

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

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PEW NEWS



Lent and Celtic Christianity



From the Reverend Chris Murphy—
Exploring Celtic Christianity This Lent

You may have noticed in some of my sermons over the last couple of months that I have occasionally made references to ideas from Celtic Christianity or Celtic Spirituality. As a pastor, I always look for inspiration as I listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and interpret Scripture. Lately, I am reading about Celtic Christianity from authors like John Philip Newell who wrote the book *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* and John O'Donohue, who wrote the book *Anam Cara*. I encourage you to consider reading both of these books.

My excitement about Celtic Spirituality comes from my own sense that Celtic Christianity offers wisdom that can help give inspiration to the Church today as we seek to offer the Gospel to the world. The heart of the Gospel as the message and life of Jesus as revealed in Scripture does not change, but the institutional Church at times needs a new lens or a new wineskin in which to communicate the message of the Gospel to our world.

Many people today are leaving Church because the Gospel is being presented in an old wineskin of an aging church that does not inspire mission for Christ in the world. Celtic Christianity offers a theological, spiritual, and missional approach to Christian faith that is very exciting and offers a new wineskin for a new generation. Part of what makes Celtic Christianity attractive is its emphasis on a more positive view of humanity, a love for nature as an expression of God's love revealed in our world, and a deep enjoyment of Arts and culture. Although, Celtic Spirituality was born largely from the region of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales, the insights from this tradition are a blessing for the whole world.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd, with our annual Ash Wednesday Service at 6 PM. We hope you can join us! Lent is our time as a community to prepare our hearts over a 40-day period (plus Sundays) to welcome the gift of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. Lent is a time to deepen our spiritual formation as we reflect on our own relationship with Jesus and our calling as ministers for Christ in our world. This Lenten season we will grow in Christ as we learn more about the wisdom of the Celtic Christian tradition through our Lenten sermon series. May the Holy Trinity open our hearts to receive new inspiration from Celtic Christianity this Lenten Season.



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 Bob and Mary Andrews in your prayers. Mary has recently had surgery to remove a blood clot and needs prayers for healing and comfort.



We ask for continued prayers for the people of Ukraine. May God send strength and peace to them during this time of war. For those of you who are wishing and wondering what one can do to help alleviate the pain the people of Ukraine are suffering, you might consider World Central Kitchen. They are feeding people there; imagine how hot meals for cold and suffering people are received.

World Central Kitchen donations can be made online at donate.wck.org or sending your donation to *World Central Kitchen; 200 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 7th floor; Washington, DC 20001.*

PSALM 17:6

*I call on you,
my God, for you
will answer me;
turn your ear
to me and
hear my
prayer.*





Session Meeting
January 10, 2023
6:30 pm

Greetings in Christ,

Greetings by the Grace of God,

January 10th we had a productive session meeting celebrating Susan King and Ciaran Hynes joining session in 2023, our new screen, projector, and microphones in the sanctuary, progress on the Peace Garden, and God’s grace, mercy, and love in our 9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation Classes on Sunday mornings.

Our financial status coming into the year was at -\$10,598. We ended the year with a positive balance of \$26,228, which is \$36,826 positive cash flow for the 2022 year. We praised God for Doug and Susan King’s incredible work with our finances as treasurer and financial secretary. Our Capital Campaign finished at the end of December and the total will be celebrated at our Annual Meeting January 29th, immediately after the church service.

We are looking forward to Taliilee Fiqruu coming to share with us and presenting part of the Capital Campaign’s Mission allotment for building schools in Ethiopia.

Our Fiscal Stability Committee met on December 20th. They recommended several items to Finance and Facilities and we will hear back on those topics in February. This completed the work of the committee, and it is now absolved. Our thanks go to all those members.

All church members are welcome to participate on church committees or even just sit in on a meeting to see what they are all about. Speak with one of our elders if you are interested. Our elders for 2023 are: Ciaran Hynes, Susan King, Tom Greenbaum, Gary Buck, Mary Kalesse, Lish Mannerter, Corinne Waterbury, Bob Andrews, and Lory Albright.

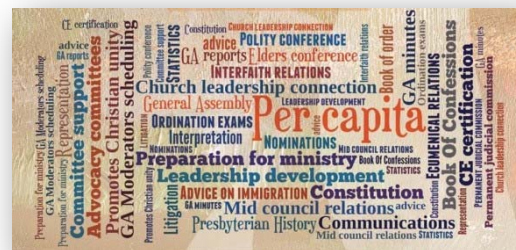
Peace of Christ,
Lory Albright, Clerk of Session

Bicycle Ministry Report



Our Bicycle Ministry began on March 8, 2017. Lois MacLean or Elise Prayzich cover the first and third Wednesdays of each month as clients arrive at our church between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, looking for a bike. They “test drive,” choose, sign for their bike, and away they go. No more walking everywhere! Looking for a job, and then getting to one with a bicycle makes all the difference in their lives.

