

Newberg First Presbyterian Church



MAY 2019

PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



Spring is Here!

FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY

Enjoying Spring!

Spring is my favorite season of the year. I enjoy the flowers and sunshine. I celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during the Easter Season. I begin to feel the energy of the upcoming summer season with promises of fun adventures with family and friends. I also feel the emotional lift that comes with less rain and the hope that comes through more people in a generally positive mood. I also sense new energy for Church mission.

In this Pew News, we celebrate the gift of Spring and we highlight some exciting upcoming events in May. You will notice wonderful photos from our Easter celebration. Words cannot express the joy of baptizing my two daughters, Cate and Chiara, and their wonderful friend Almond Gordon. You will also see photos from our final College and Young Adult (CAYAC) gathering of the school year. What a wonderful year of college and young adult ministry!

May includes the blessing of Mother's Day on May 12th and I am happy to share that my amazing mom, Diane Murphy, will be preaching on "Women of the Word". She will highlight the contribution of women and share from her own experience.

I am pleased to also invite my good friend Ceitci Demirkova to come and preach on May 19th. Ceitci is the founder of Changing A Generation, a Christian ministry that empowers, children, youth, and adults in Bulgaria, Ghana, and Uganda. Ceitci speaks nationally at hundreds of churches and has appeared on various television stations sharing her story of transformation through Christ.

Finally, on June 2nd we will have a congregational meeting to share the information from our core values questionnaire and to invite us to plan together for the future of our church. This is an incredible season of new growth and opportunity at Newberg First Presbyterian. My prayer is that we will enjoy the Spring season together and live in the resurrection power of Jesus as we prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the future. We have much to celebrate in this season and we have a great deal to look forward to as we follow our Lord Jesus. May we enjoy the Spring season together as a church family!

Grace, Hope, and Love,

Pastor Chris

Dying every day-- to live!- Mission Partners Bob & Gracie Eckblad from Tierra Nueva

The last day of our trip to Morocco overlapped with the Pope's visit. We had just completed the final module of our [Certificate in Transformational Ministry at the Margins](#) with 40 French-speaking Sub-Saharan African migrants. I was tired but excited after having spent time visiting house churches and engaging with serious missional leaders from ten or so different countries.

That day, Saturday, March 30 the Pope arrived for a two-day visit. Security was tight, and only people on pre-approved lists could attend the special smaller gatherings where he was speaking. Gracie and I weren't on any lists. Students and faculty from the ecumenical theological seminary where we were teaching who were on the list gathered excitedly, ready to travel together by bus to one of the venues.

While I was waiting around, hoping to somehow be able to go, Gracie came over and asked me to help her pray for a French woman who had had a chronic illness for over 25 years. Christian, one of the African pastors who was on the list had also told me that he would rather take us to pray for a man from one of his house churches whose legs were totally paralyzed than see the Pope. He had told us that he'd likely be coming by later that afternoon to take us to this young man's house. I wasn't in the mood to pray for anyone tired from four days of straight teaching and ministry in French.

Jesus' journey to the feast in Jerusalem in John 5 did come to mind though—the story where he stops at the sheep gate and prays for a man paralyzed for 38 years. Stopping and praying for this man appeared Jesus' priority over anything else.

Getting my will in alignment with Jesus' priorities rather than seeing the Pope or being a tourist in Morocco felt like a kind of death. A Scripture from Romans 8:36 came to mind, which I'm finding myself called to remember and come under throughout each day, every day.

Just as it is written, “for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

I reluctantly agreed to pray with Gracie for the French woman, as students and faculty left excitedly to get on the bus to see the Pope. We saw the Spirit move to bring healing and freedom-- a beautiful experience! As we were wrapping up we got a call from Christian, the house church pastor from Cameroon, telling us he was on his way to take us to pray for the paralytic.

He flagged down a taxi and we headed out to one of the marginalized neighborhoods where many migrants find inexpensive housing. The neighborhood had been cleansed of petty criminals—which normally abound, days prior to the Pope's visit. We followed Christian through streets and alleys until we came to the paralyzed man's house. As we entered the smell of urine was strong. The 26-year-old man with paralyzed legs lay on a bed- immobile. His name is Jesus! He's a worship leader from Afrique Central (Central African Republic) who had been unable to move his legs at all for over a year. We prayed for him and saw his excitement and faith build as his back pain left and he began to move his feet and legs. He insisted on attempting to get up, without out help, and was able to stand.

I think of the verse right before Romans 8:36:

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

We left feeling like we were experiencing the verse following-- Romans 8:37.

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”

As we left Jesus' room, Christian's five-year-old daughter tugged on his arm, telling him God was telling her to pray for a blind Moroccan Muslim woman who sat by the entrance to Jesus' apartment. Christian did an about face—returning with his daughter to the woman and her friend. He explained what God had told his daughter. The two women were deeply touched, kissing the girl's cheeks. The little girl boldly stretched out her hand and prayed for the woman's eye to be opened in Jesus' name. If anyone could reach these two Moroccan women, this little girl seemed like the perfect missionary. Surrendering to Jesus' will involves dying to our own agendas. “Being put to death all day long” might mean relinquishing our own plans, comfort, security—whatever needs to die in favor of following a higher calling. Abundant, resurrection life awaits us.

Ceiti Demirkova– Guest Preacher on Sunday May 19th

Born and raised in Bulgaria, a former Communist country, Ceitci's story is one of tragedy to triumph and poverty to riches. Arriving to the United States at age nineteen with \$100 and 100 words of English, her ultimate passion and purpose was, and still is, to help people. Her personal stories of overcoming life's challenges and not stopping in the face of betrayal, discouragement or sickness are intertwined with her messages of hope, truth, love and purpose.

