

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 20  
ISSUE 10  
NOVEMBER 2020



# PEW NEWS



*“Grace and Gratitude”*



From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

## Grace and Gratitude

I love that in the month of November we are reminded to be thankful. When I worked at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA as the Director of Presbyterian Ministries I was able to meet many different leaders of the Presbyterian Church USA. One phrase I often heard to define the faith of Presbyterians was grace and gratitude. Here is a definition of this theme from Presbyterian theologian and pastor, Joe Small.

“The Christian life is shaped by gratitude – gratitude for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is by God’s grace that we receive the gift of our own lives, and so we are called to shape the whole of our lives by our grateful response. ‘The stewardship of all of life’ is a common phrase, yet too often stewardship is reduced to an annual program, the annual program is reduced to the means to achieve an end, and the end is reduced to the church budget. ‘Gratitude for all of life’ may be a way to broaden and deepen our understanding and our use of the gifts God has given us.”

During November and the holiday of Thanksgiving we are encouraged to be grateful for all of life. Our mission as the Church is to show our gratitude to Jesus by living for Him and sharing his love with a world in need. It all begins with what Jesus has done for us as our Lord and Savior, who demonstrated compassion for those on the margins and ultimately gave his life out of love on the cross and rose from the grave to conquer death.

Our church has much to be grateful for in this season. Although, we have faced great challenges due to the pandemic, we have remained generous and active in our community. Our Men’s Breakfast group and Women’s Space for Grace group remain strong communities that provide spiritual and relational connection. Our CAYAC (College and Young Adult Community) continues to thrive through our Zoom gatherings. Our virtual bible study has deepened our love of the Book of Psalms. We remain faithful as a worshipping community through Livestream and the occasional Drive In worship service. We continue to support our mission partners who spread the Gospel in word and deed around the world. When COVID 19 arrived, we did not know what to expect, but we have all stepped up to stay committed to one another and to Christ’s mission of grace, hope, and love.

I encourage us all to celebrate the grace and gratitude of God during November and the Thanksgiving Season. May we treasure our families, friends, and the entire church community more now than ever as we recognize all that we have gone through. May we reinvest in each other and our mission to Newberg and the broader world. I know there is much to grieve from 2020 but let us enter November with a spirit of thanksgiving and a heart of hope for the future. Thank you for being a generous and loving community! Let us continue to embody grace and gratitude so that the world may see Christ in us.





Session met by Zoom October 13. Ongoing discussions concerning the backlot and what it might be used for. Committees working on preparing budgets for 2021. Efforts being made to tighten each budget where possible. Finances continue to keep pace despite COVID. The mortgage on the CE building has now been reduced to under \$30k. PPP monies being used for paying salaries of Pastor and Office Manager.

Pastor considering doing a zoom service November 15, to give Gary and Paula Buck a break. Looking to Advent season: Worship Committee working on prep for Advent candle lighting and other ways to highlight the season.

As we enter the final quarter of 2020 the Nominating Committee is working to fill empty slots on Session. If you are currently a member of FPC and are interested in joining Session, please let Pastor or Susan King, Nominating Committee, know.

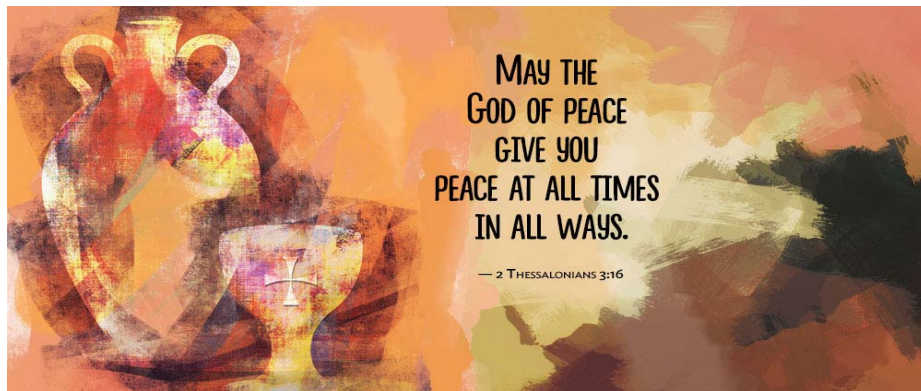
Also, Presbytery requests that an annual financial review or audit of each church's finances be conducted. FPC Newberg has not had this done in quite some time. If you know of anyone who might be able to help, please let Pastor or me know. While an audit can be costly, a financial review is often done pro bono or for a nominal fee.

