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Newberg First Presbyterian Church



PEW NEWS



“Reimagining Church”



Reimagining Church- Worship in your Pajamas

Many people have asked how I am doing leading worship by livestream to a relatively empty church sanctuary. The answer is I am doing okay. I miss all of you and church is not the same right now, but I also enjoy the challenge of trying to connect virtually with you. I always wanted to get more experience speaking in front of a camera, just not this way:)

My question for you is how are you enjoying worshipping God in your pajamas? Okay, I realize many of you probably do get up and shower before worship on Sundays, but I hear some of you are enjoying a slower start to Sunday morning and might be enjoying a delayed breakfast or brunch and worship in your pajamas. I actually think it is great that we have the digital technology to offer worship services and other forms of connection in creative ways. I am glad that you can worship God in your pajamas from home.

We have an opportunity in this season of Covid-19 to explore church in new ways. One of my goals as your pastor is to help reframe the narrative of challenging circumstances in positive ways that help us align with God's heart. I believe God is inviting us in this time of the pandemic to reimagine church. I believe some of the creativity and innovation we are experiencing now will help us live out the gospel in creative ways in the future. I also feel God desires to deepen our faith during this season and to equip us to more effectively fulfill our mission as a church that has a special heart for those on the margins.

Will you do me a favor during this time? Will you join me in exploring creative ways to be a thriving church family? We are already seeing examples of your creativity. I am thrilled that both Space for Grace women's group and the Men's Breakfast group are now meeting twice a month and sharing personally about our lives over our Zoom sessions. I am grateful for the generosity of those who are helping take care of our landscaping needs. We are grateful for Miguel Mora and his team that care for our church campus. Special thanks to Gary and Paula Buck, Katherine Millage, Karen and Chiara Murphy, Sylvia Stater, Mary Kalesse, Loraine Sarnaki, Lynne Patrick, Noah Katterman, Sara Hailemeskel, and Thomas Millage who have contributed to our livestream worship experience in significant ways.

We are blessed with an amazing church family and our future is bright as we walk with our companion Jesus. Keep bringing your ideas on how we can reimagine what church is like in this season. Eventually, we will meet again on Sunday mornings in person, but for now let's explore how we can love God and neighbor while maintaining social distancing measures. Let us reimagine church together and feel free to worship God in your pajamas:)





Session met by ZOOM in May. Pastor and Clerk are notified weekly of updates from Presbytery regarding reopening of churches. Advice is to proceed with caution, with a recommendation to wait longer. The consensus among members of Session was to revisit the subject at June meeting.

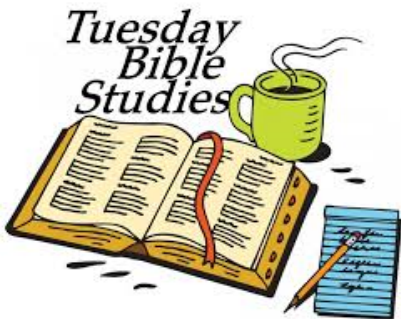
Session continues to look at ways to keep better connected to congregants, including our youth and children. During this ongoing time of livestreaming, any suggestions to help improve the weekly livestream are welcome.

New downspouts have been installed, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. Thank You.

Corinne Waterbury continues to work on outreach, with an ad in the McMinnville News Register.

A weekly cleaning of facilities by volunteers has begun. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Sylvia Stater or Lynne Patrick.

Sylvia Stater
Clerk of Session



*Via
ZOOM!*

Pastor Chris will be hosting a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. The topic will be "Exploring the Psalms."

This past Tuesday was the first class. Pastor Chris presented a general overview of the book of Psalms and then focused on Psalm 1. Ten people attended but there's always room for more!

Please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473108874pwd=VnpISGtna1RTYUQ5ekRUMHE3MVdLdz09&status=success>

and use the **Meeting ID: 824 7310 8874** and **Password: 879927** to join us for some socially distant learning, fellowship and fun. It will be good to see everyone's face again!

Financial Report:

We gratefully received \$14,812 towards our general budget needs and \$1,448 towards Capital Campaign giving in the month of April. 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 clicking on the giving button online through our website at newbergfpc.org. We will be giving you monthly financial updates in each Pew News.

