

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 3

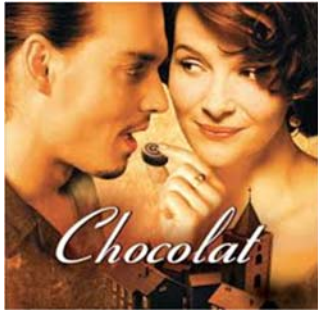
APRIL 2020



PEW NEWS



*“Holy Week and the
Humanity of Jesus”*



Embracing the Humanity of Jesus During Easter

My wife Karen and I have a tradition of watching the movie Chocolat every year during Lent in preparation for Easter. The movie tells the story of a single mom and daughter who enter an old European town and set up a chocolate shop during the season of Lent. The mayor of the town is a devout religious person and is not happy with the presence of this secular woman who is tempting the town to enjoy chocolate during the Lenten season of abstinence. As the movie unfolds, you realize it is a beautiful story of grace. I encourage you to watch it during Holy week and see what I mean. In one of the final scenes of the movie the very young and inexperienced local priest gets up to preach his homily on Easter morning.

Here is how the sermon starts...

"I'm not sure what the theme of my homily today ought to be. Do I want to speak of the miracle of Our Lord's divine transformation? Not really, no. I don't want to talk about His divinity. I'd rather talk about His humanity. I mean, you know, how He lived His life, here on Earth. His kindness, His tolerance... Listen, here's what I think. I think that we can't go around measuring our goodness by what we don't do. By what we deny ourselves, what we resist, and who we exclude. I think... we've got to measure goodness by what we embrace, what we create, and who we include."

I love this sermon and it means more to me now that I am a local pastor serving a small congregation. Like the priest, I am finding myself reflecting more on the humanity of Jesus during this Lent and Easter Season. I am entering Holy Week with a gratefulness for how Jesus humbled himself and became one of us. Jesus chose to enter into the human experience and to suffer with us. Easter reminds us of the triumph of Christ in his resurrection, but it also reminds us of the humanity of Jesus and how he willingly gave up his life and demonstrated love, sacrifice, and inclusion of everyone.

This is an Easter Season we will likely remember for the rest of our lives. For the first time for many of us, we will celebrate Easter by watching a Livestream service. Some of us will eat an Easter meal with a few family members. Others of us might spend the day alone. I encourage us to reach out in kindness in some way. Call a friend who is lonely. Pray for the doctors and nurses who are caring for ill patients on Easter. Pray especially for those who are sick with COVID19 or some other illness. Treasure one another, show love to everyone and remember that Jesus has compassion with us because he suffered as one of us. Let us show our goodness by what we create during this time and how we include the whole world in our thoughts and prayers. Let us put our hope in the resurrection of Jesus, knowing that new life and love will be born from this season of waiting and loss.





**A message from Stated Clerk of the General Assembly,
J. Herbert Nelson II, and President/Executive Director of
the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Diane Moffett.**

March 18, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

These are truly trying times for all of us as we face a rapidly spreading virus, panic buying that has left grocery shelves nearly empty and supplies in great demand. We have seen the worst in people and the best. Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ and the promise to never leave us.

We are holding each of you in prayer. Like the rest of the country, our Presbyterian communities are physically separated, but we are still deeply connected through our common humanity, spirituality and strong faith in God.

We are not only with you in prayer and solidarity, we are also here to serve you. In response to increased anxieties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is committed to supporting mid council leaders and pastors who are on the frontline of preaching words of hope in these times. To assist you in that effort, the church has compiled special resources for pastors, congregational leaders and members. These resources include information about virtual worship services.

We are all in this together as we learn to cope with our new normal. Because the Presbyterian connectional system encourages us to learn from one another, we are encouraging "crowdsourcing" as a way of sharing ideas. What are your needs? What's working well in your church communities? We want to hear from you! Tell us what you need, offer suggestions or suggest resources. Please reach out to us at connected@pcusa.org.

We are hearing the concerns many of you have regarding stewardship. The Presbyterian Foundation offers access to an online giving system that allows congregations to accept secure online donations. We know that many people and congregations are experiencing economic hardship because of the coronavirus. However, for those who are able, we encourage continued support of your local church, and sharing God's love with our neighbors in need worldwide. We are grateful for those presbyteries who are providing financial assistance to congregations. We recognize that not all presbyteries are able to do so. We plan to meet with some mid councils to assess needs, and discern ways in which we might be of assistance.

We are compelled by our faithfulness to Christ's charge to love our neighbors. During this crisis, we are mindful of our denomination's commitment to Matthew 25, and urge compassion for others by not purchasing more supplies than we need, and by speaking out against the racism being directed at some of our Asian siblings. Jesus makes it clear that how we respond to our neighbor is of paramount importance to him. These tough times call for the best of Christian character and actions.

Session met March 10, 2020. There was a brief discussion about the coronavirus and what it might mean for the church. All gatherings for worship in the Presbytery have now been halted, and the March Presbytery meeting postponed.

The Men's Breakfast Team was approved to act as agents of Newberg FPC in negotiations with the City of Newberg concerning Emergency Preparedness. A new Facility Fee Schedule for the use of our church space was approved.

During this uncertain time, we urge that you all keep safe but stay connected via phone or internet. The church office is closed, though Chris and Katherine are working to keep our church family connected. To that end, we request that you try to keep up with your financial commitments. Remember, you can give by mail or online.

Thanks,
Sylvia Stater, Clerk of Session



A great big "Thank You" to those who have continued to send in your pledges and Capital Campaign money. Your continued support in these times of trouble mean so very much!






Again, thank you!



Our Love & Prayers Go Out To...