After extensive studies in cross-cultural communications, public speaking, and business and leadership development, Ceitci has become recognized worldwide as a motivational speaker, preacher and teacher. Since 1995, when she founded her non-profit, Ceitci Demirkova Ministries, she has developed innovative training seminars on a wide-range of topics: non-profit/profit business growth, creative fundraising methods, personal health and nutrition education, and individual discovery and fulfillment of all the potential God gives each of us. Her heart's desire is to see growth in the lives of people by teaching them to understand their value and discover their God-given skills and destiny.

In 2008, Ceitci incorporated into her ministry an additional charitable organization called Changing a Generation. By networking with pre-established foundations in various countries, her organization provides food, educational supplies, school tuition, and Christmas presents; and offers Biblically-based curriculum to children of all ages who live in impoverished environments. Currently the organization works on a weekly basis in four regions of Bulgaria (Sofia, Veliko Turnovo, Ruse and Burgas). Their secondary focus of outreach and educational development is in Uganda and Ghana.

Along with her many other endeavors, Ceitci has been featured as a guest on national and international radio and TV networks, such as Clear Channel, Daystar, TBN, CTN, etc. She has authored an autobiography *If You Have God*, a devotional series called *A Cup of Inspiration*, and her newest book *Motivated by the Impossible: Recognizing Your Invisible Mentors*, which received 3 book awards and became a #1 Hot New release on Amazon.



Prayer Group

Have you ever felt like you needed a spiritual spa treatment? Well, for me personally, that is what our 1 hour once a month prayer group feels like. Praying doesn't have to feel like a chore, embarrassing, or judged. Our small prayer group is a safe place to learn together how to accept God's blessing of prayer. We each take turns leading a month by sharing what God has been leading us to share and it blesses all of us to then spend time together praying. Maybe those prayers include sign language, songs, poems, scripture, quotes, or something new, but always God's Love, Peace, Hope, and Strength transform us to be happier healthier people when we depart.

Come join us, usually the first Sunday of each month, 12:15-1:00ish. It will make your heart glow brighter and might even put a spring in your step.



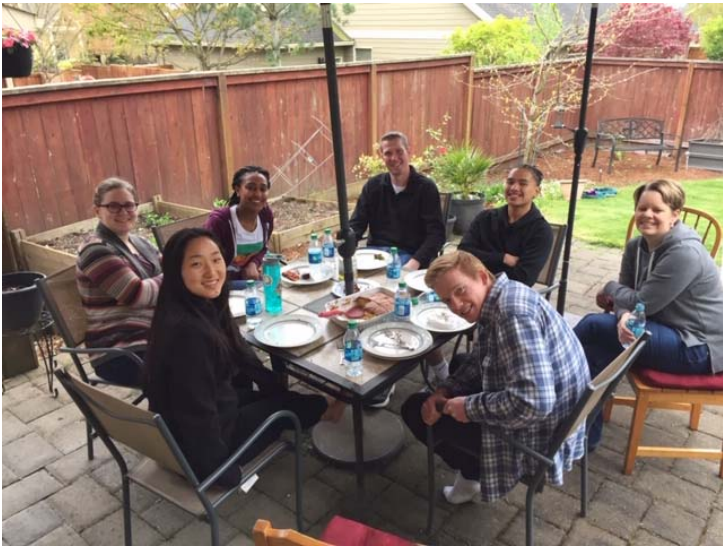
Deacons- Henderson House

"Mission: Providing culturally aware outreach, education and services for victims of domestic and sexual violence through leadership, hope and respect for thriving families."

The Deacons want to thank you for donating items and money, in March, to this worthwhile cause. When the items collected were dropped off at Henderson House, one of the staff members, who received them, was very thankful and grateful for these things! We also told her that they would be receiving a check from our church, and she was so happy to hear of even more generosity! They ended up receiving a check for \$306.00!

Thank you! The Deacons





CAYAC—The group met for the last Monday of the Spring Semester. They Enjoyed Pizza at the Murphy’s home.

THANK YOU CHEFS

For This Second Half of CAYAC!!

A Very Large thank you to the chefs who supplied dinner to the CAYAC group this second half of the season! The students and others enjoyed home cooked – and lovingly cooked! – meals, sometimes with extras to take back to their dorms or apartments!

So ... thank you Sylvia Stater, Mary Kalesse, Chris Murphy, Di Murphy, Susan King, Paula Buck, Margie LeMaster, Lynne Patrick – several did two meals!!

Blessings to those who helped make the gatherings so successful. We’ll look forward to Chef-cooked meals come Fall when CAYAC begins again!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We once again thank our generous congregation for your offering to the OGHS at Eastertime.

We were able to send **\$1001.00** to our Presbyterian Church (USA) - “headquarters” - for the work of the church, serving people in need at home and abroad!

Specifically, 36% is received by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, while Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program each receive 32%!

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH !!

The Mission and Global Witness Committee

Baptisms- Cate & Chiara Murphy and Almond Gordon







Easter
2019





Easter
2019



May

Birthdays

3– Tim Weaver

6– Loraine Sarnacki

7– Keith Harcourt

8– Laura Francis Dickerson

14– Liz Zion

19– Jennie Delano

22– William Goodman

22– Nigel Swehla

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 June. If you would like to help answer phones, please contact the office.

Office: 503-538-3313 9am to 1pm
firstpresnewberg@frontier.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 5/9 Deacons Meeting at 2:00 pm.
- 5/9 Backlot Planning Team Meeting at 1:30 pm.
- 5/14 Session Meeting at 7:00 pm.
- 5/23 Mission & Global Witness at 1:00 pm.
- 5/28 Finance & Facilities at 6:00 pm.
- 6/2 Congregational Meeting after worship service.

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.