

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021



PEW NEWS



“Hope in the New Year”



From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

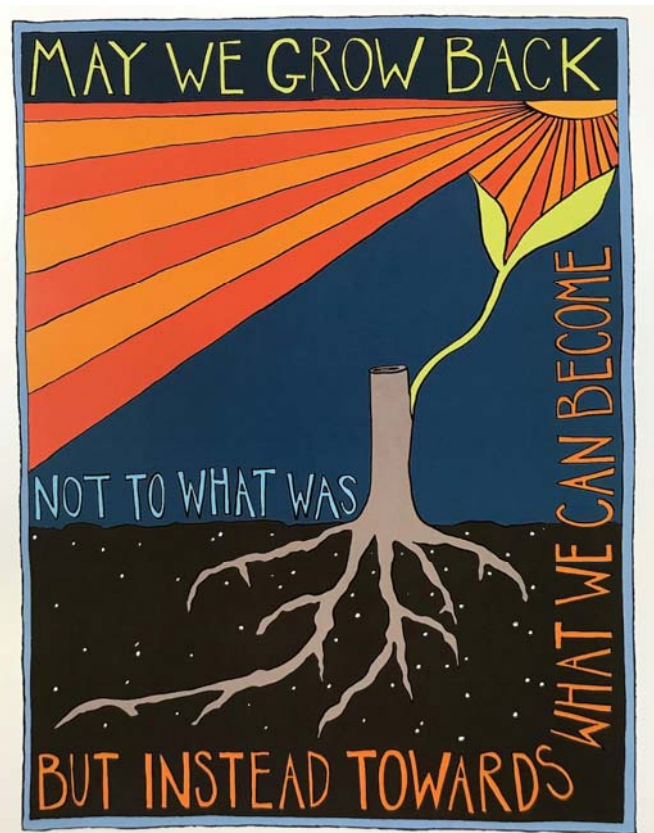
Hope For the New Year

We are a church of Grace, Hope, and Love. As we enter 2021, I am particularly drawn to the word hope. Hope speaks to a deep longing for a positive future. Where do we need hope in the new year? We need hope for an end to this pandemic. We need hope that the vaccine will be effective and will be distributed successfully. We are hoping that by the end of 2021 we can offer each other hugs without fear of infection. Our hope is that during this year we will once again gather as community in our sanctuary and worship God freely.

As Christians, we put our ultimate hope in Jesus. We trust that Jesus will continue to join us in the trials of this life and bring us new life and light. Last year brought us so much sorrow and yet even in the darkest moments of last year the hope of the light of Christ broke in. We learned last year to treasure simple things like handshakes and hugs, conversation without masks, friends, family, and the freedom to travel. We learned to journey through life at a slower pace with more intentionality and awareness of God's presence.

As we hope for a more normal life to return in the year 2021, I hope we may still treasure what we learned this last year. Let us not take our lives for granted. May God help us to value one another and to be present with each other. May we enjoy the gift of health, the beauty of nature, and the importance of coming together united in our common humanity and our hope for a better future for our children.

There are lessons to be learned in 2020 and we have reason to have hope in 2021. Let us be open to the guidance of Jesus. We have grown stronger through our suffering and we are being prepared for good things.



Congregational Meeting

Just a heads up...there will be a congregational meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, January 31, 2021, immediately following our livestream Worship Service. Stay tuned for more details!



Session met December 8 by Zoom. Session approved the church budget for 2021. There will be a congregational meeting on January 31st by Zoom where further sharing will be given on the budget and reflections will be shared on 2020 and our hopes for 2021. New elders and deacons will be approved at the congregational meeting. Mary Kalesse and Pastor Chris Murphy reported that they represented Newberg First Presbyterian as part of a cohort of ministers connected to the Thriving Congregations Initiative. Newberg First Presbyterian is grateful to be receiving a grant through this initiative of \$15,000 in 2022 and another grant of \$15,000 in 2023 to support our mission as a church. Thriving Congregations Initiative is part of the ministry of Portland Seminary.

