

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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# PEW NEWS

Newberg, OR



*“Grief and Hope”*

PAGE I

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**FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY– Grief and Hope**

On Saturday, September 28th, we celebrated the life of Dollie Sue King. Dollie and her family came to Newberg First Presbyterian Church in 1971. Dollie was an active member of our choir, committed deacon, and faithful hostess of our annual Christmas Eve dinner for many years. She is one of the matriarchs of our church family and we will dearly miss her.

Dollie is the most recent member of our church to pass from this life on earth to eternal life in Heaven. Since my arrival as the pastor our church, we have also celebrated the lives of Wayne Stater, Carol Fisher, Florence Jensen, Sarge Riha, Robert Andrew, Doug Delano, Hawk Au, John Picard, Keith Harcourt, Jack Day, and Jeanne Monahan.

At Dollie's worship service, former Pastor Peter Blank, reminded our congregation of the importance of walking together through the depth of grief and how our loved ones remain connected to us even after they go to heaven. We were inspired to find hope in the words of Jesus from John 14:1 – "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

I have noticed at our memorial services that we feel a mixture of grief and hope as we remember our loved ones. I find it hopeful that at memorial services we actually hear more laughter than at other services as people share fun stories of good memories shared with the person who has gone to heaven. We also experience deeper sadness than at other worship services as we feel the sacredness of this ritual of love. We ultimately put our hope and trust in God as we feel all of these emotions.

In this Fall season, we begin to experience cooler temperatures and the leaves falling to the ground. Nature shows us the cycle of death and new life every year. In our church, we are experiencing the same cycle and God gently holds us through the grief and begins to birth new hope. Jesus went on his own journey of grief and hope through the cross and resurrection. We follow a Savior who understands the journey we are one and joins us to bring deep comfort. We are a family church that is here for each other in these seasons of loss and new life. We put our trust in a loving Savior who gently holds us through these times and prepares us for the future.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Chris

- Ekblads:** With joy I announce the translation from French into English and publication of Daniel Bourguet's recent book *On the Banks of the Jordan: Encountering the Mystery of Father, Son and Holy Spirit*, The People's Seminary Press, 2019. Daniel Bourguet was Gracie and my professor and continues to be our friend. He has written over 25 books, many of which are becoming spiritual classics.
- Yorks:** It was an honor for **Erik** to be able to baptize **Katrielle** (their daughter) at a beautiful end of summer service with our church. We're thankful for how she is expressing her thankfulness for Jesus.
- Smiths:** In July, I accompanied Rev. Dr. Jan DeVries and Joanna Kim of Grace Presbytery to the celebration of 150 years of Presbyterian presence in **Chile**. In September, I will join other World Mission staff as a resource person to a PC(USA) General Assembly Task Force on **Central America**. October 4-6 the **Perú** Mission Network will gather at Webster Presbyterian Church, near Houston.
- O'Herins:** Rejoice with us over the Bible translation completed! It is so exciting to hold Jonah in our hands! Once the consultant check of Matthew is done, we will move to Luke. Please pray for the process as we start over at the beginning drafting stage. Both the translator and I have learned a lot about the process while doing Matthew.
- Taliilee:** Ethiopia is one of the oldest Christian nations in the world. Islam was introduced in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and Muslims now make up about one-third of Ethiopia's population. In the Arsi Oromo region around Shashamane (south-central Ethiopia), Islam has become the predominant religion by a wide margin. Our team was excited to see how God is using Frontier Fellowship and Light of Hope Ministry Ethiopia (LOHME) to share the Good News of Jesus in this region.

***[Check out our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for details on our Partners.]***

**Mission News Feature**

**Dennis and Meribel Smith**

**This month's feature is the latest news from Dennis about conditions in areas that they serve in South America. The Smiths are one of our Mission partners and have visited us in the past.**

*Activities and prayer requests:*

In July, I accompanied Rev. Dr. Jan DeVries and Joanna Kim of Grace Presbytery to the celebration of 150 years of Presbyterian presence in **Chile**.

In September, I will join other World Mission staff as a resource person to a PC(USA) General Assembly Task Force on **Central America**. Pray that we might have grace and wisdom to hear the stories shared by our partners there and pray for them as they serve the God of Life in difficult circumstances.

