

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 11
DECEMBER 2020



PEW NEWS



“The Wonders of Christmas”



From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

The Wonders of Christmas

It is the most wonderful time of the year! Advent and the Christmas Season are upon us. I am a big fan of Christmas with all the great food, traditions, and the change of seasons into a winter wonderland. My wife Karen is Norwegian and fills our home with tasty cookies from her family's treasure of traditional recipes passed on for generations. This year will feel different for all of us because of the pandemic. We will be more careful about who to see and less folks will travel than normal. For the good of our families and friends, we might even settle for phone calls and Zoom visits rather than in person gatherings.

And yet, Christmas is upon us and the wonders of Christmas are here for us to savor. This Advent Season I am excited to share that we will be enjoying the major stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. Our church worship committee that includes Pat Goodman, Gary Buck, Lynne Patrick, Chris McCourt, Mary Kalesse, and I have planned out some special events for the ADVENT Season. Each Sunday of Advent we will explore the wonders experienced by different Biblical characters. We will begin with Mary on Nov. 29th and then continue with Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, and Jesus himself.

On Sunday, December 6th we will experience worship by Livestream and then gather in front of the church sanctuary outside for Christmas cookies and some safe socializing. We are also going to have a Zoom worship service from home on Christmas Eve. Also, you can expect some special music surprises both recorded and live for our Livestream worship offerings.

I know this might be the most unique Christmas season we have experienced as a church, but the same Savior who came to us as a baby is coming to meet us in our vulnerability now. Maybe this Christmas Season we will experience a deeper awareness of the wonder that is the birth of Christ our King.



Our Advent Season



The Wonders of Christmas

11/29/20	<i>Mary's Humble Heart</i>	Advent Candlelighters: Reid & Nancy Thurston Tom Greenbaum & Angela Spohn
12/6/20	<i>Joseph's Faithful Heart</i>	Advent Candlelighters: Noah Katterman & Kylee Wiseman
12/13/20	<i>The Shepherds' Joyful Hearts</i>	Advent Candlelighters: Amanda & Anthony Stevens Charles & Adelaide
12/20/20	<i>The Magi's Seeking Hearts</i>	Advent Candlelighters: The Albright Family

Special Events

12/6/20	Christmas Gathering after Worship— Join us for pre-packaged cookies and socially distanced visiting (or pick up treats and go, depending on your comfort level) to start off our celebration of the season. Social distancing and masks required.
12/24/20	Special ZOOM Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Celebrate <i>The Wonders of Christmas</i> from the comfort of home! The ZOOM link will be sent out on the day of the 24th.



Session met November 10 by zoom. In an attempt to better manage finances, committees are being urged to use O2 funds (designated funds) rather than General Budget monies for their budgets. A positive cash flow has led to a reduction in anticipated losses for 2020, although expenses still exceed income and the projected deficit is \$22k.

Any moves regarding the future of the backlot have been put on hold until January 2021. FPC Newberg has a new contract with Sierra Lake landscaping. Thanks to Sylvia Burns for her work in this regard.

Nominating Committee is still looking for an additional person to serve on Session. If you are interested in serving FPC in this capacity, please let Pastor or Susan King know. According to the Book of Order, the only requirements are that you be a faithful member of the church, both in attendance and in giving.

Worship Committee is working on plans for Advent. Any ideas – contact Lynne Patrick.

Presbytery of the Cascades met by zoom Nov. 6-7. Pastor Chris and I attended. Presbytery hoping for a transformation from a shrinking membership. Monies have been disbursed to areas affected by the wildfires. Funds were received from General Assembly to help promote mental health in pastors.

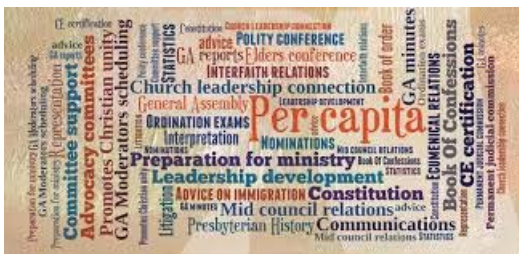
FPC Newberg expects to receive \$30k over the years 2022/23 from Portland Seminary, as part of their Thriving Congregations Initiative. Thanks to Dr. Melissa Ramos for helping to secure these monies.

