

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 20  
ISSUE 1  
JAN-FEB 2020



# PEW NEWS



*“Happy New Decade”*

PAGE I

## FROM THE REV. CHRIS MURPHY—

### Happy New Decade!

Welcome to the 2020's! Can you believe we have reached a new decade? My wife Karen and I remember going on a long car ride from Seattle to Pasadena on New Year's 2000. We were just getting to know each other, while both pursuing our graduate degrees at Fuller Seminary and now it is 20 years later and we continue to take family road trips now from Oregon to Seattle. How time flies? As a history major, I remember learning that the 1920's were called the "Roaring Twenties." It is too soon to know for certain what this decade will be known for, but it is not too soon to share our hopes for this new decade. Here are a few of my hopes for our world.

**1. I hope we prioritize God.** The world is full of different religions and spiritual ideas. For Christians, prioritizing God, means to center our lives on a relationship with Jesus Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit and supported by the community of the Trinity that also includes an image of God as mother and father to us all. We seek to be a friend and follower of Jesus and to do what Jesus would do if he was back on earth. Actually, the Spirit of Christ is alive on earth through us and others who care about God's heart of love for the world.

**2. I hope we have a special heart for the marginalized and most vulnerable.** This is a big one. What if people began to pay more attention to those most vulnerable rather than simply the famous, powerful, and wealthy people in our world? What if we continued to protest in solidarity with refugees and other survivors of injustice? What if we supported affordable housing efforts and creative solutions to the problems of poverty?

**3. I hope we can be people of peace.** I worry that often the solution people have to the violence in our world is more violence. However, an eye for an eye perspective only keeps people blinded from the truth. There is a place for self defense and maybe even just wars, but what if the 2020's provide more creative efforts to work for diplomatic solutions to violence. Maybe younger generations and governments with an increasing number of female leaders will have less violent solutions. Maybe we can learn to work across the aisle and find peaceful solutions. I think we are one good success story away from a movement of peace in our world.

**4. I hope we can learn to love the earth.** The recent Climate Strikes led by youth around world have reminded all of us that our earth is a finite resource. We cannot continue to abuse the planet and expect the future generations to live with enough food, clean air, and clean water. Science reminds us that to care for creation is to sustain future generations. How about we move to earth sensitive solutions for energy and other significant changes to the way we care for the planet?

**5. I hope we see and love those closest to us first.** I believe Jesus teaches us to love God and one another. As we love God well and receive God's grace, hope, and love we can love one another well. We can truly see each other and show empathy to one another. This begins with our friends, family, and for Christians- our churches. May God's love then overflow within our society, all nations, faiths, and cultures.

Okay, as I list these dreams for the decade you may be thinking this is wishful thinking. Maybe so, but all reformers were dreamers and wishful thinkers. They dreamed of a better world. Let's keep the dream alive and welcome the 2020's with great hope and faith in God and humankind.

## Featured Mission Partner

Taliilee – Light of Hope Ministry

*Taliilee sent this information over the holidays, she and her husband Urgessa facilitate the Light of Hope Ministry in southeastern Ethiopia and around the U.S. The work is among the Arsi Oromo peoples involving the following endeavors:*

**Arsi Oromo Bible:** After ten years of hard work, the translation of Arsi Oromo Bible is complete. The manuscript was sent to South Korea for typesetting and publication. How exciting for Arsi Oromos to have access to God's Word in the language that directly speaks to their heart. Praise God! We want to print 5000 copies and your gift of \$10 provides a Bible.

**New Schools:** Three elementary schools in two districts are being constructed. Access to formal education is going to be available to these communities for the first time. More than 200 students in each school will have access to formal education in the first year. Not only will there be children learning to read and write and opening new possibilities for their futures, entire communities will be learning about God's love through Jesus as we address their need for education.

**New Faith Communities:** Many churches among the Arsi people are filled with young people. And many of them don't have pastors. We thank God for our Bible translation team who go to those rural churches and distribute the Arsi Oromo written and audio Bible, as well as preach and teach. In my (Taliilee) two trips to Ethiopia, I had opportunities to teach about contextualities of worship with evangelists, choir, and worship leaders. The training inspired them to create gospel songs in their cultural melodies.

