

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 6
JUNE 2021

Newberg First Presbyterian Church



PEW NEWS



“The Good News of the Gospel”

From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel of
Christ
for it is the
Power of God
unto salvation to
every one that
believeth.
Romans 1:16

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The Good News of the Gospel

This summer is an exciting time for our church as we return to In Person worship on June 13th. As we enter this new season, we are going to explore in our summer sermon series the theme of the Good News of the Gospel. What exactly is the Gospel? The word gospel translated from the Koine Greek is evangelion or good news. One simple definition of the Gospel is the good news of God's love revealed in the person of Jesus.

Many Christians these days are worried about the future of the Church. Less people in the United States are attending worship and although the pandemic has provided alternative ways to worship virtually many of us are out of the habit of church. Maybe now more than ever it is a good time to remind us of the meaning and purpose of the Gospel. Why is the Gospel good news?

The Gospel or good news of Jesus is that God became a human being and made himself known to us in a personal way. Jesus shows us what God cares about and what we are called to care about in this world. The Gospel is all about God's love for the world. Many of us also grew up with a simple understanding of the Gospel as God's way of providing fire insurance. In other words, we understood the Gospel as the belief that by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we can avoid going to hell for all eternity. The Gospel became defined as principally Jesus saving people from sin and hell through his death on the cross.

Although this definition highlights one way of understanding the ministry of Jesus, a full understanding of the Gospel highlights the values of God including God's heart for the oppressed and those on the margins of society. In other words, the Gospel refers to the ways God's love is revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus on earth. His healings and his wise teachings are significant parts of the Gospel. His friendships and his deep intimacy with his Father in Heaven are examples of good news. Eternal life and salvation are also key but not the only way to understand the Gospel.

May this summer inspire us to deepen our relationship with God as we explore the beauty of the Gospel. The Gospel of God's love revealed in Jesus can bring us a deep sense of purpose and joy in these days. As we embrace the good news of the Gospel, we are invited as the church to vision for the future. On Friday, June 11th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM everyone in our church community is invited to participate in a special visioning conversation about the future of our church. Then on June 12th the Session and Deacons will be meeting from 9 AM to 12 Noon to reflect on your ideas and chart some next steps for how we live out the Gospel as a worshipping community. We will be sending you the Zoom link for these gatherings soon. May the Spirit of Christ guide our visioning as a church as we seek to embody the good news of Jesus.



Greetings in Christ from your Clerk of Session, May 2021

Session began with prayer and a thoughtful devotion from Lynne Patrick. Pastor Chris provided his pastor's report highlighting upcoming plans for the summer, including In Person worship beginning on June 13th.

Session discussed possibility of installing Pastor Chris as permanent pastor. More discussion will occur in the coming months.

Gary Buck gave update on deacon's meeting held on April 25th. Deacons are meeting regularly. Session approved rummage sale, which the deacons will oversee on July 29th, 30th, and 31st.

Treasurer's report was approved. Giving continues to keep pace with expenses for 2021.

Anna Virginia Millage will continue as childcare provider this summer. Miriam Staples has chosen to resign to simplify her schedule. Additional childcare provider will be hired to begin on June 13th.

June Visioning Days to be held on June 11th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM by Zoom for any congregation members wishing to give input on the direction of our church. Saturday, June 12th, deacons and elders will meet from 9 AM to 12 noon to begin developing long range planning for church.

We look forward to welcoming the congregation back to In Person worship on June 13th.

Session meeting closed in prayer. Next meeting scheduled for June 8th.

Blessings, safety, and peace in Christ,

Lory Albright (Clerk of Session)



On Friday, June 11th, from 6:30-8:30 pm, our church will be holding a Visioning Meeting. The meeting will be held via ZOOM, with Session and anyone else who wishes to give input. So think about what dreams and desires you have for our church regarding growth, finances, programs and worship. Simply copy and paste <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81005083788> into your browser, use Member ID 810 0508 3788, and join in the meeting and share YOUR vision. Then on June 12th, Session and Deacons will meet to take everyone's input and make a plan for the future of our church. We hope you all will participate. YOUR visions can lead us to OUR vision.

Bicycles ... Bicycles and MORE Bicycles!!

Yes...It's Time for an Update!



