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Newberg First Presbyterian Church

PEW NEWS



“God’s Heart for Racial Justice”

From the Reverend Chris Murphy—



God's Heart for Racial Justice

As a pastor, I do my best to look for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our world and then to remind our congregation about God's heart. In the wake of the death of George Floyd, we have witnessed a turning point in the conversation on racism in the United States and around the world. What is God saying to us? Are we listening? How might we respond?

I think God is saying that the voices of the marginalized need to be heard and that people of color need equal rights, equal opportunity, and equal justice. God is inviting us to join in solidarity with the oppressed just as Jesus joined in the struggle of human life and gave his life out of love.

Are we listening? I think more people are listening than at other times in history. I believe this is true, since our black and brown brothers and sisters are saying they feel more heard and the conversation is not slowing down yet. I know for some of us, it may be hard to keep having this conversation, but without education and understanding of the problem of racism, we will not see change.

How might we respond? I think we as a church need to support the movement for racial justice. We are to educate ourselves on racism and on how to become anti-racist. We need to understand what white privilege and white fragility mean? We need to not be defensive but to be humble and be willing to grow as a nation, as a world, as the Church.

I want to thank you for joining me on this journey of spiritual formation as we address racism in our time. We are just beginning to live this out as a congregation. In this July Newsletter we share some of the exciting things that our church is doing to join in the movement for racial justice. Let us be a church known for our heart for the black and brown communities in Newberg and beyond. Let us work to bring unity among all people in Newberg as we grow as a community of love and justice. Let us be faithful to God and hopeful about the future!

Pastor Chris





SESSION MEETING

Session met in June by Zoom. Pastor continues to keep in touch with as many as possible, including the young people in the church.

As long as the church is not meeting in place, Session affirmed that no outside groups may rent space.

There was discussion about using the \$1,000 grant from Presbytery. This money is to be used as 'seed money' - to grow and then use the monies to help the local community during this time of COVID-19. Session decided to set a goal of raising \$2,500 (more would be great) to donate to UNIDOS, a group that has been helping Hispanic families with direct donations.

Further discussions on reopening the church: many in the Presbytery are looking at September for reopening. Ideas proposed for a few summer gatherings (with social distancing) included outdoor picnics on the grass, and a worship service in the parking lot (remain in cars.)

Yours in Christ,
Sylvia Stater
Clerk of Session

Good Job!

Our church would also like to acknowledge our students who appeared on the Dean's List of their respective schools. Congratulations on this reward for your hard work!



†Sara Hailemeskel †Laura McCuller †Anna Virginia Millage †
†Cassie Weidman † Sage Albright †



Congratulations to our ever-faithful Congregation!

This year, our OGHS Special Offering was interrupted – as was much else! – by the coronavirus, and we were not sure, without our actually being in church together, we would receive your Special Offerings as usual.

BUT you all came through, and did not forget those in need around the world! Thus, we are able to contribute \$750, portioned as indicated, to the three programs this offering supports: The Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%); Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) and Self-Development of People (32%).

In this tragic year of Covid-19, your gifts to OGHS have been, and will continue to be used to assist people around the world dealing with social, physical and emotional damage caused by the pandemic and its after-effects.

The Mission Committee thanks you once more for your compassionate and generous response!!

The Mission and Global Witness Committee



We gratefully received \$10,947 towards our general budget needs and \$830 towards Capital Campaign giving in the month of May. Thank you for your generosity in this uncertain time! Again, 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



Oh My Goodness Caroline!

More great news (along with yet another award!) 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 writes:

*I just got the exciting news that the [video](#) featuring the sights and sounds of Maji has won a **gold** in the **2020 Hermes Creative Awards!** The footage was shot when folks from MDC's co-op expert partner, NRECA International, traveled with me to Maji last November. The video was shared, publicizing their field work, at the NRECA 2020 Annual Meeting in February. NRECA International's Washington DC office will be given a trophy to display (we'll ask them for a photo of it!)*

If you are unable to click the link above to view the video, please go to YouTube and search for "Electricity in Maji." Enjoy!



The NRECA International team in Maji with Caroline Kurtz, MDC founder and Executive Director. (L to R) Noah Friedman-Rudovsky, Zuraidah Hoffman, Nick Allen and Caroline Kurtz



Our Missions

The Ekblads – Tierra Nueva

Last October I had a vivid dream exposing racial violence at the heart of the Christian community that I've been pondering ever since. Now in the aftermath of last week's killing of George Floyd, amidst national-level protests, and Donald Trump's holding up a Bible after dispersing a crowd of peaceful protesters with rubber bullets and tear gas, I feel especially compelled to speak.

As the only outside witness, I feel powerless to effect change. I am far outnumbered by the men, who I hadn't attempted to confront. Whether I report the crime to the authorities or not seems to make no difference. This is a normal reality to people of color. How should we respond? Right now protests in the United States and across the world are exposing police brutality and institutional racism. We must continue to insist on deep structural changes.

