

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 21  
ISSUE 9  
SEPTEMBER 2021



# PEW NEWS



**“A Thriving Church”**

A Thriving Church

Our mission statement at Newberg First Presbyterian Church is for us to be a Christ-centered church of grace, hope, and love committed to mission in Newberg and throughout the world. I think we are living out our mission well, but as we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic and live with the realities of being a small church, we are seeking to vision together for the future with courage and faith. We wish to be a thriving church. In June, we had a visioning weekend that led to a vision statement, which will guide our specific goals over the next three years. As a reminder, here is our vision statement.

Newberg First Presbyterian Church vision is to live out grace, hope, and love by focusing on these three areas:

1. Creatively utilize our church facilities for community outreach.
2. Pursue Christ-centered spiritual formation for everyone.
3. Achieve financial stability and vitality.

As the fall season approaches, we are ready to take specific steps to carry out our vision. How do we plan to live out these goals? First, I am happy to share that with the support of volunteers in our church, we are preparing to start Adult Education and Children’s Education again beginning on Sunday, September 12th. We are looking forward to organizing a team of volunteers to offer Sunday School for our kids in addition to the childcare education provided by Anna Virginia Millage and Bryce Heimuller. Bruce Murphy is our Adult Education leader for this year and will work with a team to provide weekly teaching and discussion on Sundays at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required for Adult Education and our plan is to spread out in the Fellowship Hall where there is more room. Children’s Ministry, Adult Education, and CAYAC- College and Young Adult Community are all expressions of our vision to provide Christ-centered spiritual formation for all ages. I can also add that Men’s Breakfast and Space for Grace women’s ministry support also provide spiritual formation opportunities.

Community Outreach is another way our church seeks to thrive in the Fall. We are currently putting on the finishing touches of a Thriving Congregations grant through Portland Seminary. Our plan is to use the money from this grant to partner with local mission partners to provide ministry support to people on the margins. We will have more information about this grant later this fall. In addition to the Thrive grant we hope to rent our church facilities as Covid allows in the coming months. We know our church campus is a resource that our community needs and that may also provide financial support for our church. If you know any group, that might wish to rent our space for one day events or for other needs, please contact the church office.

Financial stability and vitality are always key for the health of a church that seeks to thrive and make a difference for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are currently working on a financial review process as a church to help us be fiscally wise. A fiscal stability committee will help us explore investment opportunities and make recommendations to Finance and Facilities and Session as we plan our financial goals as a church in the coming years. In addition, our stewardship season is around the corner. Member and attenders will receive our annual stewardship letter later in September highlighting our general budget and our capital campaign needs as we commit to be a thriving church.

As you can see, we are excited about what God has in store for us this Fall. We are living out our mission and vision with specific plans and goals. My sermon series will be on the theme “A Thriving Church” as we seek to live out our vision and faithfully follow Jesus. Please join me in prayer and ministry with renewed trust in our Lord Jesus who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.



Praise be that our Session was able to meet in person this month for the first time since Covid 19. We were safely distanced and masked as we shared the exciting progress happening in our church:

- The Deacons’ Rummage Sale earned around \$3000 and continues to bless others in our community who can use the items for their outreach.
- Adult Education will be starting up in the Fall, led by Bruce Murphy and Mary Kalesse.
- A guest preacher from Liberia, Lasana Kanneh (also known as IjenNeh) is coming to share music and testimony with music on August 29th.
- The Thrive Grant Proposal Team has done incredible work with the mentorship of Melissa Ramos to reach out to our community in the ways we visioned together over the years to come.
- We set the date for our socially distanced, bring your own food, have a blast fellowshiping together Church Picnic for September 12th following the service.

Our Session meets again September 14th at which time we will approve the financials for July and August. We are working on a plan for an updated church directory, possibly without photos until after Covid regulations are lighter, since the company we had partnered with went out of business. Name tags will help us remember each other’s names each Sunday. Have a blessed month, stay safe, and pray for rain to help those fire fighters this season.

Joyfully submitted by your Clerk of Session,  
*Lory Albright*



**MUSICAL MOMENTS**

Would you like to share your musical gifts some Sunday morning this fall during worship service? We are looking for vocalists, instrumentalists, and dancers to share your God given talent as special music during worship service. In the past we have had family trios or duets, percussionist, brass horn, string instruments, pianists, even a kazoo, and dancers all praising the Lord! We’d love to hear from you! Please contact Pat Goodman at 503-476-5082 or by email at [pat88@frontier.com](mailto:pat88@frontier.com) to set a date that works for you!

