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Newberg First Presbyterian Church

PEW NEWS



“Shalom”

Shalom!

From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

The Good News of God's Shalom

As I prepare sermons during this summer on the theme of the Good News of the Gospel, I am reading a book entitled *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right* by Lisa Sharon Harper. Harper identifies herself as a speaker, writer, artist, and activist. She has authored many books and is a columnist for *Sojourners Magazine* and a Senior Fellow for Auburn Seminary.

Harper writes from the perspective of an African American whose ancestors were slaves that suffered for centuries in this country. She believes that the Gospel many of us grew up with is not enough to bring hope to oppressed people in our world. The Gospel understanding of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins to reconcile us to God, so that we can live in personal relationship with Jesus and ultimately go to heaven when we die is good news but not good enough.

Her point is that the Gospel needs to include the work of Jesus to make things right in this world by bringing shalom or wholeness to all that is broken. Shalom is a Hebrew word that means peace but also speaks to restoring what is broken and making it whole. The very good news of Jesus is that he comes to bring wholeness to all things. Jesus comes to bring wholeness to relationships within this world. The Shalom of God restores healthy relationships among genders, between us and creation, between broken families, between nations, and among different ethnic groups broken by racism. Lisa Sharon Harper helps us remember that our understanding of the Gospel needs to be wholistic if we are to offer a world in need the full message of Jesus. A truncated Gospel that does not include social concerns may actually limit God's mission in the world because a church that is not clear in its goal to restore the full brokenness of society will appear to many to be an irrelevant church that is insular and naive to the real problems in our world.

In the month of August, we will talk more about the connection between the Biblical teaching of Shalom and the mission of the Gospel. My hope is that our understanding of the Gospel will be deeper by the end of the summer and we will be more inspired to live out the purpose of the Church. What is the purpose of the Church? I believe more and more that our purpose is to embody the heart and values of Jesus in our world. We are to also embody the wholeness of Shalom in a way that both attracts people into our church community and propels us out into the Newberg community to care for the vulnerable. The question we must ask, is the Gospel we share at Newberg First Presbyterian Church good enough to bring hope to oppressed people in our world? Is it good enough to bring healing in our own hearts and to empower us to show love to all creation?

As we continue to embrace such a powerful mission among our neighbors and beyond may we take heart in knowing that God uses beautiful but imperfect people to embody the Gospel. God's grace, hope, and love will help us to be faithful to the fullness of Jesus' life and mission in our world. The Gospel we share with others begins in our own lives. The Gospel is not a burden but a blessing to receive first and give out to others from an overflow of love. We want to allow the fullness of God's heart of peace and love to be lived out through our lives. This is our prayer and our calling. Praise God!



Notes from the Road to Emmaus

By Rev. Brian Heron, Presbyterian for Vision and Mission, Cascades Presbytery

I have a quote that I have kept in my office for nearly three decades now. Most days it doesn't even register on my radar as I quickly get to emails, answer calls, and run through my daily to do list. But, every so often I find myself in a situation where I go back to this helpful quote. It is attributed to the great German philosopher, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

He writes, "Until one is committed, there is a hesitancy, the chance to draw back, from all acts of initiative and creation. The moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. A whole stream of events issues from the decision. Whatever you can do or dream you can—begin it! Boldness has genius, power and magic to it."

Providence, I believe, was Goethe's word for God and was his way of saying, "We live in a world with spiritual realities. We aren't responsible for making things happen. We are only responsible for taking the first bold decisive step."

Isn't this the way of faith? We do not have to have our entire lifelong Christian path figured out. We don't need to know and predict the future. We only need to take that first initial step of saying, "I commit my life to Christ. From this day forward I follow Jesus."

I write this to you as the presbytery is engaged in a strategic planning process of committing to amended mission and vision statements and putting in place the financial strategies and infrastructure to live into those statements.

On the one hand, this is a monumental task. We are examining the long-term trends of our presbytery around membership and mission pledging. We are listening for God's nudging in a rapidly changing cultural context. We are trying to read the tea leaves of the future and see what they are telling us about our commitments now. It can feel like a dizzying responsibility.

But I think this quote by Goethe reminds us of something important: We don't have to have it all figured out. We don't have to have a spreadsheet that lines out all the pros and cons of every possible decision. We don't have to have an airtight plan that could withstand every "But, have you considered this?" type of question. All we have to have is the confidence that we are going in the right direction. All we need is the will to commit our heart, body, mind and soul to the path before us.

If Goethe is right, the moment we commit, God will also unleash the forces of divine light, spiritual resources and Providential energy. I like it when philosophers talk about Jesus without mentioning his name.

Take that first bold step. Let God do the rest.

Brian



*Never believe that a few
caring people can't
change the world.
For, indeed, that's all
who ever have.*



Margaret Mead



*From **Caroline Kurtz**... Thank you to
donors coming through for MDC in 2021*

To give electronically,
please click [here](#)



I'm always touched by your generosity. Thank you for a great June--we received half of our goal for the summer. And all of it will be matched.