The Smiths – South America

In South America, the PC(USA) has mission partnerships with 16 churches, theological seminaries, and faith-based organizations. During the pandemic, I try to keep in touch with each one. What a joy this has been! Even under lockdown, churches continue to minister, seminaries continue to teach, and community organizations continue to advocate for those on the margins of society. I spend considerable time listening to, watching, or contributing to online reflections, seminars, and worship services!

Taliilee and Urgessa - Light of Hope

Building Healthcare for Humanity is providing design input on a new teaching hospital located in Shashemene, Ethiopia. The project is an ambitious undertaking. The nearest full service hospitals are located in Addis Ababa, which is a 3-4 hour drive away if one has access to transportation. The teaching hospital will provide a full range of services and there will be a strong focus on the needs of women and children. The hospital is also intended to eventually be self-sustaining - medical students will be encouraged to stay on and serve as doctors in the hospital in an effort to minimize the reliance on foreign assistance.



The Yorks – CRU & AIA

We were excited to have our staff care team have a major teaching role at our virtual Springboard AIA Staff Conference, in the areas of mental health and sexual wholeness. In the last few years we've hosted a Men's and a Women's Basketball Leadership Academy to help develop team influencers (including Division 1 basketball programs at Tennessee, Duke, Texas A&M, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio State, Baylor, and NC State). It has been a successful tool that has positively impacted these programs.

The O'Herins - Wycliffe SIL

The glossary for Matthew has turned into a bigger project than anticipated, but the process of working through it is turning out to be valuable in and of itself. There may actually be a few small changes to the text based on what we are discovering as we work on the glossary. Work is continuing on Luke. It has gone slower than planned because of the urgent interruptions to finish off the other projects – Ruth, the 9 parables, Matthew. The deadline of the end of June may also be relaxed somewhat, so the pressure is off a tiny bit.



Mission During the time of Coronavirus

Latinx Community Support During COVID-19: Our Partnership with UNIDOS Bridging Community

Newberg First Presbyterian Church's session decided last month to invite our church to raise money to help support members of the Latinx community in Newberg and the broader Yamhill County impacted by COVID-19. We are partnering with UNIDOS Bridging Community by raising a minimum of \$2,500 to help Unidos care for Latinx immigrants impacted by unemployment or other financial challenges related to the pandemic. Pastor Chris reached out to Jules Martinez-Plancarte, who is on the City Council of Newberg and is on staff with Unidos to see how we could help. She communicated that Unidos was raising money for an Emergency Relief Fund which provides support directly to Latinx individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

Statistics show that people of color are experiencing more sickness and death related to COVID-19 and this is especially true of people in Oregon from a Latinx cultural background. **Please contribute** to this effort by sending a check to First Presbyterian Church and write in the memo line Latinx. This is a tangible way for our church to make a difference during this pandemic while fostering deeper relationship with the Latinx community. Thank you for your support of this mission effort!



A new commandment I give to you,
that you *love* one another;
just as I have *loved* you,
you also are to *love* one another.

By this all people will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have *love* for one another.

John 13:34-35



Charitable Giving in a Time of Turmoil

Dr. Jennifer Lehman



Many things have been said about our current pandemic, but one that really resonated with me is that we are in the same storm, but not the same boat. I'm not sure who said it originally, but

songwriter extraordinaire Steve Seskin wrote a brilliant song about the concept titled "Same Storm." I offer that to say this article is meant to be a general overview of some recent law changes that may be of interest as many of us look at our retirement funds, estate plans, health insurance, and charitable giving, with an understanding that we are all facing uncertainty and varying amounts of hardship, but some of us are blessed financially and wanting to do even more to help others.

As you likely already know, weekly (or monthly) tithes are always welcome and can be given online via the church's website. The church in turn helps the community be a better place to live and work and is having some financial challenges just like many of us are as individuals and families. In addition, the church has been undergoing its Investing in the Future Capital Campaign, which will primarily be used to 1) Pay off the mortgage of the Christian Education Building, 2) Strengthen our facilities with necessary repairs and improvements, 3) Fund creative mission efforts that will lead to effective outreach to younger families and neighborhood engagement, 4) Our church will tithe approximately 10 percent of our fundraising to support our five mission partners as well as support local mission. This will include helping to raise funds for a new school in Ethiopia, and 5) Our church will be providing financial help to support our music ministry. The goal is to raise \$230,000 during this 3-year campaign to support the mission in Newberg and to provide financial stability for the present and future.

One convenient way to donate, for those over age 70.5 with a traditional IRA, is to send your RMD (required minimum distribution) directly to a charity such as First Presbyterian Church. This avoids ordinary income tax for that dollar amount and possibly also provides for a charitable deduction. While the SECURE (Setting Every Community Up For Retirement Enhancement) Act, which was passed in December 2019, changed the RMD age to 72 for those born on or after July 1, 1949, it did not change the age at which an individual can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from their IRA, which remains at age 70 ½ and now creates a unique 1- or 2-year window where IRA distributions may qualify as charitable contributions, but not as RMDs (that haven't yet begun). The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, passed in March 2020, includes a temporary waiver for 2020 RMDs. You may still make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or give to charity outside of your retirement funds and get the charitable deduction. One other charitable benefit from the CARES Act is a one time above-the-line charitable deduction up to \$300; normally you have to itemize to be able to benefit from an income tax deduction for charitable gifts, but in 2020 you may deduct up to \$300 of charitable gifts even if you do not itemize.

