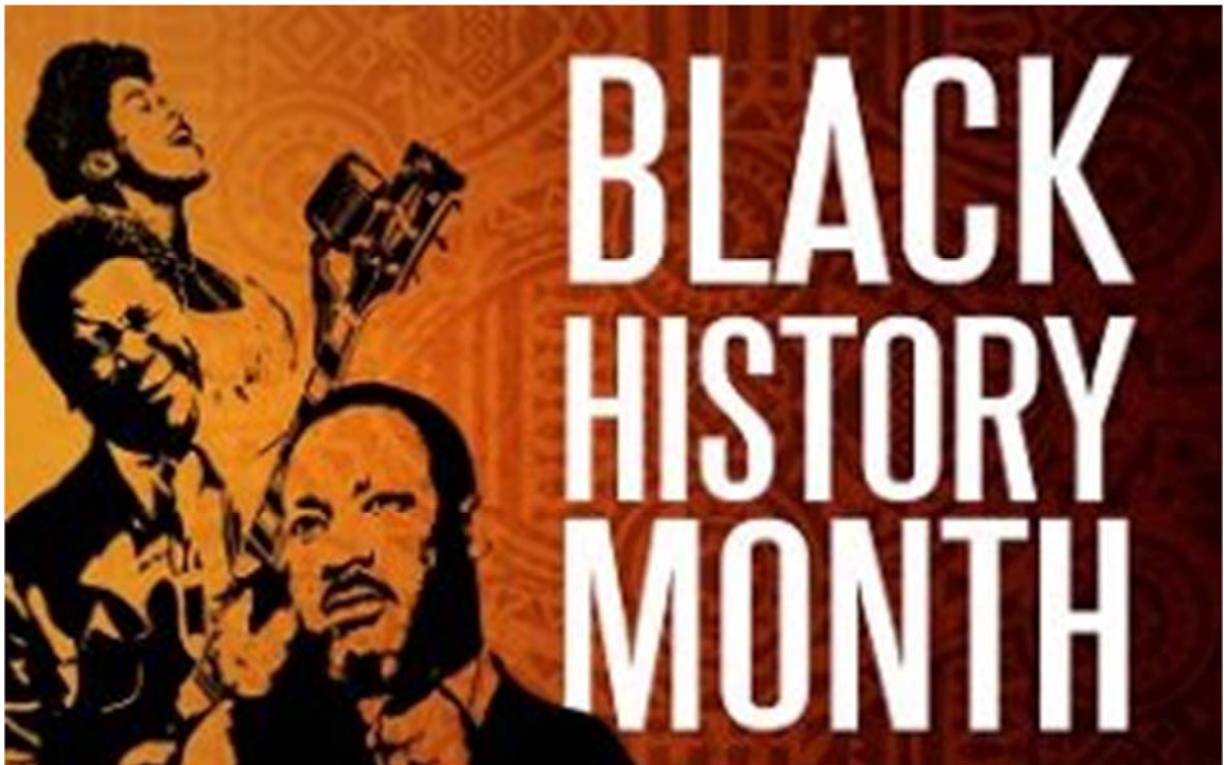


Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 2
FEBRUARY 2021

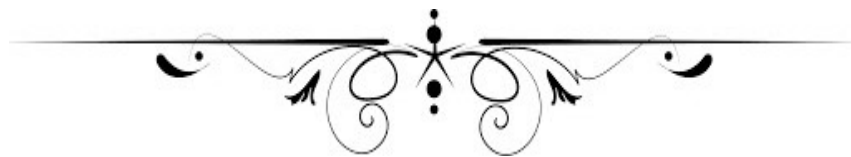


PEW NEWS



“Celebrating Black History Month”

From the Reverend Chris Murphy—



Celebrating February: Love, Lent and Seeking Racial Justice

When I think of the month of February, I remember a few different things. I remember that Valentine’s Day happens on February 14th, so it is a month that reminds us to love each other and for me it is a time to express love to my family and buy flowers and gifts for my wife Karen and daughters Cate and Chiara. As a pastor, I also remember that during February we will begin the Church season of Lent, a 40- day period of spiritual preparation before Easter. This year Lent will begin on Feb. 17th with Ash Wednesday. In recent years, I have also connected the month of February with Black History Month. The emphasis on remembering black lives seems especially important to highlight this year with the growing racial tensions and efforts to raise awareness of the huge problem of racism in our society and world.

Recently, our own Yamhill community celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This event was started 11 years ago with the help of our good friend and Friendsview resident, the Rev. Lionel Muthiah and our dedicated former Mayor Bob Andrews. We met virtually this year and all the leaders who contributed did a masterful job sharing about King’s heart. The question that was raised by multiple speakers was, “What would King ask us to do today?” I was struck by a story told by Bryce Coefield, the MC for the night’s events about his recent experience participating in a march against white supremacy in Newberg. During the march, Bryce walked by a group of cars and a woman rolled down her window and shouted, “This is white country.” Bryce is a black man and was naturally struck with anger and pain from the words of this woman and yet he continued to march with courage and hope. Bryce reflected that he found a sense of hope and even joy in walking with his good friends who were partnering with him to make Newberg a place where white supremacy no longer is acceptable.