We are focusing this summer on easing the burdens of women--solar home-lighting systems lift a huge burden off their shoulders (literally) by reducing the volume of fire wood needed in the home. It's a physical and financial blessing to have clean lighting at night. The solar home-lighting systems can be manufactured, shipped, cleared, transported and installed for \$250. Could you give one unit--or any part of one?

The Maji community is rejoicing that the new order of solar lighting kits is in process. Having observed their neighbors' systems, the more cautious families are now ready to commit to solar lighting. That's a great indication of trust in MDC and the after-sale service Ato Markos and technician Wassihun give.

Products like these must be bought on the global market by currency from wealthy nations--no one outside of Ethiopia can use Ethiopian currency. So your gifts are critical in providing a solar option to a farmer in Ethiopia. Thank you again.

Newsy bits

I accepted an offer on my house a week ago today, and I'll be moving on August 2nd. I'm not leaving Portland, just moving closer to the beautiful park where my folks lived for several decades. I'm grateful for assistance from tradespeople, my agent friend Peggy, friends who have helped me get ready, and a wonderful buyer.

MDC is having its annual face-to-face board meeting next week, beginning with a feast at the Bole Restaurant in Portland. Staff, board, and an Ethiopian friend will gather there for food and fellowship.

If you're like me, you're surprised that the return to something approximating the lives we led before March 2020 has not been easier. If you lost health, friends or family to the pandemic, of course life doesn't feel the same. But even for those of us who didn't, I find that the fractures in our work, our communities, our sense of national unity, and our healthcare system are disheartening. Hold fast to hope--that God is with us in spirit, and that in some deep, essential way, all is well.



Technical manager Yonas (L) shows off the units--radio, three lights, and battery. With a panel installed on the roof, families have evening light for the first time ever.



The Annual Deacons' Rummage Sale

Though the Rummage Sale will finish up on Saturday, July 31, the Deacons wanted to give this shout-out to everyone who made this sale such a success!

As the saying goes~ it takes a village to raise a child. In our case, it takes a church family to have a rummage sale. So, FPC Deacons (Paula Buck, Judy Landis, Shirley Kolb, Katherine Millage, and Di Murphy) would especially like to express our gratitude to Susan King, who led our effort. Thank you Susan!

Several important expressions of our faith are realized through this annual event. Items no longer needed in some homes are put to good use rather than gathering dust or worse, landing in landfills and we are able to support church projects and provide funds for local organizations that reach out to others in the name of Christ.

To all of you who donated goods to sell, and those who showed up to shop, we owe you a great debt. Thanks so much for all you gave—time, goods, and treasure. Your generosity means that we can continue to send funds to Faith in Action, A Family Place, Henderson House, Habitat for Humanity Love INC, Remnants Initiative and Newberg FISH.

Another positive from this sale is that we were able to reach out to the public and share why our church and its Deacons raise money and how they, through us, are able to give back to our community.

Of course there are always donated items that remain. Our plan is to invite our church family to come and glean the remaining items for free following church on August 8. Who knows? You may find something you really need even though you donated it yourself!



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.



We give thanks that Sharon Riha has been discharged from Newberg Marquis Rehab and is continuing to recover at home. Praise God!



Please pray for our mission partners as they continue to do good in this world.



Please pray for the Andrews family as Mary undergoes cancer treatments.



**Faith doesn't always
take you out of the
problem, Faith takes you
through the problem.
Faith doesn't always
take away the pain,
Faith gives you the ability
to handle the pain.
Faith doesn't always^{heavensoul}
take you out of
the storm, Faith calms
you in the midst
the storm.
Amen**



**Our Church
Community**



Adult Education class is currently on break for the summer. However, class will resume in the fall, and will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, in the Christian Education Building. If you are interested, you can contact Pastor Chris for more details.

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



Men's Breakfast will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8:00 am. The meetings will be in-person, with the men's group gathering at J's Restaurant.

To join in, please contact Gary Buck through his email, gbuck41108@mindspring.com or give him a call at 503-250-1163. He'll give you all the information you need to join up with new friends and old!



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 regular 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.



Space for Grace will end its summer season on Thursday, August 19th. We will gather at 10 am and in celebration enjoy lunch together. Details will come as we get closer to the date. All women are invited to join us whether you have sampled Space for Grace in the past or not. I hope you will include this time together in your August plans. At this gathering we will determine our start time for the fall. For more information, please call Mary Kalesse (503-644-5502) or Paula Buck (503-250-1164.) See you soon!

August 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	2	3 6:30 pm— Session Meeting Via ZOOM	4 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry	5 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at J's Restaurant	6	7
8 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	16	17	18 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry 1:00- Deacon's Meeting	19 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at J's Restaurant 10:00 am- Space for Grace in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm— Finance & Facilities meeting	20 Pew News articles due	21
22 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	23	24	25 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry	26	27	28
29 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service 	30	31				

Birthdays

2- Armond Kalesse
3- Nancy Thurston
7- Chris McCourt
8- Jennifer Lehman
10- Chiara Murphy
26- Janet Range
28- Kim Godshalk

28- Maddy McCourt



Anniversaries

2- Paula & Gary Buck

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8-3-21 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.