For more information about the SECURE Act and the CARES Act, consider the following -

SECURE Act summary from Forbes: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidkudla/2020/01/10/four-major-highlights-of-the-secure-act/#3b8c62de76b1>

CARES Act summary from Forbes: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/leonlabrecque/2020/03/29/the-cares-act-has-passed-here-are-the-highlights/#7269ce8568cd>

Jennifer Lehman is an assistant professor of financial planning at George Fox University and a member of First Presbyterian Church Newberg.





Racial Justice Demonstration in Newberg

Pastor Chris Murphy and his daughter Cate attended a special demonstration to honor the memory of George Floyd. This was held at Chehalem Cultural Center on June 4 and was followed by a peaceful walk to City Hall. The gathering was organized and led by George Fox graduate and Salem Health nurse Eboné McNeil. Speeches were given by a group of young black leaders with ties to George Fox and the Newberg Community. Cate particularly was inspired and enjoyed joining in the call for social justice!



Tilikum Program Update

After meeting the Governor's guidelines for opening, Camp Tilikum was able to open their doors to campers!



It's been a busy time at Camp Tilikum! Last weekend the fathers and sons had a great time at the family weekend. This week is Day and Quest Camp number three. Suzanne Maki, Registrar has been working hard with all the waiting lists and we now have a limited number of openings at various camps and Family Weekends.

The Tilikum campus is a closed environment with staff and children honoring social distancing as the continue to have fun at the many activities available

Church member Anna Virginia Millage is a counselor there this summer and can testify to the strictness of camp safety precautions. She would love to see our church youth this summer, so if you can, sign your kids up. Seriously, it's a great time!

As always, your continued donations are a welcome relief for the camp, which had to close its doors this spring due to Covid-19. Please visit their website at [Camp Tilikum](http://CampTilikum) to register or give a gift as God leads you.



As we settle into our new normal of wearing masks and social distancing, we have decided to postpone the FPC Rummage Sale. We do not want to put anyone at risk. If you are still in Covid clean out mode, just hang on to that stuff! We'll let you know when the sale is rescheduled. A decision will be made soon about the annual

auction. Please keep everyone in your prayers and we will keep on supporting our outreach partners on behalf of First Presbyterian Church.

We continue to support Faith in Action, Friendsview residents, Habitat for Humanity, Henderson House, Love INC, Lutheran Family Services, Newberg FISH, Providence Medical Center Mission and Spiritual Life and Hospice, YCAP, and A Family Place. This year we have continued to sponsor the Hearts of Gold for Providence Newberg Medical Center. A virtual fundraiser will take place on August 12th. **Details below**

We appreciate all of you and your continued support in helping us with our outreach. Help us continue supporting these groups by donating to the Deacons on the first Sunday of each month. The office has Deacon envelopes if you need one or you can just put Deacons in the memo line of your check.

Blessing and prayers to all our wonderful members and attendees!

Newberg Hearts of Gold Dinner

BENEFITING PROVIDENCE NEWBERG HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

CREATING BRIDGES FOR BETTER WELL-BEING IN NEWBERG

Due to COVID-19, the Hearts of Gold fundraiser is going virtual. Please join us for a special live-stream event exploring behavioral health care in the Newberg area.

















This virtual event will shine a light on behavioral health care in the Newberg area – the needs, the resources and some growth opportunities. Funds raised through this event will support behavioral health services at Providence Newberg Medical Center, particularly the Better Outcomes thru Bridges (BOB) program.

BOB psychologists, social workers and peer support specialists connect with behavioral health patients after hospital discharge. They offer support and professional counseling plus essentials, such as hygiene kits and meal vouchers. These services are making a tangible difference for many at-risk people.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Cain at Douglas.Cain@providence.org or Nicole Wolfer at Nicole.Wolfer@providence.org.

July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	2 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	3	4 
5 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service  Darlene Zickefoose	6	7 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM  Dorothy Au	8	9  Darolen Sorum	10 10:00 am- Space for Grace	11 9:00-10:00 am- Meet near the GFU campus clock tower. Ten minutes into the hour, prayer walk- ing will begin
12 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	13	14 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 6:30 pm- Session Meeting via ZOOM  Sylvia Burns	15 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry  Mary Harwood	16 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	17	18
19 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service   Susanna Wall Dick Patten Lynne Patrick	20	21 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service		23	24 10:00 am- Space for Grace  Cate Murphy	25  Bruce Murphy Mary Andrews
26 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service   Marilyn Viers Vera & Dick Patten 	27	28 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	29	30	31  Sylvia Stater	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7-14-20 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



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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.