

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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MAY 2020



PEW NEWS



“The Hope of Spring”

From the Reverend Chris Murphy—



The Hope of Spring

I trust that many of us are finding ways to enjoy God's creation now that Spring is here. The flowers are blooming, the sky is normally blue, and the air is warming up. Spring is my favorite season of the year. Spring reminds me of new life and new opportunities. Spring feels like a fresh start and a reason for hope in times of suffering or sadness.

In the Church calendar, Spring is the season of Eastertide. For Christians, Easter Sunday is the start of 50 days of resurrection celebration that leads to Pentecost Sunday, another time of celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit.

I realize with COVID-19, everything feels a little off right now. Spring is here but we still have questions and concerns about the future. We are putting on masks in order to stay safe when we visit stores, or we are choosing to not go out at all. We are trying to come to grips with significant loss, whether that be traditional graduation ceremonies, work opportunities, normal freedoms, or even the loss of loved ones impacted by the virus.

As we face the reality of the challenges of this time, I believe Spring and Easter Season invite us to put our hope in God. Hope is a powerful word that speaks of our reason to keep our faith alive. The resurrection offers us the hope of heaven and the hope of resurrection power to help us face each day with trust in God's love and support. Hope is one of the key words in our mission statement: Newberg First Presbyterian Church is a Christ centered church of GRACE, HOPE, and LOVE committed to mission in Newberg and throughout the world. Hope is in the DNA of this church because we follow a hope-filled Jesus who conquered death and who remains alive to lift our spirits and bring us through this difficult time.

During the Spring and Eastertide Season, I will be preaching a sermon series on hope. I will be reflecting on specific characters and stories from Scripture that remind us of the gift of hope offered to us through our hope-filled God. I miss all of you and look forward with hope to the time that we will join together again in person. Until then, I look forward to staying in touch by livestream, Zoom, card, email, or phone call. The peace of Christ be with you.

Grace, Hope, and Love,



Coronavirus in Ethiopia

The number of coronavirus cases continues to grow in Ethiopia. As a country that lacks adequate resources to combat this public health crisis, we're concerned about the great pain and suffering this is going to bring to our poor community, especially to the underserved Oromia regions where Light of Hope Ministry serves.

The government is taking strong measures by lockdown and other restrictions, which is very difficult for the majority whose lives depend on daily labor. There has been a water shortage crisis nationwide and so many rural areas have no direct access to clean water. Let us pray that God would bless Ethiopia this year with good rain and resources they need to combat this pandemic. May we all, in this time of global crisis, remember that we have a Good Shepherd who is good and has the whole world in His hands.

Vision Trip report from Taliilee

I returned from Ethiopia two weeks ago after a very full and productive time with two vision trip groups we hosted back-to-back. I, like many of you, am at home praying for a miracle of healing for our community and the world.



The Yorks

Just prior to Covid19 hitting, we were praising God for the 1100 who heard the gospel at the Superbowl Breakfast, the 34 who indicated decisions for Christ, and 100 more who wanted to hear more. We were also celebrating with our campus staff, the 108 who had come to Christ primarily at our regional winter retreats, and were gearing up to send many of our student athletes on spring break mission trips and summer missions and tours.

Then it hit, and now like all of us, life is different—and by God's grace, will not be the same. This is definitely a different kind of March Madness than we usually expect. Our Leadership Development and Human Resources team has been praying for and seeking to practice and teach on rhythms of Sabbath—that "being" with the Lord would come before "doing" for the Lord.

The Smiths

We are sheltering in place here in Buenos Aires. Borders are closed, as are airports, and one person is allowed out of the apartment to buy food and medicine. We are thankful that Argentine authorities are taking this pandemic so seriously! We are well.

As regional liaison for South America I spend most of my day in Zoom meetings with the 8 mission co-workers I supervise throughout the region, with our partner churches, with colleagues at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, and with friends, family and supporting churches in the US. I'd be happy to organize a Zoom conversation with the Mission Committee whenever that is convenient for you!

Maribel just came back from a foray to the fruit and vegetable market so we're in good shape for the next several days. We are careful to wipe off our shoes when one goes outside, as well as all the packages that come through the door.

I've been able to participate in several "virtual" worship services organized by partner churches and also review some projects that will be submitted to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for emergency funds.

We even manage to get in a daily workout following routines available on-line.

Of course, those most at risk during these difficult times are refugees, migrants, and the urban poor. It's not possible to wash your hands frequently if you don't have access to clean water! Please keep these folks in prayer!