If you are in need of prayer, or know someone who is, please contact Katherine in the front office so that you can be added to our prayer list and thus served by our congregation.

Please pray for our world:

-  *For those stricken by Covid-19, and for their families*
-  *For our health care workers as they care for our community*
-  *For our leaders as they work to make our communities safe*
-  *For the front-line workers as they continue to go out into society to serve others*
-  *For families as they stay at home, working and home-schooling as they self-isolate*

Thank You..

...to those of you who so kindly prepared a meal for CAYAC!

A very Large thank you to the chefs who supplied dinner to the CAYAC group for this New 2020 Season, first semester! The students and others enjoyed home - and lovingly - cooked meals, sometimes with extras to take back to their dorms or apartments!

So ... thank you Margie LeMaster, Di Murphy, Mary Kalesse, David Waterbury (pizza!), Paula Buck, Darlene Zickefoose and Katherine Millage - several of whom did two meals!!

Blessings to those who helped make the gatherings so successful - and to those who were signed up to help but were caught on the wrong side of our closure due to Covid-19.

We'll look forward to Chef-cooked meals again come the Fall when CAYAC begins again!

Blessings!!

Grateful CAYAC Attenders!

GRATEFUL
thankful
BLESSED



One Great Hour of Sharing is a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering that occurs each spring during Lent, in which our Church participates each year. Your offerings are divided among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. As you know, there are families living in desperate circumstances, especially in the middle-East at this time – and with the extraordinary needs now arising in our own country – we can all help.



With our church holding Sunday services streaming on line at this time, getting the special One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelopes to you proved to be a bit difficult. However, we discovered a way to include the envelope in this special mailing of the Pew News. You may send or bring your OGH offering to the church office (501 Mission Drive), designated for that special purpose by marking OGH in the memo line. [Your weekly offering may be kept up to date in similar fashion!!]

Additionally, you will find Special Offering envelopes in the pews when we are able to return to full attendance in the Sanctuary on Sundays. We know our always-generous congregation will want to do what we can to bring the Hope and Love of Christ to people in distress at home and around the world. Thank you!

The Mission & Global Witness Committee



Hello Everyone,

We are reaching out to everyone in hopes your congregations can help supply the items listed below. If so, Northside Church will be accepting these items on Tuesday, from 4- 8 pm.

Non-food Pantry Items

Shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bar soap, hand soap, dish soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, tampons, panty liners, garbage bags, cleaning solutions, toilet paper, paper towels and laundry soap.

Over-the-counter

Cold / flu medications, cold medicine, flu medicine, cough syrup, pain relief/Tylenol, cough drops.

We are so thankful for all of you. It has been an absolute blessing to see us all come together as our Creator and Father has asked. Please let us know if you have any questions!



Palm Sunday with Online Communion

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This Sunday, April 5, is Palm Sunday. We will be live-streaming our worship service at 10:30 AM, as we have been during this time of social distancing. Our congregation will be treated to the "Seven Holy Days" program from last year, featuring our choir leading us in a beautiful musical worship service. There will also be another change—we will be celebrating Communion. The Office of General Assembly of the PCUSA has given approval for on-line Communion. The pastoral desire is that Communion will help us connect to the Spirit of Christ and one another during this time of isolation. Our church traditionally celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month and doing this together from our homes through virtual worship will unite us together with Christ in a special way in this time of need. To prepare, please have something to eat and something to drink ready and with you as you begin to watch the service. During the service, you will share Communion as led by Pastor Chris. Please join us for this time of worship and renewal!

Please remember that Maundy Thursday dinner at church is cancelled, but you can celebrate the last supper from home.

For the young..... and young at heart!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

Bible Crossword No.3

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Across

- where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt.27:60)
- the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
- Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)
- mother of Jesus
- The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)
- Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
- Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
- The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
- Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt.27:4)
- Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
- Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)
- a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
- They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
- Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- our Lord and Saviour

more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>



Good Friday Prayer Retreat

Mary Kalesse and Pastor Chris are together planning an at-home prayer retreat for Good Friday, April 10th. Packets for guidance are being prepared for your use. Stay tuned to your email for further developments and details!



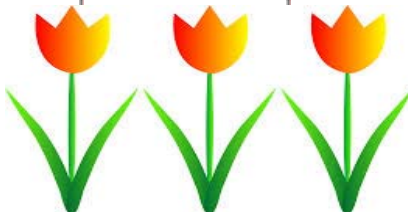










Newberg FPC will be live-streaming Easter Services from our church on Easter Sunday at 10:30 AM. Please join us in celebrating the miracle of Jesus' resurrection!

Also, you may be interested in streaming a national Easter service that will be presented by the General Assembly of PCUSA. Presbytery will be sending more details later. When we receive them, we'll pass them on.

Till then, may the spirit of the Lord fill your home this Easter and all the rest of your days.

April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	2 Susan King 	3	4 Di & Bruce Murphy 
5  10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	6	7 Elizabeth Harwood 	8	9	10	11
12  10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	13	14 Bill LeMaster 	15 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	16	17	18
19 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	20	21 Cedar Albright 	22	23	24 Julie O'Herin 	25 Thomas Millage 
26 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	27	28	29 Patti Jahnke 	30		

Livestreaming Our Worship Service

Please join us each Sunday as we come together online, to worship God in our own homes. Our worship services will be livestreamed from our website at:

<https://newbergfpc.org/live-streaming/>

You may also access our service by going to YouTube and entering Newberg First Presbyterian Church into the search box.

May God bless you in this season of adjustment.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4-14-20 1:00 pm Session Meeting via Zoom

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

Our website address is : **newbergfpc.org**



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.