

VOLUME 21
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Newberg First Presbyterian Church

PEW NEWS



“Embracing the Jesus Way”



The Jesus Way

In preparation for the Lenten Season, our Worship, Music, Media, and Technology team met to discuss the theme for this time of year. Pat Goodman said that the theme should be uplifting. We eventually came up with the theme, “The Jesus Way” to highlight how Jesus demonstrated a life of love and compassion born out of his own love relationship with his Father in Heaven. I like the idea of an uplifting season of Lent. Normally in the church calendar it is common to associate Lent with self-reflection that makes us feel somber about our sin and suffering. With the pandemic these many months, we have been in a perpetual time of grief. I am not sure we need to be reminded of the brokenness of the world this year. We have been feeling the reality of the world’s pain for many months. Instead, like Pat, I suggest we invite ourselves to experience God’s love more deeply and embrace “The Jesus Way” of deep intimacy with God this Lenten Season.

If you must, feel free to fast in some area of your life, but I would encourage you to see this season not as a time of self-denial, but instead a time of self-love and compassion. Be kind to yourself during the Lenten Season and even in our preparation for Holy Week, may we remember that Easter is coming. Consider adding something to your life that brings you joy and hope. Maybe you wish to add a practice of prayer or to offer yourself the gift of more intentional time connecting with a good friend.

You are encouraged to bring your grief to God in this season as well, but as you remember the grief of Jesus find some comfort in the power of the resurrection. I think Jesus had courage to face the cross, only because he knew he was beloved of God and because he also knew that he would rise again.

During these days of the pandemic, may we take heart that a resurrection is coming. A time is coming where we will see each other in person again. We have hope that immunity will eventually come. By God’s love and grace, let us keep this hope alive. The good news is that we can follow the Jesus Way. Jesus embraced his belovedness and practiced a rhythm of rest and service as he lived out his ministry. He knew the importance of self-love, community, and compassion. Jesus shows us the way to the Father and we can find uplifting hope in this Season of Lent and Holy Week. May we experience God’s love more fully in this time as we prepare for the joy of Easter.



Ministered to By Angels

Karen Murphy has been inspired to write lately and has sent us her latest work, ***A Lenten Relection—Ministered to By Angels.***

You can download it by clicking on the link [here](#). I hope you find it as comforting and inspiring as I did.

~Katherine



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 pray for Ray Johnsen as he is missing Elaine so. Please pray that God sends him peace and comfort at this time.





Session Meeting Feb. 9th, 2021

Highlights included accepting nine new members: Amanda and Anthony Stevens, Marc and Lish Mannerter, Reid and Nancy Thurston, Tom Greenbaum and Angela Spohn, and Jenifer Henry.

Session discussed preparation for Lent and Holy Week.

A team that includes Session members and the Finance and Facilities Team made plans to further discuss the future of our church back lot.

Session met with new members and heard a presentation from Todd and Garth Engle from Engle Family Properties to explore possible partnership together regarding back lot. Further conversations to occur.

Treasurer's Report: At this point in the year we have met the expectations for income and expense. Total Assets: (Liabilities and Equity) \$245,370.73. Special Offerings \$1,284.99. We received an income of \$30,086 in January and early February.

Joyfully Submitted,
Clerk of Session- Lory Albright

Lent is a time of preparation, dedication and contemplation. In this spirit, a ***Lenten Reading Guide for the Book of Mark*** was prepared for us by Mary Kalesse. Just click [here](#) to download and enjoy!



Holy Week Schedule: Following the Jesus Way



Palm Sunday: Celebrate Worship by Livestream

Maundy Thursday: We encourage you to celebrate Maundy Thursday in your homes by taking time to read the story of the Last Supper in Mark 14: 12-26, while you enjoy your evening meal.

Good Friday: We are inviting you to participate in a personal Prayer Retreat on this day. Prayer materials will be sent out by email.

Saturday: We are welcoming church members to place flowers in our church cross in the sanctuary from 10 AM to 12 noon. Painted eggs will be given out as you visit the sanctuary. Please plan to wear masks.

Sunday: We will celebrate Easter with special music and a special message of hope in the resurrection of Jesus.



Deb Diablo, daughter of Ray and Elaine Johnsen, called recently with a need that someone in our church may be able to fill.

The family is looking for a part time caregiver to stay up overnight with Ray, allowing son Alan to get some rest. Ray gets anxious at night and has trouble sleeping. He misses Elaine.

Ideally, this position would be an overnight position two nights per week. Scheduling would be flexible. If you are interested, please call Deb at 206-391-8278. Please let Deb know you are from our church. She would be very grateful!



Our Missions



Alert! Alert!

Yes, indeed, it's time to place another coffee order! If you are running out of coffee and/or chocolate, call Margie right away at 503-538-5501 or email her at mjlemaster@frontier.com. She is hoping to send out the order on March 1, and we need to order \$130.00 worth of goods to get free shipping, so let's all order!