Just before things shut down I returned from 10 days in Peru and Venezuela. My newsletter describing that journey should be available before the week is out.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Under the Mercy,
Dennis & Maribel



The O’Herins

We are doing fine at this point. We were in Texas until March 22, and when we flew back to California all the stay-at-home orders were in place, so it was very different to come home. We had run ourselves out of groceries (planning on a 5-week trip, including to Europe after Texas, but that part got cancelled), so we made 2 grocery runs the day after we got home. Since then, we have been working from home with evening walks and occasional morning jogs. I’m used to working at home, so it’s not that different for me. Julie is probably feeling the lack of social interaction more than me, though we have been able to make good use of internet connections.

At this point we are both healthy.

Blessings,

Brian

Eklblads

“The light shines in the darkness, and coronavirus does not overcome it”

Today I’m struck by the urgency of walking in the light of Christ in such a way that the impending darkness of these days of pandemic do not overcome us.

I’ve been both moved and perplexed by John’s description of the Word, which is clearly identified as both God’s communication and God. The Word translates logos in Greek, which means word, speech, message, and even event. Logos serves as a title for Jesus in John’s Gospel.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:1-3).

Every day as we are being bombarded by the bad news of the growing pandemic we must remember not to elevate the “crown” virus (corona is Latin for crown) above the One who is crowned Lord of all.

“In him was life, and the life was the Light of humanity.”

Bob & Gracie



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically 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. So far this year our church has raised \$425.00 during this time of Covid-19 crisis. We will continue to accept gifts for this worthy and much needed cause. Thanks to all for your generosity during these uncertain times!





Scout Spencer Veatch learned that Love INC's bicycle ministry was in need of bicycles to be repaired by the Retired Recyclers, so he set to work gathering used bicycles as his Eagle Scout project.

He delivered 25 shortly after the Crew had run out of anything to repair!

So, his just-in-time delivery sure did give a necessary boost to the Bicycle Ministry! The Recyclers went from being unable to continue its important job of maintaining an inventory to filling up our shed with bikes for those whom Love INC has authorized to have a bicycle. Walking is a slow way to get anywhere – seeking a job, getting to a job or just every day getting around. We ask only that they sign for the bike when they've chosen one!

We appreciate Spencer's efforts as we, Newberg First Presbyterian Church, handle Love INC's Bicycle GAP Ministry! If you'd like to know more, and see the shed from which we operate, please just ask at the Desk. We'd be happy to show you what we do. AND if you have a bike/s you'd like to donate, we will be VERY appreciative in having it/them!! We can even do pickup!

Thanks to the Session – who approved our doing this ministry more than two years ago, and to you all, the congregation, who support it as well!

Blessings!

The Mission and Global Witness Committee





Session met by ZOOM on April 14. Pastor confirmed ongoing connections with CAYAC and other youth through Zoom. Discussion of finances: importance of legacy giving to be stressed to congregation.

Adult Education classes will not resume before September, due to COVID-

Discussions continue about future of possible lease for backlot - much clean-up to be done before any final lease proposals. Tim Weaver, Finance & Facilities, proposed a clean-up day of the entire church premises prior to reopening for worship. Volunteers needed.

Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing - donations to be collected through June.

Worship: Ideas floated for improving livestream service. We shall celebrate our return to normal worship in the sanctuary by decorating the Easter cross - symbolizing the resurrection of our Lord, who stands at the center of our lives in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

Corinne Waterbury continues to look at how to better advertise Newberg FPC in the local community. Anyone with ideas in this regard should contact her directly.

Finally, Session voted unanimously to include the following statement on our website: *Newberg First Presbyterian Church offers love and acceptance to all people regardless of color, sexual orientation, or other differences. We celebrate diversity and inclusiveness.*

Yours in Christ,
Sylvia Stater
Clerk of Session

Financial Report:

We gratefully received \$11,325 towards our general budget needs and \$5,242 towards Capital Campaign giving in the month of March. Thank you for your generosity in this uncertain time! We will continue to need strong pledge support and additional gifts to help us be sustainable during the COVID 19 Outbreak and beyond. Please continue to think of us as you consider your financial giving during this time. You may give financially to our church by mailing checks to our church office or by giving online through our website at newbergfpc.org. We will be giving you monthly financial updates in each Pew News.

From Your Session



Women's Space for Grace to resume via Zoom!!