Yours in Christ,

*Sylvia Stater*

Clerk of Session

tel: 503-864-3337/[thestaters@gmail.com](mailto:thestaters@gmail.com)



**The  
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERING**



The Mission & Global Witness Committee is pleased to tell you, the Special Offering received during World Communion Sunday on October 4 is a wonderful \$590.00.

Your dedication to the Peacemaking of the larger Presbyterian Church (especially in light of these Covid Times!) along with many other congregations like ours, will do a great deal to help calm the chaos we see in today's World.

We are invited to use 25% of our offering locally. Thus the Mission Committee has voted to once again donate our portion, \$147.50, to Henderson House, a safe house for women and their children.

Thank you once again to our most generous congregation!

***The Mission & Global Witness Committee***





## Our Missions

### The Yorks – CRU & AIA

#### AIA Goals for 2023

The Church is at the center of God's strategy for proclaiming and demonstrating His kingdom here on earth. We are called to build up that which Christ has shed His blood to create. Partnering with the church is biblical. It's also strategic. Local urban churches are the focal point for reaching into communities of need. They have the leaders, locations, and leverage that no singular ministry could ever duplicate. Working together multiplies our gifts and theirs to create new, effective, and creative opportunities for the proclamation of the gospel in word and deed.

We equip churches to construct whole-person discipleship and developmental programs that minister to the spiritual and physical needs of children and adults. Our biblically-based tools are geared toward at-risk populations and the working poor and focus on character, life skills, financial wisdom, career development, and job search readiness.

### Taliilee & Urgessa – Ethiopia

*Taliilee summarizes highlights of their ministry:*

**Schools:** Schools are going to open in this academic year despite the rise in Covid19 and the ongoing political crisis. Pray for God's protection over students and teachers as they return to begin schooling.

**Bible Translation:** We continue to ask for funding to publish the complete Arsi Oromo Bible. The manuscript is already sent to South Korea and we are praying we will have enough funding to publish them in 2021.

**Pray** for me as I continue to work from my home office. Pray that God would continue to open ministry opportunities with financial supporters. I'm getting invitations from Oromo churches to lead prayer meetings, preaching and singing over zoom. Pray for Urgessa's safe travel in mid-November to Ethiopia. He plans to return for Christmas.

### The Ekblads - Tierra Nueva

Most of the people we relate with at Tierra Nueva do not have a long history with the Bible. They encounter Scripture for the first time through our faith community, personal visits or jail Bible studies.

Recently, I met with Jessica and Jason at a park beside the Skagit River in West Mount Vernon. We've met there three or four times on Friday afternoons for short Bible studies, just then a car rolls slowly up and stops in the street.

"Hey, what's up?" I hadn't seen E for over two years- since he was last in jail before heading to prison. E leaves his car running, gets out and comes over to greet me. I place my Bible on the hood of my car and we catch up.

I drive to a nearby store, where I suddenly realize my Bible is missing. Had I driven off with it on the hood of the car?! Around 10pm I head back to the park to search for my Bible again, searching along the sides of the road. The next morning I get an email that warms my heart: "Mr. Ekblad, found precious item that belongs to you. I'm Jose and would like to return to you. Email me or call me. Not to worry, it's safe! Jose."

He includes his number and I call him. He welcomes me to his house twenty minutes north of us and returns my Bible.