Caroline Kurtz of the Maji Project:

Ever since the Community Needs Assessment of 2018 listed the heavy burdens of women in Maji District, we've dreamed of empowering them in some way.

In January, Markos started the pilot projects to make that dream a reality. Working with Wzo (Mrs.) Fatuma of the Maji District Women and Children's Affairs Office, Ato Markos has organized four "Women's Self-Help Groups." They are doing outreach to organize four more.

Self-help groups in other parts of Ethiopia are changing women's lives. Wzo Fatuma came back from an orientation trip and said, "What's happening for those women has to count as a miracle!" MDC is bringing that miracle to the women in Maji District.

Self-help groups are local and sustainable, and based on the power of:

- Communal action and
- Incremental steps supported by
- Encouragement and training.

The women in Maji have already opened accounts at the local micro-finance office. They have started saving a few cents a week. Their savings accounts will give the groups access to loans, and Wzo Fatuma's staff is designing ways to assist women in applying for cottage industry loans.



Next month MDC will unveil a literacy support program for these women and their children. The Read to Mama project is a collaboration with another nonprofit, Open Hearts Big Dreams. Stay tuned! Lots is happening, and the women's enthusiasm means it's happening fast!

From Tierra Nueva:

As you may know, since COVID-19 and quarantine began almost a year ago, Tierra Nueva's faith community went online as we could no longer meet at our building. We meet over Zoom and live-stream on Facebook each Sunday at 4:30. Even once the COVID guidelines allowed for gathering, distanced and masked, at 25% building capacity, it didn't make sense to try to meet in a building our size, as 25% meant only 12-15 people could gather. As the days grew shorter and the weather darker, a few community members suggested we meet masked and distanced, at a local park, only three blocks from our building, beneath the picnic shelter. We have been doing this on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 since November. Some days, though under shelter, it is windy and cold, and we have had just 10-12 of us. Other times, 30 or more.



Throughout all the limitations, God is at work. It is so important to be able to gather and to call that out and celebrate it, especially in this challenging season. [Here] is the [video testimony](#) of one of our community members, Mark. We share this with his permission. He shares his journey from atheism to faith in Jesus, from a life of incarceration to freedom, and from death to life. It is a powerful testimony of the work of Jesus. Be encouraged!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is focused around Easter Sunday - which occurs on April 4 this year.

Traditionally we receive this offering on Palm Sunday, but your participation at any time surrounding Easter this year will be gratefully received.

This offering supports The Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) and Self-Development of People (32%) enabling all of us to bring hope and the love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable and desperate people at home and in places around the globe. The human-caused disasters we've seen this year, especially in the Middle East and Ethiopia, are leaving millions of displaced families in dire need.

There are special ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering envelopes available in the office during the time of this Special Offering. Your support may also be placed in any envelope, just be sure to mark it "One Great Hour of Sharing."

Give As DEVOTION · Give as THANKS · Give as ONE

Thank you so much,
The Mission and Global Witness Committee

Love Inc is preparing a Spring Serve Team every Saturday from March - October, between 10 AM - 2 PM.

Are you (or possibly our church's youth group?) interested in joining us? We will be doing yard work and house cleaning for clients that need extra support. To join, please call Helen Simpson at 503-537-3999 for details and extra information!



Serving Together

Helping Our Community!



We are inviting you this Lenten Season to give generously to help us provide 20 food boxes to support the families of needy students in the Newberg school district. Our goal is to raise \$800 during Lent, which will enable us to purchase enough food for 20 boxes to be delivered during Spring Break. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to First Presbyterian Church and put "Food Boxes" in the memo line. You can send your checks to the church office and we will partner with the Newberg Catalyst High School to purchase the necessary food, create the boxes, and deliver the food. Thank you for showing the compassion of Jesus this Lenten Season!



**Our Church
Community**



Pastor Chris hosts a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Currently, we are continuing to explore the topic of racial justice and reconciliation, after February's topic of Black History Month and Celebrating Black Leaders.

To join the Zoom Meeting please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81005083788> and use the Meeting ID 810 0508 3788 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 accepting 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.)

March 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	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- Livestream Worship Service	15 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	16 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	17 9:00 am- Bicycle Ministry 	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	29	30 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class via ZOOM	31	 Holy Week		

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1– Craig McCourt | 19– Pat Goodman |
| 2– Max McCourt | 19– David Waterbury |
| 7– Paul Landis | 27– Karen Murphy |
| 9– Judy Landis | 27– Miriam Staples |
| 17– Joshua Weible | 28– Ray Johnsen |
| 18– Doris Feenstra | 28– Nell Greybeck |



Anniversaries

- 19– Pidge & Joe Steve
- 22– Bob & Mary Andrews

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3-9-21 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.