Yours in Christ,

Sylvia Stater

Clerk of Session

tel: 503-864-3337 / thestaters@gmail.com



As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, 2020, one area that would be easy to 'fix' is in our per capita giving. Per Capita is a figure set each year by Presbytery and the monies collected are divided among Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for administrative purposes. In fact, it is what pays the salaries of those working for those entities. Newberg FPC is committed to paying the full amount due, based on Dec. 31 membership each year. This year, we have currently collected only 46% of monies due - that means less than half of our members have paid their share (\$36.50 pp). This means FPC Newberg has had to reach into funds that could otherwise be used elsewhere in our church programs.

As this one-of-a-kind year (hopefully) draws to a close, please consider paying your share of Per Capita to help balance the books.



Please join us on December 6th at 12:00 noon for Christmas cookies and socially distanced companionship!

On Sunday, December 6th, we will be worshipping via livestream as usual. However after worship, we will be gathering outdoors to enjoy Christmas cookies and being amongst friends. Cookies will be pre-packaged for you to take and visiting should include masks and social distancing. As much as we want to be with each other once more, let's keep it as safe and healthy as possible!

Can't wait to see you!



Our Missions

We are featuring Caroline Kurtz this month as our newest Mission Partner!

Our congregation's association with Caroline Kurtz extends back over 12 years when our Mission Committee facilitated a project to support the Menja tribe in Ethiopia to raise honey bees and produce marketable honey as a means of livelihood. Caroline at that time was associated with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship [currently just Frontier Fellowship].

In 2011 Alan and Shirley Kolb, and Chuck Zickefoose accompanied Caroline to Ethiopia on a short trip to observe the beekeeping activities by the Menja tribe and visit their churches and homes.

In the intervening years, Caroline promoted solar panels for the town she grew up in during her early years as a missionary "kid" in Maji, Ethiopia. She has been instrumental in bringing electricity to Maji by way of a non-profit organization Maji Development Coalition [MDC]. The nearest power source is many miles away so this activity will give the town its own power source when completed.

Because one of our Mission Partners is retiring, our committee and Session agreed to begin sponsoring Caroline and MDC in January 2021. A summary of work to date is below in her thank you to supporters like Newberg First Presbyterian. Caroline writes:

"Since starting in 2018, you have made a huge difference in peoples' lives in Maji, Ethiopia:

- * 350 families have electric lights in their homes at night for the first time ever
- * Clean drinking water was restored for 700 families
- * Next up—electricity for the district hospital. It will serve 60,000 people! Because of your generosity, solar panels, batteries and wire are being packed and will soon be shipped. Thank you!"



The Season for Gratitude and Giving

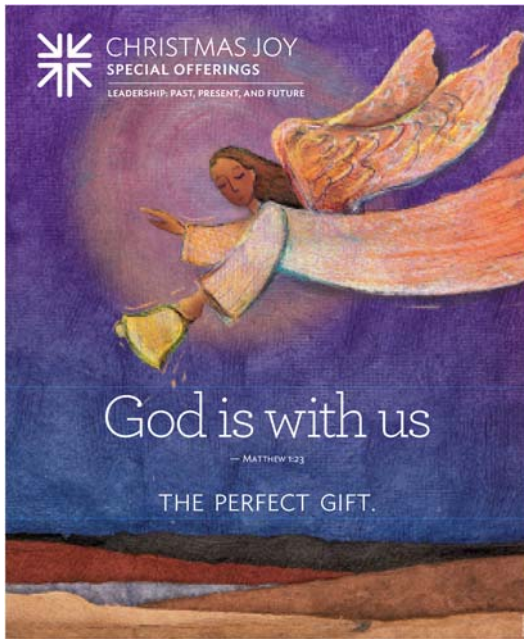
Greetings from Caroline Kurtz, Executive Director,
Maji Development Coalition.

If you're like me, you need a spark of **joy** as we head into winter. Did your adults always tell you helping someone else will cheer you up? We can put our **love** into a form that transfers to others far away.

That's how I think as I write checks at the end of the year for causes I care about, and people I love. We celebrate you joining us in 2020.