**Diaspora Oromo Community:** God has given me a unique opportunity to mobilize Ethiopian Oromo churches to participate in God's mission in their neighborhood and beyond. I will be spending my holidays singing and preaching at Oromo churches in Portland and Minnesota.

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING THANK YOU!!

It is with pleasure that we announce our congregations' donations this year to the Christmas Joy Offering!

We are pleased to let you know that **\$750.00** will be sent to General Assembly for our collective mission I supporting racial and ethnic schools through-out the United States, and caring for pastors and their families who may find themselves in need due to an extraordinary financial need.

We thank and bless our congregation who always responds so generously!



*The Mission and Global Witness Committee*

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is approaching. This worldwide Presbyterian offering is received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, promote development through the **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**, and assist in areas of disaster through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**.

#### OGHS Results:

**9,146**

PDA work team volunteers served in 12 states in 2018

**\$5.6 million**

granted around the globe through PDA in 2018

**\$791,110**

granted around the globe through PHP in 2018

**94,804**

trees and seedlings planted around the world

**47**

open field farms and gardens created by international grant partners

**5,316**

clergy, wage theft monitors, human rights trainees, organizers, policy advocates, and indigenous leaders attended intensive trainings in the U.S.

**5,600**

loans distributed for income generating projects and cooperatives

**over 5,000**

projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception

**126,610**

pounds of local, organically-grown food distributed across the U.S.

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You will be pleased to know that our church, through Love INC’s GAP Ministry, provided bicycles to 82 Love INC clients in 2019! We are “open for business” on the first and third Wednesdays each month, and work from a list provided to us by Love INC, who do an intake procedure to see the needs of the folks they are interviewing are properly met.



The bicycles themselves are provided by the Retired Recyclers, and ready for us to pick up before each “business day.”

Those who receive the bikes 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!

We should add: Bicycle donations are terrific!! ... as are any who might like to join the Retired Recyclers!

Many, Many thanks!!

*The Mission and Global Witness Committee*



### **CAYAC is Back!**

We are so grateful for all the cooks and Pizza suppliers who fed our CAYAC attendees so very well for our Monday Night Gatherings during the fall semester.

**NOW ... CAYAC has started up for 2020!**

AND we’ll be looking for “Chefs” who can cook a simple dinner for the students and leaders – maybe 15 people in all. We should mention, if you’d like to stay and have dinner with the group, you are MORE than welcome!!

AND ... if there is anyone who’d like to sponsor or partially sponsor Pizza Night (the first of every month) – we’d welcome your help in defraying that expense.

Again, simple dinners, arriving about 4:30 each Monday, and ... **THAT’S ALL!!** We’ll supply drinks – and take care of all other tasks to get the dinner on the table - and we’ll be there ‘til the last dish is washed and put away! ;)

You can sign up in Fellowship Hall – just pick a date! :)

## **Hello and Welcome!**

We welcome Sara Hailemeskel as our new college intern from George Fox University. Sara is assisting us this semester in our ministry with children and youth, college-age students, worship leadership, adult education, and visitation. She brings a huge heart for youth and world mission. Sara grew up in both Ethiopia and North Hollywood and hopes to one day return to Ethiopia to do ministry with children and youth there.





Would you be interested in helping with Fellowship? The Deacon's are looking for volunteers to help!

You can give monetarily by writing a check or giving cash marked Deacons in the Sunday offering

Or....

You could partner with a Deacon on Sunday and bring a snack and join together for the fun and fellowship of preparation. If you are interested (or at least curious) please see a Deacon. Your Deacons are:

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Paula Buck | Sharon Riha  |
| Di Murphy  | Pam Weaver   |
| Susan King | Carol Swehla |

Give 'em a call! Phone numbers are in our Church Directory. Don't have a Directory? Pick one up in the Fellowship Hall!



A Note of Grateful Thanks!