**SPACE FOR GRACE ENTERS THE FALL!**

Women of Newberg First Presbyterian!! Our weekly gatherings for conversation, coffee, and caring are starting up again on September 12th. This is the time in our busy lives to reflect on our faith and to connect with one another. We hope you will join us the second and fourth Fridays each month from 10 to 11:00 am. This year we will meet in the church Fellowship Hall where we can spread out for safe distancing. Masks will also be part of our plan in order to keep everyone healthy.

Our focus is to deepen our friendship with Jesus and one another through reflection on God’s Word and sharing our lives, joys and burdens, in prayer. In it all we experience God’s grace to us and through us, to one another. Come and make Space for Grace in your life!!

Questions? Call Mary Kalesse (503-709-3292) or the church office.





**Mission Partners:**

**Urgessa Biru and Taliilee Fiqruu**  
*Light of Hope Ministry Ethiopia*

In the latest issue of *The Frontier Journal*, I noticed Taliilee’s picture. After reading the article I found I really wanted to share it with all of you. The subject matter spoke to my heart and I hope you find it as inspiring as I did.

**CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THE GOSPEL**

*from The Frontier Journal | Summer 2021*  
*by Frontier Fellowship*

In 2008, Harold Kurtz gave a training to Light of Hope Ministry Ethiopia staff and church leaders in Ethiopia on Peter’s vision of the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s Kingdom (Acts 11). Urgessa Biru, Light of Hope’s director, had invited him there. “One of the visions I had,” Urgessa said, “was to contextualize the worship. When you plant a church, it must reflect the community it serves. In those days, there were few places where Arsi Oromo had access to a contextualized church. Even if worship songs used the Oromo language, the musical style itself was from a different cultural perspective. Churches used to teach that cultural traditions were sinful, that God called people out of culture. I was trying to change that and asked Harold—a respected elder and missionary—to help. That sermon gave us a breakthrough.”

Associate Director Taliilee Fiqruu, who was the women’s outreach coordinator for Light of Hope at the time, believed God meant the message specifically for her. “Before then, I didn’t understand how a Christian could listen to Arsi music. We’d left that behind. I’d always been taught that Arsi culture couldn’t exist alongside the Gospel. But the Holy Spirit revealed to me that God has no favorite race or language and every culture has a place in His Kingdom.”

Taliilee, a gifted songwriter, began composing worship songs to Jesus in the Arsi dialect using traditional melodies. For the first time, Christianity was being introduced to the Arsi people in a familiar language and style. Taliilee’s friends and coworkers seemed eager to hear the message of a God who spoke their language and knew their songs.

Urgessa and Taliilee, now married, have dedicated their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus within the context of Arsi Oromo culture. They find hope in the Gospel’s power to redeem and restore unique expressions of identity. “It was the Gospel that made me appreciate my culture,” Taliilee shared. “As God helped me understand my identity, I began to see the beauty and dignity of the culture into which I was born.”

Frontier Fellowship celebrates and shares Light of Hope’s commitment to contextualizing the Gospel. Contextualization is a central tenet of a flourishing indigenous church. As the global Church thrives in its diverse expressions, God gives us a glimpse of that day when worshippers from every nation, tribe, people and language gather before the throne and before the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9).



*Taliilee with young singers  
and songwriters*



**ADULT EDUCATION  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THE DAYS SURROUNDING OCTOBER 3.  
"GOD SPREADS A TABLE OF PEACE BEFORE US"**

There are four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA); the Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of those four. Received to celebrate World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, it supports the Peacemaking work of the Church at every level, and provides an opportunity to witness to God's Peace-giving in the world. We are called to be agents of reconciliation for individuals, for families and communities at home and internationally. This offering strengthens the collaboration of the Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, with the peace work of global partners through World Mission.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25% of this offering for its own Peacemaking efforts. Our Mission and Global Witness Committee, with Session's approval, has decided that, on the behalf of First Presbyterian Church, our 25% will again be presented to **Henderson House**, a Safe House for women and children. Of the remainder, 25% will be used to support Presbytery and Synod Peacemaking, and 50% will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly (the national level of PC(USA). You may visit [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) to learn more. There will also be bulletin inserts on two Sundays for your information, as well.

We, who enjoy so much peace in our lives compared to most of the rest of the world, have an opportunity, with this offering, to share a portion of our good fortune with so many others. We hope you will wish to participate! You may use a Peace and Global Witness Offering envelope found in the pews beginning in mid-September, or simply denote Peace Offering on any envelope, and on the memo line of your check. Thank you so much!