Session regretfully removed from the rolls Lois Picard who passed away on 11/12/2020 and Elaine Johnsen who passed away on 12/3/2020. Session also received the sad news that Sylvia Stater has requested with daughter Megan Shaw to be moved to inactive. Membership as of December 8, 2020 is at 54. Session wishes to express appreciation for Sylvia Stater's significant service to our church for many years.

Dennis & Maribel Smith – South America

A final letter from our Mission partners Dennis and Maribel as they enter into retirement:

Dear Partners in God's Mission,

In October, after seven months of lockdown, Argentina finally opened airports to commercial flights. On Oct 12, Maribel and I jumped on a plane in Buenos Aires with our two Siamese cats and flew to Oregon to begin a new chapter in our life's journey.

After 43 years of service, I retired as a Presbyterian mission co-worker on Oct. 31, 2020. Through your friendship, prayers and financial support you have been our partners in mission for much of that time. Thank you!

As Maribel and I settle into life on the south coast of Oregon, we have been looking back and unpacking memories and reviewing lessons learned.

There was a time when we thought of mission as something Christians do – a function of our devotion or our commitment. Little by little we learned that wherever we went in mission, God was already there. In some mysterious way, every people of every tongue – despite our common brokenness – were embraced by common grace. We came to understand that we were called as servants of God's mission – not the mission of a particular local church, or even the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We learned that our task as mission workers was not to be God-bearers but to be fellow pilgrims discerning how and where God is present in every time and place. And how God was calling all of us to faithful service in building the common good. Christ is our model and Christ is our companion on the journey.

This is a strange time to begin this new chapter in our lives. Pandemic denies us the freedom even to be able to embrace friends and family. The U.S. and so many other countries are confronting deep divisions, grief at lost loved ones, social unrest, natural disasters – all exacerbated by COVID-19. It is a moment without closure, fraught with uncertainties. But this is the time in which we live.

As we enter Advent, Maribel and I wanted to send you this, our final mission newsletter, celebrating that the God of Hope continues to be born here, in human history. We thank you for all that we have shared together. We thank God for all that is to come.

Please keep in touch. Dennis' personal email is densmithfam@gmail.com; Maribel's is maribelperez64@gmail.com



Our Missions

Brian O'Herin (SIL) reports:

"We finished all the final minor changes to Matthew yesterday, and it has been submitted for publication. We'll probably see a proof just before it's printed to check for any errors, but for all intents and purposes, the translation aspect is done (including glossary, maps and introduction). Praise God! Please pray for the publishing and printing process, that it would go smoothly and without complication."

Erik & Maureen York

Erik reports:

"Virtual doesn't have to be distancing. Adapting to a virtual venue has given our LDHR (Leadership Development & Human Resources) team opportunity to better train and communicate more consistently with staff in the field. In October our training included over 200 of our staff, helping guide our missionaries in discipleship, particularly with those considering applying to come on staff or intern with us."

Maureen added:

"Spending time with my mom (Dorothy Au) and sisters in August/September on the Oregon coast was an immeasurable gift. It was both sweet and weighty, full with good food, creative projects, old movies and lots of late night chats."

Bob Ekblad - Tierra Nueva

Grace Ekblad was the featured leader of our weekly Bible study on December 8.

The topic was Luke's account of Jesus healing the 10 lepers, with the Samaritan being the one to express his gratification for healing.

The Ekblads minister to a diverse group of congregants and acquaintances in the Skagit Valley in Washington.

Their work is with prison ministry, local migrants and recovering addicts.

Taliilee & Urgessa – Ethiopia

Taliilee summarizes highlights of their ministry:

~Schools: Schools not open in this academic year due to covid19 and the military activity in the north. Some churches are meeting outdoors.

