

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



Growing Together

PAGE I

The Mission and Core Values of Newberg First Presbyterian Church

We are enjoying a season of new life and new growth as a Church congregation. As we grow together, we are developing our sense of mission for the future. This is an exciting season of our church's history. In April we invited our congregation to answer questions related to the values of our church. At our May session meeting, we looked at the results of these questionnaires and affirmed five core values that will guide the direction of our church in the coming years. These values in partnership with our mission as a church of grace, hope, and love will help us be faithful followers and friends of Jesus in Newberg.

Here is our mission statement and core values.

Mission Statement: (Current Draft) Our mission is to be a church of grace, hope, and love in Newberg.

Core Values:

- ◆ Warm and Welcoming Church Family
- ◆ Intergenerational Community
- ◆ Outreach to Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families
- ◆ Mission Outreach Both Locally and Globally to those on the Margins
- ◆ Worship, Prayer, and Spiritual Formation

We are excited to live out our mission and core values in this season of ministry! You will notice our focus on young people, young families, intergenerational relationships, spiritual formation, and mission outreach. God has given us a blueprint on how to be faithful to God's calling as a church. Stay tuned to hear more creative ideas on how we can live out mission together. In this season of Pentecost, may we boldly be empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the work of Christ today.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chris

MISSION NEWS

- ♦ **Taliilee Fiqruu** – Ethiopian Schools - **Taliilee will be our guest speaker on August 18.**
- ♦ **O’Herins** – Brian reports: He is doing the exegetical check of Matthew. There are still about 12 chapters to go, but now that they are home, it has been going a lot faster. He needs to do the final consultant check on Matthew in July.
- ♦ **Yorks** – Eric says, “It’s great to see our team unifying through key ways: Building Powerful Ministry Teams, and a weekly training time of Leadership Development & Human Resources process”
- ♦ **Terra Neuva** – We will be getting regular up-dates on the Ekblad ministry as we are signed up to receive their regular news. **Bob Ekblad will be our speaker on July 14.**
- ♦ **Smiths** – Dennis gave reports on Presbyterian churches in Venezuela who assisted others in neighborhoods during blackout and food shortages in Barquisimeto, Maracaibo and other cities.

Ethiopian project: We completed our raising of funds for Sara Hailemeskel. She has flown to Ethiopia for the summer, and will do mission work in her home-town. A nice sum of **\$2,155.00** was raised, supplemented with resources from the Betty Wells fund for a total of \$2,500. Our congregation once again displays its generosity!

Thank you! The Mission and Global Witness Committee

Tierra Nueva - Who will set me free?

Last Thursday night my Tierra Nueva colleague Kevin and I went into Skagit County Jail to lead a series of Bible studies. A group of four or five men from the first tiers of cells called “upper Q pod” gather with us around a metal table bolted to the floor, while others watch TV, take showers or work out.

I pass out a sheet with Romans 7:14-8:3 all printed out, and after Kevin opens in prayer I invite someone to read the first verse. One of the men reads it aloud, and I am immediately struck by both its strangeness and relevance.

“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.”
“Do we know these things?” I ask.

The men around the table acknowledge that they do in fact feel like they are in bondage. They mention addictions, old habitual ways of being, endless legal troubles and relationship impasses. Nobody sees the law as spiritual, except one man who says he sees laws as a power that crushes him. I explain that “the law” here Paul’s referring to is not the laws of the land, but rather God’s instructions written in Scripture that guide us, helping us choose life. God’s spiritual laws include “love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself,” and Jesus’ call to forgive, or to love your enemies.

“I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 7:22-25). A young man beside me is particularly moved. I ask him if he himself ever feels like the wretched man that Paul describes himself to be—in need of a liberator.

“Most definitely,” he responds, and others nod their agreement.

“Have you ever asked Jesus to help you, to set you free?” I ask.

“No, me and Jesus don’t have anything going,” he says.

“Oh really, is there any reason in particular for that?” I ask.

“I didn’t grow up in a religious home,” he says.

“I didn’t grow up knowing anything about Jesus. This is about as far as I’ve ever gone into any of this,” he says.

I ask God for some kind of response that might get his attention, and the number 29 comes into my head.

“Are you 29 by any chance?” I ask.

“Yes, how did you know?” he asks, surprised.

I don't know, but I do know that when you've gone through your twenties, and you've tried living life your own way, after a lot of difficulties, failures and falls you can feel tired and at a loss for how to live your life differently" I say.. He looks stunned, and acknowledges that I'd described his twenties pretty accurately.

"So if Jesus is described here as setting people free from being stuck in their old ways, why not give him a try and ask him to help you," I suggest.

"Wow man, I've gone further with you into all this than with anyone," the 29-year-old guy tells me.

I ask if any of the other men had experienced Jesus setting them free in any way—and a Hispanic man across the table from me tells an amazing story of nearly drowning in the river when he was high on meth.

"I was under the water, being pulled down by a current and I came to the point of total surrender, giving me life over to God," he recounts. "Then my leg bumped up against a log and I found the current pushing me right up and out."

The story impresses everyone, and the men want to pray. The young man beside me wants to ask Jesus to set him free, and does. We experience a sacred moment I find myself longing for more and more these days.

A correctional officer calls everyone to return to their rooms, and as Kevin and I leave he suggests we can split up so one of us to cover the lower tiers of Q pod, while another of us visits the men in the solitary confinement unit "M." I agree to stay and meet with lower Q.

Fifteen men gather around two of the metal tables, and we read through the Romans 7 again. The men share openly, confessing the truth of their bondage, their inability to change, their need for a savior to free them. They resonate with the sin that resides inside them being stronger than their capacity to live as they know in their hearts they want to live. They feel the struggle and say they want Jesus help.

We pray together, asking Jesus to set us free, and God's presence has made a way once again. I leave feeling like I'm made for this, and tonight I get to go into the jail again.

LOVE INC And CAYAC

Two outreach programs that appear well supported by our congregation in our
Core Values Questionnaire Results

Love INC: As many of you know, we do a Bicycle GAP Ministry for Love INC. Every First and Third Wednesday, we are “open for business.” The bicycles are rehabbed by the Retired Recyclers, and a supply is delivered to us twice a month. They do wonderful work – and the recipients, who are on a list compiled by Love INC, are always so grateful! Now they don’t have to walk everywhere, and can get to work on time. We would love to have a couple more folks who would be willing to learn the “business of bicycles” (easy!) .. and could thus take over the distribution on an occasional Wednesday.

CAYAC: College and Young Adult Community. This gathering for a meal and worship will resume in September when the GFU students return. We would love to have someone who can do an occasional set up and clean up! This involves NO COOKING! Just set up a simple buffet table. Delicious meals are supplied by members of the congregation. (This is another way you can help CAYAC!!)

Here’s how you can help: Call Susan in the office, and we’ll be in touch!

We hope to hear from you!

Thank You!

The Mission and Global Witness Committee

June

Birthdays

- 3– Gail Bonsey
- 3– Anna Virginia Millage
- 4– Pat Harcourt
- 18– Sage Albright

Anniversary

- 19– Lois & John Picard
- 20– Janet Range & Eric Swehla
- 24– Darlene & Chuck Zickefoose

CHURCH BBQ SUNDAY!



June 16th

Invite your friends and family.
Sign up is in Fellowship Hall or you can call
Susan in the office.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6/11– Session Meeting at 7:00 pm.

6/13– Deacons Meeting at 2:00 pm.

6/27– Mission & Global Witness 1:00 pm.

one&All
The Power of We



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**

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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.