In 2022 we distributed 125 bicycles – the highest of any year. We all are so pleased that we are able to assist folks who come to Love INC in search of help to get back on their feet. It is heartwarming to hear how grateful they are! Thank you to Session and our congregation who support this Ministry!



Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Newberg First Presbyterian Church is part of the Cascades Presbytery which includes close to 90 churches in Oregon. Our Per Capita giving supports our local presbytery and the broader Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). The Per Capita amount per member for 2023 is \$45.60. Each member is encouraged to pay the per capita for each family member who is a registered member of this church. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with Per Capita in the Memo line. Thank you!

Dennis Littlefield, Director of Camp Tilikum, sent out a letter recently, asking for prayers to meet some of the challenges the camp has been facing recently. He writes:

Staffing issues have been common for many businesses and ministries. We were not able to hire enough staff (20+) to run the majority of the summer camp programs for 2022. The most important prayer topic is finding summer staff for 2023! We do the hiring in January and February. The basic information is listed below. Can you help spread the word about hiring staff at your church, school, relatives and friends?

Camp Tilikum is looking for college-age (18-25+) people who love Jesus and love kids! The hiring process occurs during January and February.

This 10-week season is from May 30 - August 6, 2023. The schedule is normally Monday to Friday, from 7:30 am to 5 pm. Please share this post to help spread the word to others who may be interested! To apply, click here:

<https://camptilikum.org/employment-at-tilikum/college-summer-staff/>



Pay and benefits include:

First year staff - \$5,000

Lifeguards - \$5,200

Support Staff - \$6,700

Housing is provided at George Fox University (a \$2,000 value).

Celebrate! A two year civil war is ending

November peace accord is being implemented

Citizens and observers are holding their breath. The situation is fragile. But militias are disarming and returning home. Aid is flowing to the hundreds of thousands displaced. Retained journalists are being released. And a huge bilateral debt to China was recently renegotiated. All of these are good signs, and many are sighing in relief, looking forward to peaceful times.

We have a wonderful updated website!

Please [visit!](#) And enjoy!

Solar home-lighting kits are on their way

The pandemic's many hurdles are loosening

First, solar factories were shut down. Then raw materials were in short supply. When NIWA was able to manufacture our solar kits, they found that shipping containers were piled up in ports far away. Now shipping has been sorted out and the kits are making their way to Ethiopia.



Left: The roof of a home in Maji with solar panels installed to provide electricity.

Great News from Mission Partner Caroline Kurtz!



Bridge is going to be repaired

The communities needing clean water will no longer be cut off

Ato Markos has been negotiating with local officials and a road-building crew to get big machines about 17 miles down the mountain to where a bridge was washed out in a huge storm last May. The communities needing clean water have been cut off. MDC can't get building supplies down until trucks can go again. Arrangements have been made now, and as soon as fuel is delivered, repairs will begin. (There are only about a dozen vehicles in the district, and no filling stations. Fuel is stored in barrels and siphoned out as needed.)



Right: A woman carrying water home to her family.

The Experience of Lent
By Karen Murphy, Ph.D.



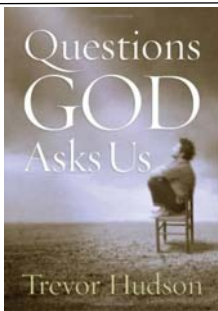
What is Lent?

Lent (meaning “springtime”) is a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) prior to Easter which the early church set aside as a time of preparation. It is a time of preparation of one’s heart, mind, and soul, which allows one to fully embrace, experience, and live into the depth of the Paschal mystery that is presented to us in Christ’s death and resurrection. It is a time in which we are called, in continuity with other Christians throughout the ages, to pray, repent, fast, listen, refocus, and remember.

During this season, we pray for grace, grace to see ourselves as we truly are. We pray for strength, strength not only to see our desperate, limited, and often desolate humanness, but also for the strength to see God as He truly is, with arms open wide, waiting to refresh us with hope, compassion, and peace. We pray that the Spirit of the living God will empower us in fresh, new ways as we seek to serve, to learn, to live, and to love. We repent of the times that we have fallen short, of the moments when we have not been kind, when we have not lived justly, when we have been selfish and fearful, when we were not present to the people around us.

During this season, we choose to fast, sacrificing our own desires, wants, and needs, in order that we may be re-sensitized to the needs of the world around us, to the cries for love and the cries for justice. We set aside our own incessant cravings that we may hear the ever-present still, small voice of God speaking to us in the midst of a world filled with noise, with busyness, with “doing,” with mindlessness. We fast in order that we may hear again, that we may recognize our own longings for life, for healing, for love, that we may live mindfully in the present, truly seeing one another as sons and daughters of God.