We will meet on Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 10 to 11 AM beginning April 24th. All are invited to join us for a time of reconnecting, sharing our lives and faith, and prayer. To join simply call or email Paula Buck at pbuck41108@mindspring.com who will be hosting our time on Zoom. She will send out an email with the link to join our gathering. Although we are separated, we don't need to be alone. If you have questions, please call Mary Kalesse (503-644-5502) or Paula Buck (503-250-1164.)



Meeting again via ZOOM!

That's right...Men's Breakfast is starting again via ZOOM! Their next meeting will be held on May 7th at 8:00 am. To join, please contact Gary Buck through his email, gbuck41108@mindspring.com or give him a call at 503-250-1163. He'll send you a link and you will be all set. Just have your coffee and muffin ready on Thursday, May 7th and join in for some faith, food and fellowship!

Our fellow church attenders Anthony and Amanda Stevens are selling produce boxes full of fresh organic fruits and vegetables straight from their farm. The produce is selected by them according to which crops are ready to harvest at their peak freshness. The bounty of God in a box! You may choose between whole and half boxes, and honey is available too! Go to their website at <https://nottinghamshirefarms.com/order-online/> or email Amanda at orders@nottinghamshirefarms.com.



Place your order, make your payment and be ready the following Wednesday to pick up your box at their farm. And just think, every order you place will be aiding your good health, investing in our economy, and supporting members of our church family. Multi-tasking at its best!



Our office received a call from Diana Burda, otherwise known as the Bread Lady, who used to deliver bread to our church for distribution to anyone who needed it. This program is continuing in a different format now. Each Friday from 2:30 to 4:30, bread, pastries, and sometimes even deli items will be available for any and all who show up. There is no cost for anything. The distribution point is the Rockpoint Church at 4301 N. College in Newberg (close to where College intersects with North Valley Rd.) The generosity of God and our community is awesome!



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.



Bill LeMaster as he recovers in the hospital from an infection



Craig McCourt's continued recovery and adjustment to a new normal



Elise Prayzich's friend in New Jersey who was recently diagnosed with Covid-19



For our world, as we continue to meet the challenges of living with Covid-19 and quarantine



**National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 7, 2020**

"Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people." (Ephesians 6:18 CEV)

Calling believers of all ages and across denominations to join us as we come together in unified prayer for our community and region – please join us!

From 10:00– 11:00 am, we will be joining a prayer call (virtually, on ZOOM) run by PRAY OREGON. Please plan to tune in and pray along. The call will be going all day around the state of Oregon, but this is the hour for Yamhill County. Join by clicking

<https://zoom.us/j/5419997777>

*"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"
(Jeremiah 29:11)*



Do you or anyone you know need face masks?

Our church currently has a few members sewing cloth face masks for people to wear as they go out in public. If you or anyone you know would like some masks, we can help you out. Please call Katherine at the office (503-538-3313) or email her at firstpresnewberg@frontier.com.

Thanks and stay safe out there!

Calm coloring for all ages and all times



CAMP TILIKUM AND COVID-19



Several of our FPC family had the opportunity to have a retreat at Camp Tilikum last summer.

Others have worked there or made it possible for youth to attend the summer program that began in 1971. As a board member, I thought it might be helpful to share how this one ministry is being impacted by the pandemic. Like other businesses, Camp Tilikum closed its doors by canceling all of its retreats from March to May in response to the virus. This has resulted in significant financial loss and uncertainty in moving forward. Currently, the Camp is still planning to offer its traditional summer day camp program while simultaneously planning alternative programs for youth in case adjustments must be made.

If God lays it on your heart, please join me in praying for this vital ministry to children. It also might be that you would want to include funds beyond your regular contributions to FPC that Session could apply toward an August FPC adult retreat at the camp or funding for church youth to attend this summer. Or perhaps you would want to donate directly to the Camp. All of these ways could help to further the ministry and soften the financial burden that will linger long after we begin to gather together again.

Di Murphy

May 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					3 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service Tim Weaver HAPPY BIRTHDAY	4
10 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	11	12 6:30 pm- Session Meeting via Zoom	13	14 Liz Zion HAPPY BIRTHDAY	15	16
17 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	18	19 Jennie Delano HAPPY BIRTHDAY	20	21	22 William Goodman Nigel Swehla HAPPY BIRTHDAY	23
24 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	25 	26	27	28 Di Murphy HAPPY BIRTHDAY	29	30
31						

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

5-12-20 6:30 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
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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.