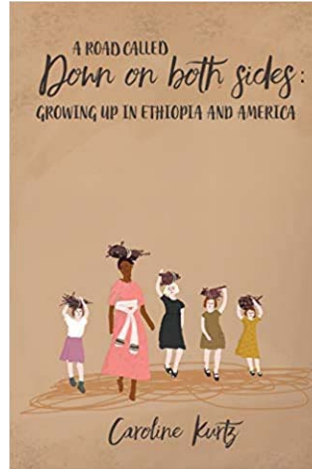
With Gratitude,
Your Session Team



Great news from Caroline Kurtz, our mission friend who is the Founder & Executive Director of Maji Development Coalition. The major focus of her coalition is to provide solar power to her former home village in Southern Ethiopia. She reports:

*Last week the Presbyterian Writer’s Guild called my editor to announce that my book, **A Road Called Down on Both Sides: Growing up in Ethiopia and America**, won their Best First Book Award. What a thrill! I had to laugh, though; because of the pandemic, the biennial General Assembly this year has been cancelled, so the award luncheon is postponed until 2022.*

Besides the thrill of my being recognized in this way, my children’s author sister, Jane Kurtz, is being awarded the Presbyterian Writer’s Guild prize for Lifetime Achievement. We will have the fun of traveling and being feted together. Wow. I wonder what flights, gatherings, and honorary luncheons will look like in 2022!



Our Missions

The Ekblads – Tierra Nueva

Tierra Nueva is about making disciples of Jesus and raising up shepherds, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who seek after lost sheep until they are found, bringing them back to secure home settings where their return is celebrated among friends and neighbors, and where they pursue their healing, holistic liberation, and transformation—Coronavirus or not, this is our mission; we celebrate God’s Good News with God’s beloved people.

In the interest of protecting our neighbors, we have halted all in-building and in-person ministry efforts; Sunday Worshipping Community, Family Support Center, Gospels & Psalms, and Foundations in Kingdom Ministry are not meeting.

We will livestream Sunday Worship at the regular time of 4:30 PM - follow us on our Facebook Page to participate. We will also continue to publish sermons on our podcast as usual.

Foundations in Kingdom Ministry with Family Promise will be rescheduled.

The Smiths – South America

Week 10 of lockdown in Buenos Aires.

We wait - tired, anxious, a bit stir crazy – but safe and healthy. We are thankful for all those that help us stay well, ranging from delivery folks to health professionals to all of you that continue to pray for us and support our ministry.

Today in Latin America, we live among many whose lives are marked by hunger, uncertainty, desperation. As one of the most unequal regions in the world, millions throughout Latin America live hand to mouth, day by day. “Sheltering in place” for them is not an option.

As PCUSA regional liaison for South America, one of my lockdown activities has been to accompany the other PCUSA mission co-workers in this region. Part of my job is making sure that they know they are not alone. One way we show this in the Latin America/Caribbean region is to meet on-line for a 30-minute devotional and prayer time each Thursday afternoon.

The Evangelical Theological Community of Chile has led a series of webinars. In one webinar, Omar Cortés interviews Nicolás Mena, former Under Secretary of Justice, on “Rethinking Politics in a Time of Pandemic”

I also accompany US and South American mission partners as they share and learn from one another in mission networks. Peru Network partners are looking at how to raise funds and respond to growing hunger. Venezuela Network partners are dreaming together how better to spread the word of their vital pastoral presence in a troubled land. Colombia Network partners continue to advocate for justice and reconciliation.

The Yorks – CRU & AIA

Thank you for your partnership in Jesus' Great Commission and caring for us in this unique time globally. We have no doubt that the Lord continues to fulfill his mission and is using world events to change perspective and take away things that we might depend on humanly speaking rather than in his power and sufficiency in Jesus' gospel.

As many of us, we are finding ways to stay connected to our missionary staff via Zoom video conference. We are also addressing soul care issues with our staff in ways that often are put to the side because they "don't have time" - now they do, especially as some isolation and fatigue set in.

Erik's days are full and there is fatigue from video calls. A snapshot just from today: briefing his executive assistant, leading our leadership development team in our strategic planning priorities, meeting with the staff person leading the charge in helping missionary moms invest in areas that are a good fit for their passions and stage of life, facilitating global partnership meeting, conducting an annual review with our staff care coordinator, plus other responsive phone calls in between. It is hard to find margin in this space.

We are missing getting to meet with our church community group in person, but thankful to have one. Our family is a swim team family - not having the physical rigor and community involvement is a big loss (though we are excited that we may be getting back into the pool by June 1!).