Maybe you read this article and feel surprised to hear that someone in Newberg would say such a thing to a black person, but hopefully with all the news of how white supremacists have been involved in actions of social unrest in our nation this year, we are more conscious of how deeply rooted the problem of racism remains. Oregon has a difficult history of racism. The KKK was active in Newberg in the 1920’s and the prejudice of white people has been a struggle in Oregon since the first settlers came here and sought to prohibit black people from settling in this state. We still see confederate flags waving from trucks occasionally in this town.

During this Black History Month, I hope we continue to ask the question, what would King ask us to do to address the problem of racism? We might broaden the question as Christians to say, what does Jesus ask us to do? One thing I am learning is that we as the Church need to continue to speak up in support of people of color and that we need to understand that the good news of Jesus always calls us to work for justice and an end to racism. There is a reason that one of our core values as a church is to care for people on the margins. Friends, I hope you take time this month of February to learn about black history and to raise awareness on how the good news of Jesus is a message of love for all people.





Session met on January 12th by Zoom and welcomed Bob Andrews, who will be installed as a new elder. Corinne Waterbury provided a thoughtful devotion on the book of James.

With gratitude, session approved Lory Albright as our new Clerk of Session.

Pastor Chris shared about his activity in January teaching exploring membership classes. We expect a good group of new members to meet with Session in February.

Session discussed the upcoming Annual Congregational meeting to be held on January 31st.

Installation and ordination service will occur at the end of the congregational meeting to welcome four new deacons- Shirley Kolb, Judy Landis, Katherine Millage, and Anna Virginia Millage. Bob Andrews will also be installed as elder.

Financial Report- Session approved the Treasurer's report, which shows that the church budget goals were met for 2020 thanks to the SBA loan, which is expected to be forgiven and the furlough of some staff members plus the generosity of the congregation. Finances to be discussed further at the congregational meeting.

Session confirmed the following leadership roles for 2021:

Chair of Deacons- Paula Buck, Chair of Finance and Facilities- Gary Buck, Chair of Global Witness- Lory Albright, Chair of Personnel- Lynne Patrick, Chair of Worship, Media, and Technology- Lynne Patrick with support from Gary Buck, Chair of Adult Education- Mary Kalesse.

Chuck Zickefoose has stepped down from Session after six years of dedicated service. Chuck, we honor and thank you for all the good work you have done for our church!



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.



Please keep Pat Harcourt in your prayers as she recovers from hip surgery. Pray for healing and comfort during this time.



Prayers for our country during this time of political stress and upheaval. May God send us peace, understanding and community at this time.



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



Please keep Doris Feenstra in your prayers as she mourns the death of granddaughter Sandy Shine.



And speaking of praying....



Do you remember Prayer Chains? With email they have sort of gone by the wayside. However, I was thinking it would be nice to have a Prayer Circle (like former women's Circles) where people sign up to receive an immediate email whenever we hear of a need or request. In this way we can begin praying as soon as possible. Think "prayer champions," ready to begin work when called. I would still put prayer requests in the Friday email and the Pew News, but this way if we hear of a need on Tuesday, prayer needn't wait. Our Prayer Circle can start praying immediately. If you would like to sign up to receive prayer request emails and commit time to praying for those in need, please email me (Katherine) here at the office. To make it easy, just click [here](#).

Thanks!



Our Missions

This month we are featuring the ministry of our Mission Partners, Erik and Maureen York, who are active in a combined mission of AIA (Athletes in Action) and CRU (successor to Crusade for Christ). Maureen is the daughter of Dorothy Au who is profiled separately in this issue. Although it is a shared ministry, Maureen works more closely with CRU and Erik with AIA.

Athletes in Action (AIA)

Since 1966, Athletes in Action has been helping competitors find a relationship with the One who truly satisfies, where they can join a community where they are valued beyond their success, and use their platform to make a difference in the world.

AIA is dedicated to pursuing greatness, training day in and day out to be a walking highlight reel and a household name. From a spectator's view, they have all the keys to success, but many are left searching for a purpose no trophy, ring, or high-profile status can satisfy.

By serving, training and sending athletes as influencers into the world, we are building spiritual movements everywhere through the platform of sport so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus.

CRU (Formerly Crusade for Christ)

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it was written without error (that is, it is inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

We accept those areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our movement, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.



On December 29, my Mom, Dorothy Yoshitomi Au, went home to be with the Lord. My three sisters and I had the privilege of providing hospice care for her in the last weeks of her life. We rejoiced knowing her mind was on the Lord, evidenced by one of her last clear phrases, "Wonderful Savior."