*The Mission and Global Witness Committee*

This fall in Adult Education we will be studying the early church and its relevance for us today. Also, we will be raising the important distinction between "education and formation." It has become common in our world to think of education as focusing almost exclusively on the mind and clear, informed thinking. Certainly, this is important. But when we refer to our faith in Jesus, we mean more than intellectual understanding. We mean a changed life; what we call Christian Spiritual Formation.

Our first series of classes beginning in September will focus on prayer and the difference it can make in our lives and in the world. We will be sharing our questions, convictions, experiences, and our hopes, while examining Biblical prayers to see what difference they made in the lives of those disciples.

The class will be led by Bruce Murphy and Mary Kalesse.

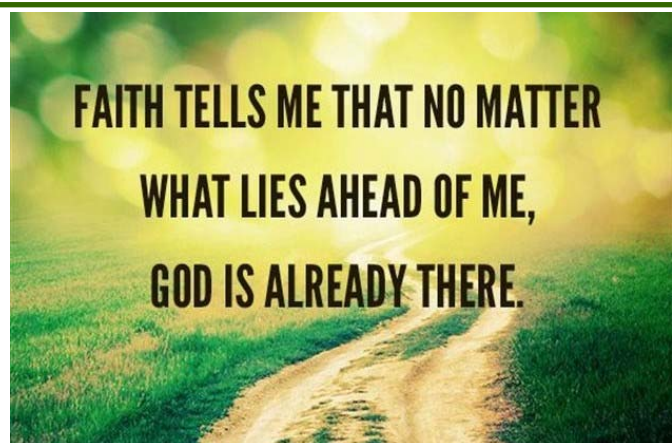
We look forward to seeing you in the Fellowship Hall beginning on September 12th at 9:00 am.



*William H. Goodman  
May 22, 1940—August 3, 2021*



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.



Mary Andrews is recovering in the Marquis. Please pray for strength, healing and comfort for both her and Bob.



Please pray for our church and volunteers as we approach another year of faith, education, and good works.





## Our Church Community



Adult Education class is held at 9:00 am every Sunday. This year they will meet in the Fellowship Hall, which will allow for social distancing. Please wear masks to keep everyone safe and healthy. The first series of classes will be taught by Bruce Murphy and Mary Kalesse. If you are interested, you can contact Pastor Chris at 503-538-3313 for more details.



**Men's Breakfast** will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8:00 am. The meetings will be held via ZOOM. To join in, please contact Gary Buck through his email, [gbuck41108@mindspring.com](mailto: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 Prayzich 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 Prayzich, and other leaders to support this ministry by providing food and other gifts.






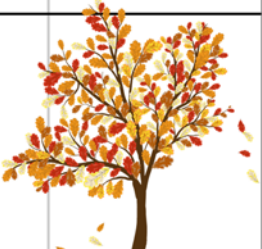
This year CAYAC will meet the 1st and 2nd Mondays of each month. The first Monday meeting will be an in-person one; the second meeting will happen via ZOOM. CAYAC will officially begin in October.

Feel free to contact Pastor Chris at [murphycb@frontier.com](mailto: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 meet in person. Please also be in prayer for our young adults as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic and balance school,



Space for Grace meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. This year we will meet in the church Fellowship Hall where we can spread out for safe distancing. Masks will also be part of our plan in order to keep everyone healthy. For more information, please call Mary Kalesse (503-644-5502) or Paula Buck (503-250-1164.) See you soon!

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Adult Education happens each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall</p>			<p>1 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry</p>	<p>2 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast via Zoom</p>	3	4
<p>5 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> 	6	7	8	9	10 10:00 am- Space for Grace	11
<p>12 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service</p>  	13	<p>14 6:30 pm- Session Meeting</p>	<p>15 9:00-1:00- Bike Ministry  1:00- Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>16 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast via Zoom</p>	<p>17 Pew News articles due</p>	18
<p>19 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> 	20	21	22	23	<p>24 10:00 am- Space for Grace</p>	25
<p>26 10:30 am- In- Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> 	27	28	29	30		

## Birthdays

6- Karen Black  
 13- Chris Murphy  
 19- Jacob Godshalk  
 25- Harriet Fowler  
 25- Ed Godshalk



## Anniversaries

2- Susan & Doug King  
 8- Karen & Chris Murphy  
 9- Lory & Don Albright

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9-14-21 6:30 pm Session Meeting via Zoom

Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his  
email: [murphycb@frontier.com](mailto:murphycb@frontier.com)  
or by calling the church office at 503-538-3313

Our website address is : [newbergfpc.org](http://newbergfpc.org)



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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.