### The Smiths – South America

An exchange with Dennis regarding their retirement:

*Dennis and Maribel:*

*Our Mission Committee has enjoyed the association with you during the years you've been a partner with Newberg Oregon First Presbyterian. Maybe we'll see you as you head for the Oregon coast to visit your relatives. I fear I will be out of range to check into the Oct. 17 Zoom call, know we have appreciated keeping up with your ministry over the years.*

*Chuck Zickefoose*

Dennis' reply:

*Thanks, Chuck!*

*We'd love to organize a virtual visit to Newberg this fall, or a live visit once the situation permits.*

*Warm greetings to everyone at church.*

*Under the Mercy,*

*Dennis*

**More to come next month regarding their retirement, and who we will be accepting as a new Mission Partner. We will continue to fund the Smiths through the end of 2020.**

### O'Herins

The experience of doing the previous books is finally paying off as we move forward now faster and more effectively. Please pray for the team in the language area doing the testing and checking. One of the team members is ill.

Once the Luke results come back, we will pause work on Acts while we incorporate the feedback into Luke. After finishing Acts -- which is still a way off -- the plan is to begin translating Genesis.

There are some potential trips for us next year. Lord willing, the final consultant check of Luke will be in March. It's not clear if that will be virtual or in-person.



## Stewardship Season

The church has been gratefully receiving pledges for the coming year of 2021. Thanks to all who have sent their cards in. Your support is so important and encouraging. If you haven't yet sent in your pledge, please do. Our budget is being prepared now, and your financial commitment is so important to the life and good works of our church! Again, we are so thankful, grateful, and blessed.

*thankful  
grateful  
blessed*

## It's Time to Order Again!

That's right...Margie has sent out notice that she is ready to place the November order for Equal Exchange coffee and/or chocolate. So give her a call (503-538-5501) or email her at

[mjlemaster@frontier.com](mailto:mjlemaster@frontier.com).  
The order is being placed on **Monday, November 2nd**. So contact Margie quick, quick, quick, and place that order!



## ~A Message From Our Deacons~

Dear Friends,

October would have been the month that the Deacons typically held their Deacon Auction at the church. It has been so much fun with good food and good friends and so many fun items to bid on, like: picnics, dinners, yummy treats, unique items, holiday baskets, etc. But unfortunately that couldn't happen this year with Covid-19 with no large group gatherings, social distancing, masks, etc.. Hopefully that can happen next October or so.

Then there is the Fire Department Toy and Joy Drive that we usually hold in November. The congregation donates toys for children for Christmas. A Deacon(s) take the toys to the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue station in Newberg where the firemen and volunteers organize toys by ages and deliver toys to children and teens in our area who would likely not receive toys otherwise. We don't want folks to feel like they have to go to stores, during Covid-19 to buy toys and deliver them to the church. If you want to do this you can, or if you would like to donate toys but don't feel comfortable shopping a Deacon(s) could shop for you. The last date to deliver toys or donate money would be December 1st.

Finally, the Rummage Sale will also need to be postponed until at least next summer. Hold onto your rummage if you can. We can store a few things in the closet to the right of the kitchen, in the Fellowship Hall (as was mentioned in a recent Issue of the Pew News).

If you would like to donate money to help the Deacons so they can continue to support organizations in our area, such as: YCAP, Henderson House, FISH, Love INC, etc., please make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church, and on the memo line write "Deacons" or "Toy Drive." We haven't been able to hold any fundraising events in 2020.

Blessings,

*Paula, Di and Susan*



Our Adult Bible Studies Class spent this summer exploring and learning about the Psalms. However, for the last two Tuesdays, the class, led by Bruce Murphy, explored the relationship between Christian faith and patriotism. Together they discussed:

### What does the Bible say?

**The Old Testament-** The church and the nation are one. Faith/religion needs the power of the nation to survive. The nation needs the power of faith to thrive. Patriotism and faith are two sides of the same coin.