As I settle into my new position as Office Manager for our church, I realize that I have some special people to thank. First, I must give a shout-out to Susan for her patient and thorough training. Any mistakes I make are mine and mine alone, (including late newsletters!) and Susan graciously continues to support me as I learn and grow. Next, a huge thank you goes out to the people with whom I interact on a daily and weekly basis—deacons, session members, ministry leaders and, of course, Chris. Your understanding, support and friendship mean so much to me. And finally, I wish to thank my church family for their patience and grace as I stumble through things as I am learning them. Your support and understanding are so, so appreciated, and very much a blessing to me. I'm grateful to you all.

Blessings on you,  
Katherine



*Happy Birthday!*

**January**  
 4- Chuck Zickefoose  
 5- Lou Gimbel  
 6- Joe Sarnacki  
 8- Janet Andrew  
 10- Mary Kalesse  
 26- Eric Swehla  
 31- Bob Andrews

**February**  
 4- Lory Albright  
 4- Douglas King  
 9- Don Albright  
 16- Jim Bonsey  
 17- Dick Sahagian  
 19- Carl Patrick  
 19- Paula Buck  
 23- Sharon Riha  
 27- Wilma Loeks  
 27- Glenn Sorum

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January

15-Pam & Tim Weaver

**All are welcome!**

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season, is February 26th this year. To celebrate this important time leading up to Easter, our Church will hold an Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26th followed by a time of fellowship around a soup supper provided by our Space for Grace women's ministry. Please let us know whether you can attend by signing up in the Fellowship Hall. We're looking forward to celebrating together this day of spiritual reflection leading up to Easter!



**Lenten Season Focus:**

**The Gift of Prayer**

The Sermon Series during Lent this year will focus on prayer. Pastor Chris Murphy, Mary Kalesse, and Sara Hailemeskel will be assisting with the sermons.

Lent is a time of personal reflection on our own mortality and our need to embrace our limitations and deepen our devotion to God

in prayer. Outside of our normal worship services, we have a few special events to support your experience of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

**Ash Wednesday Service-** February 26th, 6 PM in Sanctuary followed by 6:30 PM light dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

**Palm Sunday Service-** Sunday, April 5th- Begin Holy Week with a special service of music and meditation on the loving sacrifice of Jesus.

**Maundy Thursday Service and Meal** - Thursday, April 9th at 6 PM- Reflect on the Last Supper of Jesus as we enjoy dinner, the Lord's Supper, and a brief time of worship together in the Fellowship Hall.

**Good Friday Prayer Retreat-** Friday, April 10th, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Enjoy a retreat on the church campus that includes prayer stations to help us reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

**Easter Sunday!** - Family style breakfast at 9 AM followed by Easter Service at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Bring your friends and family to this wonderful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

**In Need of Prayer**

**Please keep these friends in your prayers :**

Chris and Craig McCourt—prayers for strength and recovery



**In Memoriam**

Janet Andrew—January 14, 2020  
Service to be held on February 22, at 11:00

Lu Gimbel—January 17, 2020  
Service was held on February 1, 2020

## Capital Campaign

Things are moving along with many pledges coming in! In all, a total of close to \$140,000 has been pledged toward the continued growth and ministry of our church. Our hearts rejoice at the commitment of all our church family who have come together to support our church and glorify God! Bless you all!!



### *Session Notes:*

Session has started the New Year welcoming two new members: Mary Kalesse and Corinne Waterbury. A new Fee Schedule for Newberg FPC for those wishing to rent space for an event has been drafted. We hope to formally approve the document at March meeting and it will subsequently be posted on website and in church office.

Session has approved moving ahead to work with a local realtor to look at leasing the backlot property.

Finally, Session meets on 2nd Tuesday of each month; meetings are open to all; if you would like to attend, we just ask that you notify Pastor Chris in advance.