Be joyful
in hope
patient
in affliction
faithful
in prayer

Taliilee and Urgessa - Ethiopia

Thank you so much for checking on us during these hard times. Urgessa and I are doing very well. We're trying to stay home as much as we can to be safe for ourselves and others. I will be teaching/sharing with a group over the Zoom. Serving over the internet is a new thing for me and I'm thankful for the opportunity. Urgessa wants to return to Ethiopia but he doesn't know when he can go due to the virus.

Ethiopia Update: There are 389 cases of covid19 nationwide and no known Covid19 cases in the southeast Arsi area where Light of Hope Ministry operates. However, so many families are being impacted by the stay-home order. There is a scarcity of food and water in so many regions. It is also election time in Ethiopia and the current transitional government is accused of using the Covid19 as an excuse to extend election for next year. We're concerned that this may create chaos and lead the county to fall apart. Please pray for Abiy Ahmed's government to set a good example and not to follow the previous dictators' pattern.

The Arsi Oromo Bible's typesetting that was sent to South Korea is complete and ready to be published as soon as we transfer the funding for printing. This is great news for us to have a whole Bible in Arsi Oromo for the first time. We want to publish 5,000 copies and we need to raise \$30,000 or \$6 each. Pray with us that God would stir the saint's heart to give.

Thank you again for your friendship and partnership with us in God's kingdom. I would love to hear how I can pray for you, and your church.



The O'Herins

Julie and I returned from our recent trip to a very different California than when we left. The airports at both ends were empty, and our plane was less than half full. Steven and Christy picked us up at the curb at the airport and took us straight to our house.

The lack of external activities has actually given me more time for focused work. However, several things have come due all at once:

Last week I got the final pre-publication version of *Ruth-Esther*. There were still two small changes that needed to be made

Matthew is ready to be sent to the publishing department, and I am responsible for running the 11 automated checks. Besides the automated checks, there are significant differences between *Matthew* and *Luke* in the way we have rendered proper names.

Work on *Luke* continues, and I have been making steady progress. It is nice that with the cancellation of our Europe trip, I have three extra weeks of time to work on this. Please pray that I will make the June 30 deadline for all the exegesis.

Next up after *Luke* is *Acts*, and the translator has already been working on that. I don't have too much to do on this yet, but I am supposed to give him a list of forms of names found in the book.

IBT, our partner organization that is taking the lead in this project, has recently asked me if I would take on the additional role of project coordinator. Currently an IBT person is acting as both project manager and project coordinator, and she would like me to take up more of the coordinating responsibilities. Please pray for wisdom.



Come join in!

That's right...Men's Breakfast is starting again via ZOOM!

Meetings will be held every first and third Thursday of the month.

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 Thursdays at 8:00 am, and join in for some faith, food and fellowship!



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.)



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



For the LeMaster family as they grieve the loss of Bill



For the family of Susan King as they mourn the death of her aunt, Karen Chandler



For our friends, families and communities as we continue to face Covid-19



For Loraine Sarnacki and her family as they grieve the death of Loraine's father, Duane Davis



Pastor Chris Murphy, Doctor of Ministry, Fuller Seminary

Megan Stater Shaw, JD, NYU School of Law















Megan will sit the bar exam in September, and then begin work October 1 at Cohen, Weiss and Simon, a labor law firm in New York

Sage Albright, BSc, University of Oregon, Clark's Honor College

Sage now has a double major in Math and Biology with a focus on genetic research. He will begin working in his field, with an eye on returning to complete higher degrees in the future.

June 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:00 am - Bicycle Ministry Gail Bonsey Anna Millage 	4 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast Gary Buck Pat Harcourt 	5 Christopher Harwood 	6
7 10:30 am - Livestream Worship Service 	8	9 1:00 pm - Session Meeting via ZOOM	10	11	12 10:00 am - Space for Grace	13
14 10:30 am - Livestream Worship Service 	15 Vera Patten 	16	17 9:00 am - Bicycle Ministry 	18 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast Sage Albright 	19 	20 Janet Range & Eric Swehla
21 10:30 am - Livestream Worship Service  #1 DAD Father's Day!	22	23 Mary & Corban Harwood 	24 Chuck & Darlene Zickefoose 	25	26 10:00 am - Space for Grace	27
28 10:30 am - Livestream Worship Service 	29	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.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6-9-20 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



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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.