Grief is very fresh, but it is mingled with great thankfulness for how Mom lived out God's grace with compassion, serving others, and patience. Her steadfast love, generosity, artistic creativity and hospitable heart have marked me and many others. I miss her.

In recent years I have grown in appreciation for how Mom's story led to Jesus. My mom and her family were among the many Japanese Americans interned during WWII. In one instance in camp, the children were given an art project making block prints. Among the many prints that reflected their surroundings in Minidoka, Idaho—the water tower, barracks, mountains in the distance—my mom's picture of a duck stood out, a different perspective. That may not have been a spiritual search at the time, but she looked beyond her circumstances.

When her family was able to return to Oregon, my mom began going to the church down the street where a couple who served with Youth for Christ taught Sunday School. Through their influence, Mom came to know Jesus as her Savior. She passed on her hope in Jesus to us. Mom's ongoing perspective of looking to God's grace in the midst of even difficult times continues to encourage and remind me to look to Jesus.

2021 begins with high drama!

A huge shipment of solar equipment reaches port in the middle of a global pandemic. What could go wrong?



*From
 Mission
 Partner
 Caroline
 Kurtz.*

What a week! I got word from Ato Samson, our solar partner, that the ship carrying \$100,000 worth of solar equipment (which you donors provided for the Maji hospital) sailed into port in Djibouti last week. Yippee.

But with notification of it's arrival came the news that we had two weeks to get it cleared before we would be charged \$20,000 for storing it. "Do you have the donation letter authenticated?" Ato Samson asked me. Without a letter declaring it a donation, customs taxes could be 50-100%.

Well, good question. In early December I had begun jumping the hoops required by the Ethiopian government: notarize the letter. Check. Authenticate my notarization at the Oregon state capital.

Check. Send it to be authenticated by the State Department in Washington. Check. It had been a month . . . I called and called and there was no one in DC to pick up the phone, find the letter, stamp it, and get it back to me. Then I learned that because of the pandemic, authentications which used to take ten days, now take three months!

Samson and I madly brainstormed all possible interventions. And finally a friend and supporter, Barbara Davis Kroon, suggested I contact my senator. Three days later (on Friday), I got a call from the young, friendly, can-do staff of Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon--they got the letter authenticated and it was in the mail, second day air, back to me.

I've hired Louis Lance of 3G Global Services in DC (my new best friend!) to shepherd the letter through the Ethiopian Embassy, where it has to get a final authentication stamp . . . I'll overnight it to him tomorrow, and he will send it to Ato Samson by DHL. What a miracle of teamwork.

While I scrambled to find and spring the donation letter loose, Ato Samson and Ato Markos were on the road. They have traveled to regional offices to sign an MOU so that installation can start as soon as the equipment is cleared. Thank you to MDC staff plus strangers--government workers in the US and Ethiopia, public and private people responsibly doing their jobs. Each one is a link in the chain of love that will electrify a hospital for the Maji area's 60,000 people. We are the world, as the song says!



BICYCLE GAP MINISTRY

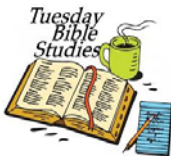
Our 5th year in Action!

Due to the (much appreciated!) many adult and children's bicycles donated to our ministry, the "Retired Recyclers" have had enough of a supply to spruce up to provide a choice of bikes for every client this year. Let's give a shout out to Alan Kolb for the use of his truck, and for Gary and Paula's faithful little truck. Lois and Elise are *VERY* grateful to have that truck available to us!! *Please give a BIG THANK YOU* to the Bucks!!

Our clients are so grateful for their bikes – maybe they have a car they cannot afford to run any longer, or don't have any means of transportation but good ole Shoe Leather. In those cases, they really appreciate the gift of transportation the bicycles give them. So . . . we thank the members of our congregation for the support you've given us over the years! Your hearty agreement to allow us to do this ministry, has been an encouragement to us! Also, we enjoy the challenge of the "job!!"



**Our Church
Community**



Pastor Chris hosts a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. The current topic of study is "Celebrating Black Christian Leaders", where we will explore the lives and insights of Black Christian leaders in recent US history.

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



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.)

February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	2 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM GROUND HOG DAY 	3 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry	4 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	5	6
7  10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service church	8 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	9 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	10	11	12 10:00 am- Space for Grace Pew News articles due	13
14  10:30 am- ZOOM Worship Service HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 	15  Presidents' Day 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	16 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	17  <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 am-1:00 pm Receiving the Ashes 6:30 pm- ZOOM Ash Wednesday Service	18 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	19	20
21  10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service	22 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	23 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	24	25	26 10:00 am- Space for Grace	27
28  10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service						



4- Lory Albright
4- Doug King
9- Don Albright
16- Jim Bonsey
17- Dick Sahagian

19- Carl Patrick
19- Paula Buck
27- Wilma Loeks
27- Glenn Sorum

©DESIGNALIVE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2-9-21 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



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.