October 4-6 the **Perú** Mission Network will gather at Webster Presbyterian Church, near Houston. Presbyterians who are passionate about God's mission will gather with our mission co-workers and partners from Peru to discern together how we can support one another better. Please pray for us!

In November, I will meet with colleagues from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal (IEPP) and the United Presbyterian Church of **Brazil** (IPU) to review and renew our three-way mission partnership that has IPU pastor Rev. Cacilene Nobre working with immigrants, women, children and youth in Portugal. We give thanks to God for this innovative approach to mission. \*

We give thanks to God that you are part of our lives. Your prayers and generous financial support make our ministry possible. Thank you for being part of our mission family.

Under the Mercy,

Dennis A. Smith

\* *The Smiths truly have an ecumenical mission partnering with several denominations in South America.*

**Generosity Sunday- November 3rd  
(Pledge Cards Requested for Annual Giving and Capital Campaign)**

We are excited to share that we have raised nearly \$90,000 in pledges for our Investing in the Church Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$230,000 for this three-year campaign.

We are encouraging everyone to turn in your annual pledge cards and your capital campaign pledge cards by our November 3rd Generosity Sunday worship service. Cards may also be turned into the office at any time and additional cards and information is available at Church.

Thank you for your generosity as we fulfill our mission as a Christ-centered church of Grace, Hope, and Love committed to mission in Newberg and throughout the world!

Pastor Chris




**Annual Deacons Auction**

Saturday October 26th

Dinner at 6:00 p.m

Auction will start at 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions please contact a deacon.



## It's time for the Deacons Annual Dinner & Auction

This money raised helps the Deacons fund projects and outreach groups in our local community. We have also been able to help some of the members and attenders as we are able.

### Searching for Ideas?

**Good with your hands?** Sell what you build, sew, grow, paint, decorate, photograph, crochet, raise, draw, mold, or create. Offer a class, sell a kit, sell an item.

**Love to cook ( or eat)?** Sell what you bake, BBQ, fry, can, freeze or cook. Offer to teach others how to make your favorites. Put together a cookbook or your best selections of recipes. Sell a "catered" meal to be delivered. Have a "tasting".

**Like to Entertain?** Hold a theme dinner or soiree at your home. Sell a "party in a box" for event, buyers location. Provide event planning for small or large group. Teach a game and hold a tournament.

**Like to Travel?** Offer the use of a time share or vacation home.

**Great around the house?** Offer a class in household cleaning, upkeep, organization, decorating, or storage planning. Wash and detail cars. Sell your labor. Provide handyman services for electrical/plumbing or drywall.

**Great at Gardening?** Sell plant potting services for indoor and outdoor plants. Provide leaf raking, spring or fall cleanup. Teach a class on planting.

**Enjoy the outdoors?** Guide a hike to your favorite destination. Teach a class on hiking safety, organize a trip.

**Talented in Music?** Sell a personal concert of buyers favorite songs, Provide dinner music for a special event. Offer tapes and cd's of your best performances, give lessons in music or an instrument.

**Crazy about Sports?** Offer lessons on basic skills of your favorite sport. Sell seats for a group to attend a sporting event.

**Love animals?** Hold classes on care of a particular type of animal. Offer grooming session, sell animal sitting during vacations.

## Women of First Presbyterian

Ladies, our weekly gatherings for conversation, coffee, and caring have begun! We now have a name - Space for Grace. It is a perfect name for our times together. These are times in our busy lives to reflect on our faith and to connect with one another in gracious sharing. We hope you will join us **Fridays from 10 to 11:30 in the Church Library!!**

Our focus this Fall is to deepen our friendship with Jesus. There is no better way to do that than to walk with Him as He moves through the events of His life. We also spend time sharing our lives, joys and burdens, and praying. In it all we are experiencing God's grace to us and through us, to one another. Come and make Space for Grace in your life!!

Questions or need a ride? Call Mary Kalesse (503-644-5502) or the church office.

## Christmas Stockings-

Women of the First Presbyterian Church of Newberg are going to be gathering at the church on **Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10 a.m.** to make 25 **Christmas stockings** for Providence Hospital Newberg. Deacons from our church see that every child born in December goes home in a Christmas Stocking. We will be cutting them out and sewing them up. If you have a portable sewing machine; bring it with you. We invite anyone who would like to join us as we cut, sew and visit.