I will be praying for **peace** in Ethiopia and other global sites of unrest and injustice. We can all choose a spot in the world where we will share **love**. The people of Maji District long for your support! Join us on **Giving Tuesday**, December 1st. To find out more, please visit our website at developmaji.org or by clicking [here](#).





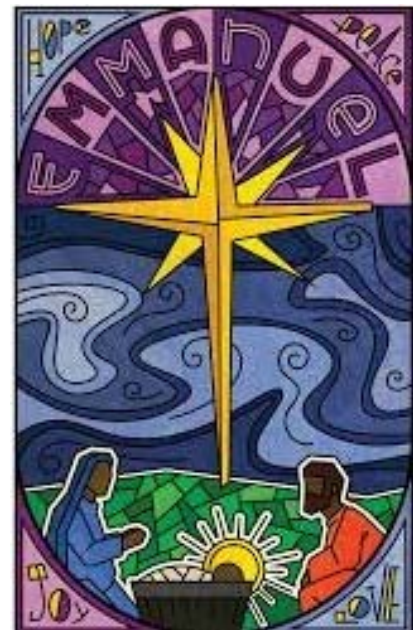
OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

will be gratefully received again this year on the Sundays surrounding Christmas. One of the four Special Offerings of PC(USA), it has been a part of the Christmas tradition in the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1933. Half of this offering is distributed through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, recognizing the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through especially difficult times. The other half supports Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools and colleges:

- *Johnson C. Smith University, NC
- *Knoxville College, TN
- *Menaul School, NM
- *Stillman College, AL
- *Presbyterian Pan American School, TX

You will find flyers on the little table in the church office telling you in more detail about the important Missions your Christmas Joy offering supports. Special offering envelopes are also available for you on that same little table during the month of December. Come in during open hours, Tuesday – Friday, 9-1 and pick up your Christmas Joy materials! We are grateful for our always-generous congregation! Thank you!

~The Mission and Global Witness Committee





From the Deacon's Corner

The FPC Deacons are hoping you will join hands with us so we can continue to serve. OK...not really! No hugging! No touching! No handholding! But we can at least join together figuratively.

One way to join with us is through donating your time. Until we open up our facilities and hire someone to clean again, our office areas and the front of our sanctuary need attention. This involves vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning restrooms about every other week. The tasks only take about an hour when two folks work together. Mondays, when no one is in the office, fits well but you could pick any day or time that matches your schedule plus have “coaching” on your first outing! Lynne Patrick and Sylvia Stater have been helping in this way since March so it is past time to give them a break.

Please contact me at dimurphy09@gmail.com or 360-320-0387 if you are able to volunteer occasionally. Note: This is a gender inclusive opportunity, so guys are welcome to join in. Thanks so much for considering this request.

Di Murphy



George Fox University presents their
Christmas Audio Show
 (like an old-time Radio Drama)

The Christmas Carol



Lend us your ears for a delightful journey back to Charles Dicken's London in this beautifully underscored arrangement of *A Christmas Carol*. Follow Scrooge's transformation as he learns from the ghoulish Marley, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and the simple and honest lives of the Cratchit family, including Tiny Tim. Please join us for a special Christmas collaboration featuring both the music and theatre programs of the GFU Performing Arts Department! This is an audio drama you won't want to miss!

Location: A Delightful Digital File for your ears. You will be able to access the audio-drama online. Tickets will soon be available. To purchase click [here](#). (Tickets will be available closer to the dates of the performances.) The link to listen will be sent to you and you may choose from the following dates/times to enjoy!

Dec. 10-12 & 17-19 at 7:30
Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.

Please note that you can also visit the GFU website to access all of their theater productions. Just go to the website and search either for Theater Department or Christmas Carol. There may be other productions that would interest you too. Enjoy!



On a personal note, Thomas Millage, a member of our church community, will be playing the part of Mr. Fezziwig and assorted others.



**Christmas Gifts
 That Give
 Twice!**



A GIFT FROM HEIFER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

The Mission and Global Witness Committee have made available
 - on the little table in the church office -

GIFT CATALOGS:

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog,
 and
 Heifer International.