**The New Testament** - Jesus acknowledges the need for the nation to provide order with justice... but calls his followers to replace political power with the power of love as the means to build the God's Kingdom...and thereby strengthen all of society.

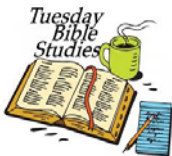
**What does the Constitution of the United States say?** Official separation of church and state with freedom of religion. Faith and human reasoning are both gifts of God to be used together for the common good. Patriotism for the Christian involves building the nation through holy living, acts of sacrificial love, genuine evangelism and the willingness to reason together with those who disagree.

Now, Pastor Chris is asking members (including those checking in for the first time) what they feel called to study. So bring your ideas and choices to class this Tuesday at noon and be prepared to set the theme for the following weeks.





**Our Church  
Community**



Pastor Chris hosts a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. The topic was "Exploring the Psalms", however, a new topic will be determined by class members on Tuesday, November 3.

Please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473108874pwd=VnplSGtna1RTYUQ5ekRUMHE3MVdLdz09&status=success> and use the Meeting ID: 824 7310 8874 and Password: 879927 to join us for some socially distant learning, discussion and fellowship!



Men's Breakfast is happening 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](mailto: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!



While all Christians are called to care for persons in need, the ministry of deacons is the light that guides the way. Deacons are a reflection of the heart of Christianity. Deacons are called to model and extend the love of

Jesus Christ. Here at Newberg FPC, our Deacons work to support our church and our community as a whole. They raise funds to support various charities, they work within the church to provide for memorial services by providing food and comfort to those in mourning. They work to improve our church from within and to reach out in thanks to those who work at serving our community. Now, however, they are working to find other members of our church who would like to join them in service. If you are a member of our church and wish to be a part of Deacon's, please contact Katherine in the front office (503-538-3313) or by clicking [here](#). Come join us as we become a community of hope, love and witness to the whole world!

# CAYAC

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*Join Now!*

Newberg First Presbyterian Church started CAYAC, which stands for College and Young Adult Community, in the fall of 2018. Over the last couple of years, we have enjoyed ministering to students from George Fox and other young adults. We are grateful that many of you have partnered with the Murphy's, Elise Prayzich, and other leaders to support this ministry by providing food and other gifts.

With the pandemic, we are continuing CAYAC this fall by providing weekly Zoom meetings and occasional socially distanced gatherings in the backyard of the Murphy home with masks.

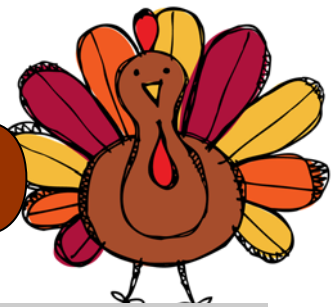
Feel free to contact Pastor Chris at [murphycb@frontier.com](mailto:murphycb@frontier.com), if you know any college students or other young adults who would be interested in participating in CAYAC. We are also starting to receive donations to help buy food when we occasionally meet in person. Please also be in prayer for our young adults as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic and balance school, work, and other responsibilities.







Women's group **Space for Grace** meets on Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 10 to 11 AM. 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](mailto: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.)



# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 10:30 am Livestream Worship Service <i>Gratitude Sunday</i> <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	2	3 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 	4	5 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	6	7
8 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	9 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	10 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	11 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry  Pew News articles due	12	13 10:00 am- Space for Grace	14
15 10:30 am- ZOOM Worship Service	16 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	17 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	18	19 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	20 <i>Last chance for changes to the Pew News-no changes accepted after today</i>	21
22 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	23 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	24 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	25 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 	27 Office Closed Thursday & Friday	28
29 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	30 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM					



17- Joe Steve  
 22- Corban Harwood  
 30- Alan Johnsen  
 30- Martin Millage

16- Lynne & Carl Patrick  
 27- Julie & Brian O'Herin



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11-10-20 6:30 pm Session Meeting via Zoom

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)



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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.