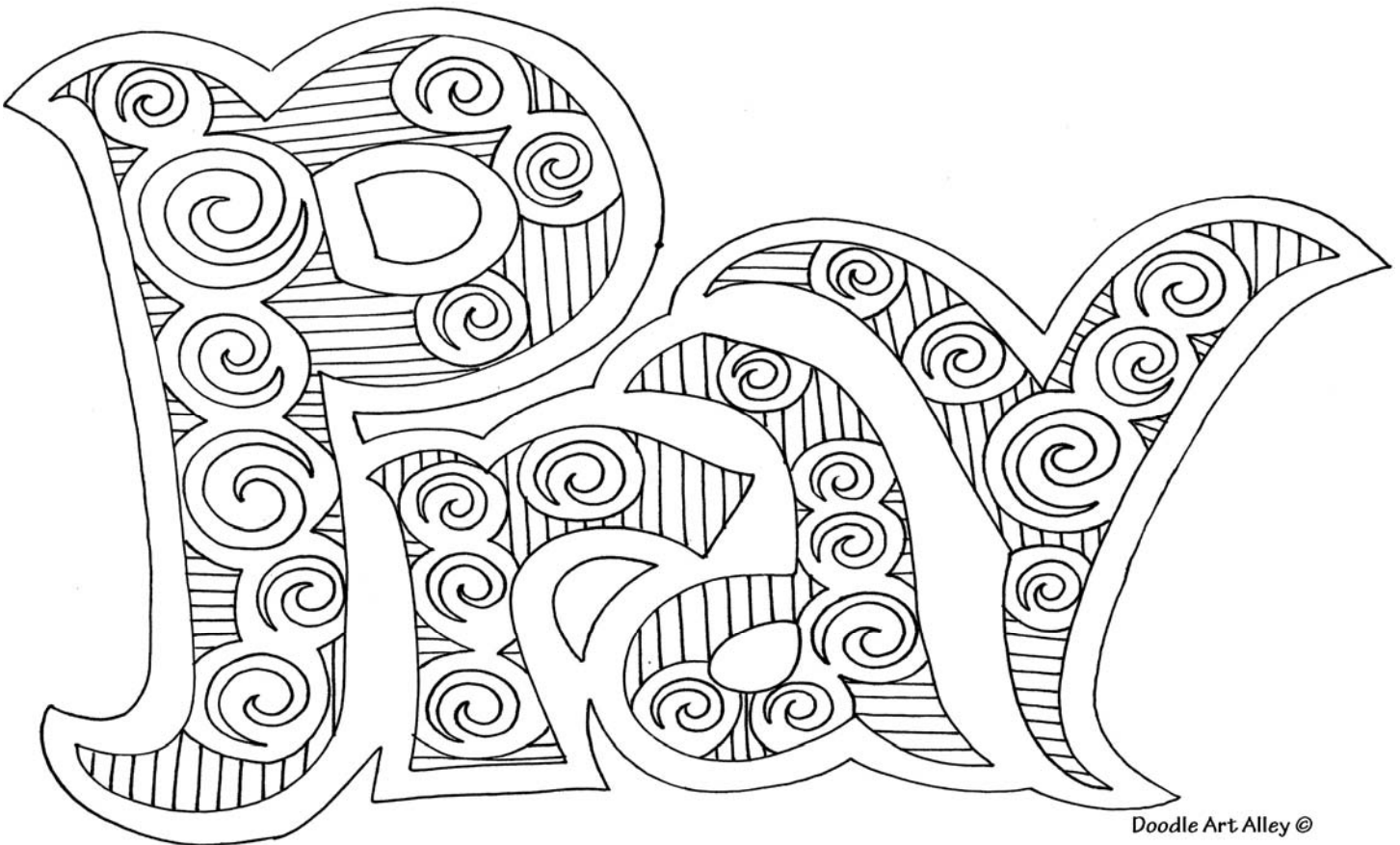
Sylvia Stater,  
*Clerk of Session*

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## Kidz Korner (also for fun-loving adults!!)

**Today's Feature: Coloring for fun and relaxation!**

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Doodle Art Alley ©

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2-11-20 6:30 pm Session Meeting in Media Room  
2-9-20 12:00 pm Deacons Meeting in Library  
2-27-20 1:00 pm Mission & Global Witness Meeting  
2-27-20 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.