As you know, they enable you to purchase items for a family in need far away, and present a card to your honoree, telling friend or family about that gift, made in their honor. There aren't many gifts you can give that **GIVE TWICE!!**

~The Mission and Global Witness Committee~



Special Needs in Ethiopia

Our congregation has several important connections with people serving in some mission capacity in Ethiopia. If you have been following the news in that region you may be aware of a time of turmoil. The current difficulties are between the government and the northern Tigray region. Factions of both the Tigray and Amharic peoples are involved. We are challenged to be in prayer for those that we know who have mission work or family ties to and in Ethiopia.

We have particular ties to:

Taliilee and Urgessa Fikru who head up Light of Hope ministry building schools, churches and now are in the process of building a large structure that will serve as a teaching center and source of income in leasing out space. All of this is taking place in southeast Ethiopia near the Somalia border.

Caroline Kurtz who is featured in this Pew News with her work with the Maji solar energy project.

Sara Hailemeskel who has family members near the current region of unrest in northern Ethiopia. Sara is a part of CAYAC and an Education Major at George Fox.

Please remember each of these individuals in your prayers.

~Mission & Global Witness Committee



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



Prayers for the Picard family who are grieving the death of Lois.



Prayers of comfort and peace for Elaine Johnsen and her family.



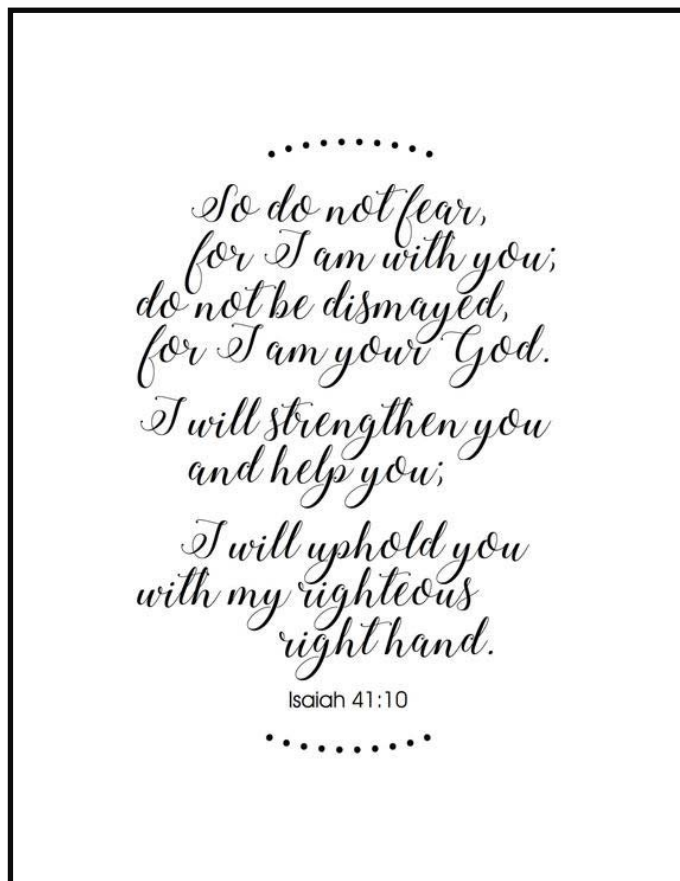
Prayers for comfort and peace for Dorothy Au and her family.



Prayers of healing and strength for Dick and Vera Patten.



Prayers of comfort and peace for Bill and Pat Goodman.



November 12, 2020—Lois Picard



**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 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

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 11



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 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, 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 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.)



December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	2 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	3 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	4	5
6 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service *Followed by cookies and visiting outside 	7 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	8 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	9 Pew News articles due	10	11 10:00 am- Space for Grace	12
13 10:30 am- ZOOM Worship Service 	14 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	15	16 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	17 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	18 <i>Last chance for changes to the Pew News-no changes accepted after today</i>	19
20 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	21	22	23	24  7:00 pm- Christmas Eve ZOOM Service	25  <i>For unto us a child is born...</i>	26
27 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> Office Closed 		

Office Closed Thursday & Friday



20- Brian O'Herin
30- Maxine Schuler

5- Chris & Craig McCourt



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12-8-20 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
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.