

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



“Enjoying Summer”

PAGE I

FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY– Journeys of Faith

I recently returned from a family trip to Fresno to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of my aunt and uncle. We had a wonderful vacation and made lasting memories with my dad's extended family. We also enjoyed In N Out burgers, swimming at hotels, and some fun at Crater Lake on the drive home.

This summer we are exploring “Journeys of Faith” as our sermon series. The journey of our lives is like a road trip that hopefully includes some beautiful adventures with family and friends. There are many important things to do in this life. There are personal dreams to pursue, good meaningful work, deep relationships, and creative projects. As we follow Christ, we find deep meaning in caring for one another and for those who are on the margins of society. As I often preach, a huge part of our call is to work for justice in a world that is hurting.

As a church community, we seek to be faithful to all God is calling us to be and do together. However, during the summer more than at other times we take breaks for vacation. We have less meetings and rest more. As we enter August, I am tempted to focus all my attention on getting ready for the fall. There are social causes I want to help us focus on. There are a lot of exciting things to do, but I sense God telling me to not rush into the fall, but to enjoy the summer. The world is full of needs and ministry opportunities are always here, but the summer is to be enjoyed. This is especially true in Oregon with our amazing weather.

What if rest and fun adventures in the summer are actually some of the most Godly things we can do? What if vacation is God’s invitation to not get ahead of ourselves and to enjoy life? I have a tendency to move fast through life. Making time for fun is actually a spiritual discipline for me. If you suffer with the same tendencies, I encourage you to take the rest of the summer at a slow pace. Maybe visit Cannon beach or another city on the coast. Do something spontaneous! The fall will be full of meaningful ministry that we can enjoy together, but for now let us enjoy the beauty of our Oregon summer. Take time to enjoy your life and those close to you:)

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chris

Each month we will be featuring one of our Mission Partners. Bob and Gracie Ekblad are the featured Mission Partners this month. We got to meet Bob as he spoke to us on July 14. They are based in Burlington, Washington but have mission interests in many parts of the world. (Also our Mission and Global Witness committee is seeking new committee members, talk to Elise Prayzich or Chuck Zickefoose.)

Bob and Gracie Ekblad



Bob and Gracie Ekblad are founders and General Directors of **Tierra Nueva**. We recently heard Bob from our pulpit to personally hear about the origins of their worldwide ministry from its initiation in Central America to work now based in Burlington, Washington.

After pursuing graduate studies in theology in Montpellier, France, Bob and Gracie served a bilingual Presbyterian Church in the Mission District of San Francisco. There they became aware of the migrant farm worker population living in the Skagit Valley in Washington State. In 1994 the Ekblads moved to Burlington to start what they then called Tierra Nueva del Norte. They began visiting immigrant workers in the migrant labor camps and fields and Bob became chaplain of Skagit County Jail Ministry. Migrant and jail chaplaincy continue to be the cornerstones of Tierra Nueva. The People's Seminary was established to train ministry workers to serve people on the margins of society locally, nationally and around the world.

Lights for Liberty Community Vigil to support Immigrants



Neighborhood Night Out!

Thursday, September 12 - 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

The Mission and Global Witness Committee is planning to invite our neighbors to come out to meet their neighbors, all of US! - and our first responders.

On tap, "Plan A," are a fire truck and ambulance, which kids will be welcome to explore; Sargent Shoning, NDPD and his canine "Officer" ARCO; disaster planning information, and possibly a representative from *Waste Management!*

Our Mayor, Rick Rogers, will be out of town during that week, so Council President Denise Bacon will be on hand to represent Newberg city government.

So ... we'll hope for reasonable weather, and that lots of neighbors will turn out to visit and enjoy - with their children - all the activities - including Root Beer Floats!!

Plans will be finalized in August.

We hope lots of our congregation will join in meeting our neighbors!!,



Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during World War II there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at the prescribed hour for **one minute** to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace?

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate:

Every evening at **8PM Central**, stop what you are doing and spend **one minute** praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation. If you have a smart phone - set an alarm to pray from **8-8:01 PM**. Please pass this along to your prayerful family and friends. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Upcoming Events

Prayer Group – The prayer group meets first Sunday of each month after worship.

Friday Prayer— The sanctuary is open Fridays from 9 am to 12 noon for prayer and reflection.

Church Retreat – There is a sign up in Fellowship Hall for a day retreat on August 29th at Camp Tilikum.

Praise & Potluck Brunch – Join us for praise, food and fun on August 11th in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite brunch dish to share. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Labor Day Weekend – Our friends at Columbia Presbytery in Vancouver, WA will be at our service. They will be enjoying Champoeg Park.

September Hours – Our service will begin at 10:30 am on September 8th.

CAYAC – We will have a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall starting in August. Our College and Young Adult Community will be returning in September. We do not have a firm date at this time.

Capital Campaign Update – We will begin sending out letters with information on our fall capital campaign in the middle of August. The official launch of our campaign will be in September. More information to come soon.

August Birthdays

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Birthdays

- 1– Megan Stater
- 2– Armond Kalesse
- 7– Chris McCourt
- 9– Dollie King
- 10– Chiara Murphy
- 26– Janet Range
- 28– Kim Godshalk
- 28– Maddy McCourt
- 31– Almond Gordon

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8-8 2:00 pm Deacons Meeting in Library
8-13 7:00 pm Session Meeting in Media Room
8-22 1:00 pm Mission & Global Witness Meeting
8-27 6:00 pm Finance & Facilities Meeting

Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his
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Our website address is : newbergfpc.org

ONE
AND
ALL

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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.