- Once again we will be blessed by our annual choir performance. The theme this year is the 7 Holy Days.

April 18th - Maundy Thursday Dinner and Reflection- You are invited to participate in our potluck of Mediterranean style food or any other dish you wish to bring. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper together and hear a short reflection on the meaning of the last supper.

April 19th - Good Friday Prayer Retreat- Pastor Chris Murphy and Mary Kalesee will lead us in our annual prayer retreat focused on reflecting on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. We will gather from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Space will be offered for extended times of prayer using different prayer stations. We will also enjoy a light lunch together.

April 21st - Easter Service and Breakfast- Easter begins with our family breakfast celebration at 9 am followed by a wonderful Easter Service at 10:30 am that includes placing flowers in our cross, celebrating baptisms, listening to our choir, and hearing a resurrection message. The kids will also enjoy an Easter egg hunt after the worship service. Bring your friends and family!

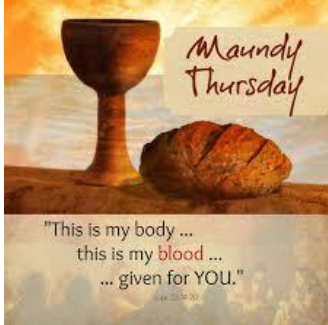
May we all embrace the Season of Easter together and find great joy in the truth of the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of eternal life offered to each one of us. On Easter morning may we join with fellow believers throughout the world in proclaiming the good news that He is Risen. He is risen indeed!

Grace, Hope, and Love,

Pastor Chris



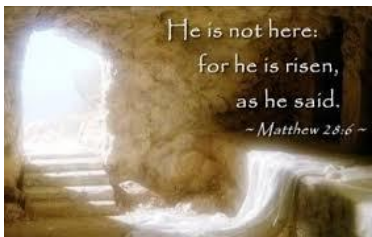
Palm Sunday – Service will start at 10:30 a.m. We will have a presentation on the Seven Holy Days led by the choir.



Maundy Thursday- Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a Mediterranean potluck followed by a brief reflection and the Lord's Supper.



Good Friday Prayer Retreat- This spiritual retreat will start at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. It will end at 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.



Easter Sunday- Please join us for potluck breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Recipes are available on the sign-up table. Breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Easter Service will start at 10:30 a.m.

Pew News Mission & Global Witness

Mission News Feature

Dennis and Meribel Smith

Regional liaison for South America

This month's feature is the latest news from Dennis about conditions in Venezuela. The Smiths are one of our Mission partners and have visited us in the past.

If you've been following the news, you know of the recent **power outages in Venezuela**, attributed by many to cyberattacks by the US and its allies and by others to endemic corruption, emigration of skilled workers and a lack of investment and maintenance of vital infrastructure by the current government. All these reasons may well be true.

Think about how reliant modern societies are on electricity: life-saving medical services, water, communication, refrigeration, cooking, air conditioning — and so much more! Venezuela saw all these **basic services disappear** during the blackout.

As so often happens, the blackouts led to looting in some towns. The looting exacerbated existing shortages of food and water.

El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) **Presbyterian Church in Barquisimeto** was not affected by the power cuts. They opened their doors to the community. Rev. García, who lives in **Maracaibo**, shared the testimony of a participant in one of her Bible studies. After the lights had been out for hours, she invited her neighbors over and shared the week's meals with them.

When beloved friends — sisters and brothers in Christ — suffer, there are moments when one becomes frustrated by the weightlessness of words. What more can one say but that more violence will resolve nothing?

In his epistle, James reminds us that “**the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective**” (5:16). Can prayer — finally — change things? Our friends in Venezuela believe so. And so do I.

We deeply value your continued, prayerful support for our ministry, and your continued prayers for all seeking the common good in Christ's name in Venezuela and throughout the region. Thank you.

BICYCLES! BICYCLES! BICYCLES!

You will be pleased to know that our Church, through
Love INC's GAP Mission,
has provided bicycles to 19 folks so far this year!

We are "open for business" on the first and third Wednesdays each month, and work from a list provided to us by Love INC.

The bicycles themselves are provided by the Retired Recyclers, and delivered to us each time.

Those who receive them are so grateful – they have transportation to and from work, or can more effectively look for work, and get to appointments on time.

Thank you, Congregation, for making this opportunity possible! You are a blessing to so many!

The Mission and Global Witness Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS is a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering in which our Church participates each year. Your offerings are divided among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. As you know, there are families living in desperate circumstances, especially in the middle-East at this time. We can help!

You will find Special Offering envelopes in the pews during the Sundays surrounding Easter. [Easter is April 21 this year!!] We know our always-generous congregation will want to do what we can to bring the Hope and Love of Christ to people in distress at home and around the world.

Thank you!

Women of First Presbyterian Gathering with Karen Murphy

The Women of our church are invited to the home of Karen Murphy on Friday mornings from 9-10:30 am in the month of April and May. We would love to have you join us for coffee, conversation, connection, prayer, and a deeper look at the spiritual life! (The Murphy's home is located at 3039 Aldersgate Dr., Newberg. Parking is available on the street or in the driveway.) No need to RSVP.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." – Jesus (Matthew 25:35)



CAYAC enjoying a meal on Monday evening.

We Turned 129 in March. Happy Birthday FPC.



Anna Virginia and Chiara enjoying the start of Spring.



The first gathering of the First Presbyterian Women's group was a great success. 22 women participated in this fun and new adventure for FPC

April

Birthdays

- 2– Susan King
- 14– Bill LeMaster
- 21– Cedar Albright
- 24– Julie O'Herin
- 29– Patti Jahnke

Anniversary

- 4– Di & Bruce Murphy

Announcements– If you would like your Birthday, Anniversary or any event or item in the monthly newsletter please email it to the office.

Save a Stamp– If you would like to receive the Pew News via email instead of a paper copy, please contact the office or fill out sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteering—Susan will be going on vacation the first week of April and first week of June, If you would like to help answer phones please contact the office.

Office: 503-538-3313
firstpresnewberg@frontier.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4/9– Session Meeting at 7:00 pm.
4/25– Finance & Facilities Meeting at 6:00 pm.
4/25– 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
AND
ALL

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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.