A large thanks to those who have donated a bike (or bikes) to FPC's Bicycle Ministry! We have given away quite a number so far this year!

As you may know, all donations must go thru the Retired Recyclers skilled hands before they are offered to our Love INC clients; just a double check to make sure they are all spruced up and shiny - and safe. :) They then are available to Love INC clients, IF they are on the list we receive twice a month from a Love INC! We often lean on the Buck's truck, or Alan Kolb to transport them from donor pick up, to the Recyclers and then to our "show room" shed behind Fellowship Hall.

The recipients are so very excited to be able to test some likely offerings, and after they've chosen, they sign for them, and on they go! ... to look for work or get to work, or simply to make getting around so much easier!

We always gladly accept bikes - no matter the shape! Adult bikes are especially coveted!! Call us at church, and we'll take care that they get to the Recyclers - and then back to us!!

Thank you!

The Mission & Global Witness Committee



Bob and Gracie Ekblad



Bob and Gracie Ekblad are co-founders and pastors of Tierra Nueva and The People's Seminary in Burlington, Washington. Bob holds a ThD in Old Testament, and Gracie holds a Masters of Theology from the Institut Protestant de Théologie, Montpellier, France. Both Bob and Gracie are ordained ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Bob has taught at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology, Westminster Theological Centre (UK), Regent College and is the author of "Reading the Bible with the Damned", "A New Christian Manifesto: Pledging Allegiance to the Kingdom of God", "The Beautiful Gate: Enter Jesus' Global Liberation Movement", and "Guerrilla Gospel: Reading the Bible for Liberation in the Power of the Spirit."

The Ekblads have many facets to their ministry, including The People's Seminary. The People's Seminary is a learning center for scripture study and theology, rooted in active ministry in solidarity with people on the margins. Theological education that connects people from the mainstream with people on the margins reveals a gospel that is active and powerful, enabling both groups to discover their vocation and serve together as Christ's body in the world.

Led by Tierra Nueva founders Bob and Gracie Ekblad in Burlington, Washington, The People's Seminary equips followers of Jesus to proclaim and embody liberating messages of transformation to the excluded. The Ekblads are joined by other Tierra Nueva staff as well as local and international instructors.

What You Can Expect from The People's Seminary:

Community: The course emphasizes mutual support and sharing of best practices. Participants journey as a cohort through the one-year program. On site, we eat and study together each day. Between modules, the online community fosters peer relationships.

Inclusive teaching styles: Each module includes lecture, worship, practical reflection, ministry opportunities, and group discussion. There will be recommended reading before each gathering.

Robust curriculum: The course weaves together five key themes related to ministry on the margins:

1. God's identity and mission—and ours
2. Healing and holistic liberation—biblical foundations and principles
3. Social prophetic mission—justice, advocacy, and peacemaking
4. Word on the street—preparing and leading transformational Bible studies
5. Practical reflection—how does this work in my life and ministry?

The People's Seminary also offers a "Certificate in Transformational Ministry at the Margins." The Certificate is specifically designed for those already serving/pioneering work in (or on behalf of) poor and marginalized communities. It will bring together 'word', 'spirit' and 'street' perspectives in order to encourage and further equip practitioners wanting to live and share a liberating/empowering gospel with those excluded from economic, social, political and cultural mainstreams.



After a one year Covid hiatus.....we're back!



First Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage Sale

July 29, 30, and 31, 2021.

Hours: Thursday & Friday—9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday—9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Clean out your closets, clean out your garage, we're ready to rumble... at our rummage sale, that is! And you can help us.

Please drop off any slightly used, clean items in Fellowship Hall. We welcome all household items, tools, toys, knickknacks, artwork/decorating items, anything except clothing! We will NOT be accepting clothes this year. In past years, so much clothing was donated that it became too much of a burden to handle. So please be kind to us and give your clothing to other worthy shops in the area: Lucky Finds, Goodwill, and the Newberg Thrift Shop.

The Church office is open Tue-Fri from 9-1 for drop off. However, If you need to arrange a drop off time on a weekend or would like to help set up or work during the sale, please contact Susan at 503-984-2581.

Please drop all items off by July 10th. We will need time to set up for the sale!

Thanks for your support!