## October

### Birthdays

- 4– Andrew Davis
- 4– Corinne Waterbury
- 7– Carol Swehla
- 11– Lois Picard
- 16– Margie LeMaster
- 18– Roberta Simonsen
- 22– Chris Sarnacki

### Anniversary

- 14– Carol & Dick Sahagian



## GFU Serve Day

On September 11th, George Fox University had its annual Serve Day. Students and staff spent the day working in the community. It is a well received program from both the community and First Presbyterian Church. We enjoyed meeting the students, hearing where they were from and working with them to clean up the grounds.





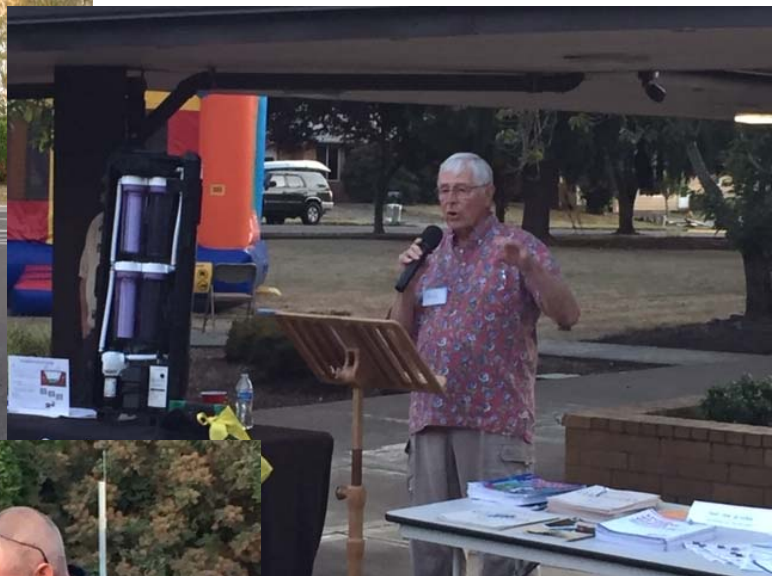
We thank all of you who came out to meet our neighbors at our “NNO” on September 12! Although we didn’t have a crowd of neighbors, we did have some – and more than the last time – so we hope our attendees will be even more interested if we (and I hope we will) do this event in 2020!

The bouncy house, suggested by Chris, was a definite draw – one neighbor said “That’s why we came.” :) Our thanks to all who helped set up and cleaned up – and to Chuck Z. who had arranged a great talk about what the town can do for our residents when The Big One hits, and how our church may be designated as a sanctuary area for water during the aftermath.

Our police were there with their “Furry Officers” Arco and Sam. They gave a nice demonstration of how the dogs work. Unfortunately, the firefighters who are also first responders, were out responding – thus leaving us w/o our intended fire engine and ambulance. But we certainly understood their need to be elsewhere!

Out thanks too, to our super Root Beer Float expert, Laurel, who kept at it for almost 2 hours! Thanks again to all who turned out to support our Neighborhood Night Out event, and helped in making out evening a pleasant and informative time!

*The Mission and Global Witness Committee*



## First Responders Pie Social

Thanks to all who participated in the bringing, baking and providing support for this annual event. We had around 45 pies this year!





# Camp Tilikum Retreat

A great time was had by all at the first church retreat last month at Camp Tillikum. We prayed, socialized, kayaked, canoed, had a great lunch, hiked and just chilled. A group of about 15 of us enjoyed a beautiful day in a gorgeous setting. If you haven't been to Camp Tilikum, you should go. It's not far away but feels a world apart. Hopefully this can become an annual event that more and more people will want to attend.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 10-8 7:00 pm Session Meeting in Media Room
- 10-10 2:00 pm Deacons Meeting in Library
- 10-24 1:00 pm Mission & Global Witness Meeting
- 10-24 6:00 pm Finance & Facilities Meeting

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

Our website address is : [newbergfpc.org](http://newbergfpc.org)



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
501 MISSION DRIVE  
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.