~Urgessa's travels: Urgessa is in Ethiopia as of the week of Dec. 7 and will be there until later in January. He reports that the work on the college is progressing slowly due to challenges in the political and military activities.

~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 it in 2021.

~Taliilee's ministry: Taliilee maintains a busy ministry schedule with Zoom meetings to congregations in Washington D.C., Denver, Minneapolis and Norway. She will also be participating with us as a Bible study leader in January.



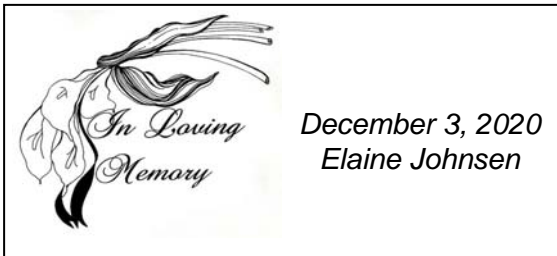
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified
because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you;
*He will never leave
you nor forsake you.*
Deuteronomy 31:6



To our church family:

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gifts you gave to us. It is especially nice to be remembered so fondly during this season. You all are so generous, not only with your money, but with your support and encouragement as we work for our community and to the glory of God. You are so appreciated!! Thanks again and God bless you all!

Katherine Pastor Chris
Gary & Paula Buck



BICYCLES! BICYCLES! BICYCLES!

You will be pleased to know that our Church, through

Love INC's GAP Ministry,

provided bicycles to 63 Love INC clients in 2020!



We are "open for business" on the first and third Wednesdays each month, and work from a list provided to us by Love INC, who do an intake procedure to see the needs of the folks they are interviewing are properly met.

The bicycles themselves are rehabilitated and provided by the Retired Recyclers, and are ready for us to pick up before each "business day."

Those who receive the bikes are so grateful – they can more easily look for work, and then can GET to work and to appointments on time.

Thank you, Congregation, for making this opportunity possible! You are a blessing to so many!

Also, donations of Adult Bicycles are most Welcome! Many, Many thanks!!

~The Mission and 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 Johnsen family who are grieving the death of Elaine.



Prayers of comfort and healing for Pat Harcourt.



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



Prayers for the success of the Covid vaccine and that our country will begin to heal from this year of many hardships.

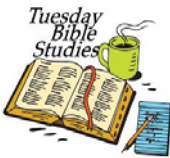


The Deacons would like to remind people that, though it won't happen soon, we are still planning on holding the annual (except for 2020!) **Rummage Sale** when our state starts to open up—somewhere in late summer 2021. To all of you holding on to rummage sale items at

your home...thank you! To those who needed to bring in a few things they couldn't store...thank you too! Unfortunately however, we are **not** accepting clothing to sell. In the past unsold clothing became a logistical problem; so much so that we decided that we were not going to sell clothing anymore. So please **don't** bring in any items of clothing. The Thrift Shop, Goodwill or Lucky Finds are all better equipped to handle mass amounts of clothing. Thanks for understanding!!



**Our Church
Community**



Pastor Chris hosts a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Class is on break now, but will resume Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Happy Holidays everyone!

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, 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 emailing her at firstpresnewberg@frontier.com. 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 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.)

January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Happy Birthday!</p> <p>4 - Chuck Zickefoose 10 - Mary Kalesse 26 - Eric Swehla</p> <p>6 - Joe Sarnacki 24 - Alan Kolb 31 - Bob Andrews</p>					1 New Years' Day 	2
3 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service church 	4 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	5 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	6 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	7 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	8 10:00 am- Space for Grace	9
10 10:30 am- ZOOM Worship Service 	11 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	12 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	18 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	19 Pew News articles due 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	20 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	21 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	22 10:00 am- Space for Grace	23
24 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	25 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	26 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service Congregational Meeting to follow via ZOOM 				25 - Bob & Sylvia Burns		



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1-12-21 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.