Hearts of Gold Dinner 2021

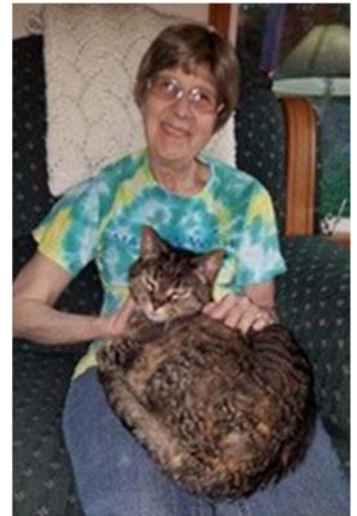


Many of you have participated in the Hearts of Gold Dinner for several years. This year the Hearts of Gold Dinner will be held VIRTUALLY on Friday, August 20th. Providence Medical Center is raising funds to purchase Panda Warmers for the Birth Center. Panda Warmers are used in every birth to stabilize the temperature of newborns and provide any necessary resuscitation support a baby might need. They have to replace all of the warmers at the same time, so their fundraising goal is \$123,000. **The Deacons have previously supported the Hearts of Gold Dinner at the bronze sponsorship level, which is \$1,000. Please consider giving money to the Deacons to support this cause. Thanks!**



Why I Became a Deacon

I wanted to become a deacon for our church because I had been a deacon at a previous church and enjoyed being a part of a group of caring, compassionate people who helped the congregation as well as others in need in our community. I am the Deacon Moderator this year. My husband, Gary, and I don't have children but care for and love our two cats, Scottie and McCoy.



We came to this church in the fall of 2018 and became members within a few months. We live on 4 ½ acres about 10 minutes from the church.

To contact a deacon:

Moderator: Paula Buck, pbuck41108@mindspring.com

Vice Moderator: Katherine Millage:

firstpresnewberg@frontier.com

Secretary: Diane (Di) Murphy: dimurphy09@gmail.com

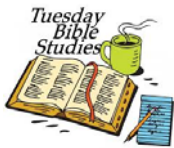
“Acting” Treasurer: Susan King (not currently a deacon but will continue to sign checks for us): susanoberst103@msn.com

Shirley Kolb: KROCKINGRANCH2@msn.com

Judy Landis: Jegsmith80@gmail.com



**Our Church
Community**



Pastor Chris hosts a ZOOM Bible Study class each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. **The last class before summer break will be June 1st.**

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!

Have a great summer and we'll see everyone in the fall!



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!



Bike Ministry
In partnership with Love INC

First Presbyterian Church partners with Love INC in providing bikes to eligible clients. These clients are screened by Love INC to determine need and eligibility. Many times people who are getting back on their feet need to have more reliable transportation than their feet.

The bikes allow their new owners to more easily get to jobs and/or school, arrive at doctor, dentist, or job interview appointments easily, and make shopping more convenient.

First Presbyterian's Bike Ministry takes in donated bikes, delivers them to the Retired Recyclers for repair and rehab, and, once the bikes are returned all fixed up, serves as a distribution point for Love INC clients to choose the bike best suited to them.

If you would like to help out with this ministry, please contact Elise Praysich at 307-690-3762. Strong arms and trucks are greatly appreciated!

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 Praysich, 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

June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 pm- Bible Study Class Via ZOOM	2 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry	3 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	4	5
6 10:30 am- Livestream Worship Service 	7 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via ZOOM	8 <i>Bible Study Class off for the summer— see you in the fall!</i> 6:30 pm- Session Meeting	9	10 10:00 am- Space for Grace: In-person meet- ing in the back lot of the church	11	12
13 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service  <i>Welcome Backs</i>	14	15	16 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry 1:00 pm- Deacon's Meeting	17 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast	18 Pew News articles due	19
20 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service  <i>HAPPY Father's DAY</i>	21 6:30 pm- CAYAC meets via	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	28	29	30			

Birthdays

3- Gail Bonsey
3- Anna Virginia Millage
3- Reid Thurston
4- Pat Harcourt
4- Gary Buck
5- Christopher Harwood
10- Tom Greenbaum

15- Vera Patten
18- Sage Albright



Anniversaries

20- Janet Range & Eric Swehla
23- Mary & Corban Harwood
24- Darlene & Chuck Zickefoose

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6-8-21 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.