And, finally, during this season we remember. We remember that we are but dust, that we were created from dust and to dust we shall return. We remember that we were bought with a price, that we are not our own, and that we are deeply, deeply loved in the midst of our brokenness, in the midst of our shortcomings, in the midst of our failings, and in the midst of our weakness. We are reminded that God is ever present, never changing and that we are forever held by His great mercy. Lent is a time of prayer, repentance, fasting, remembering, and celebrating what and whose we are. During this Lenten season, may you experience God’s gracious and loving presence as you wait in expectation for the day when, by His Spirit, all is made new.



Women’s “Space for Grace” fellowship is beginning a new study in February. We will be reading and discussing Trevor Hudson’s book, “Questions God Asks Us.” Come on the journey with us as we invite God to speak into our lives with His love and grace. All women are invited to join us in the fellowship hall on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month from 11:00 to noon. You do not need to have a copy of the book for this time of reflection, connection and the enjoyment of friendships - old and new! If you have questions, call Mary Kalesse at 503-709-3292.



*Adult Spiritual
Formation Class*

Adult Spiritual Formation class, which meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, is taking an in-depth look at two of our central values this February - Hope and Love. (Grace happened in January!) Please join us in the Fellowship Hall as we look into each topic, first from a Biblical perspective and then consider ways to put the “rubber to the road” or if you prefer, “hand to the plow.” Classes are a mix of teaching, reflection, and conversation around the topic, with sharing from life experiences invited. It is a class where everyone who is so inclined can find an opportunity for spiritual stretching and growth.



Our Church Community: Get Involved!

CAYAC

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Newberg First Presbyterian Church started CAYAC, which stands for College and Young Adult Community, in the fall of 2018, and it continues to be a positive space for support and

good friendships. Feel free to contact Pastor Chris at murphycb@frontier.com if you would like to join up with this amazing group, or if you know of any college students or other young adults who would be interested in participating.

This year CAYAC will meet on the first Monday of each month, at 6:00 pm.

Please be in prayer for our young adults as they navigate the challenges of balancing school, work, and other responsibilities.



Sunday Morning
Adult Study

Adult Spiritual Formation class is held at 9:00 am every Sunday. Class is held in the Fellowship Hall, which allows for social distancing. Masks are optional. This season we are holding

wonderful classes taught by a great group of regulars, including Chuck Zickefoose, Mary Kalesse, Di Murphy, Kristin Sandoz, and Gene and Rosemary Dykema. Come join us for these interesting and insightful classes!



Men's Fellowship is held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8:00 am. To learn more, 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!

Space for Grace Women's Fellowship



Space for Grace meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at 11:00 am. Our times together include practical

reflections on scripture, sharing of life, and prayer. All women are invited to join this group to enjoy the fellowship and friendship of women in a safe and supportive place. For more information call Mary Kalesse (503-709-3292.) We're looking forward to meeting you!



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.

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, you may contact Lois McLean or Elise Prayzich (307-690-3762.) Strong arms and trucks are greatly appreciated!



Calling all who love to sing! Our choir, led by Pat Goodman, is always looking for new voices to praise God. Consider this your invitation to join one of the liveliest, most fun-loving and

welcoming groups you'll ever run into. Contact Pat Goodman (pat88g@frontier.com) for more information. All are welcome!

Chair Yoga is



Chair Yoga

on hiatus

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

If you are interested in joining this restorative class, contact Lory Albright at lorylyn808@gmail.com or call her at 971-226-8407. Class is led by Lory, who has finished her training to be a licensed yoga instructor. She is happy to share her gifts of love and joy, as well as her training with her church family. See you there!








Friday Prayer Retreat



Join us on the first Friday of each month as we gather together in the Sanctuary from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon with a small luncheon after. Together we will make First Presbyterian a house of prayer for Newberg.

February 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---|-----|
| | | | 1 9:00- Bike Ministry 7:00 pm- Choir Practice | 2 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship | 3  First Friday Prayer Retreat | 4 |
| 5 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  | 6 6:00 pm- CAYAC meets at the Murphy's home | 7 | 8 10:00 am- Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm- Choir Practice | 9 | 10 11:00 am- Space for Grace women's group | 11 |
| 12 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Choir sings  | 13 | 14 Pew News articles & schedules due today! <i>HAPPY Valentine's Day</i> | 15 9:00- Bike Ministry 7:00 pm- Choir Practice | 16 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  | 20  | 21 6:30 pm- Session meeting | 22  6:00 pm- Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm- Choir Practice | 23 | 24 11:00 am - Space for Grace Women's group | 25 |
| 26 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Choir sings  | 27 | 28 | Adult Education class meets each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. | | | |
| | | | Children's Worship happens each Sunday. Children will leave Worship right before the sermon and join their teacher for fun and learning! | | | |

Birthdays

4- Lory Albright
4- Douglas King
7- Jenny Huwe
9- Don Albright
16- Jim Bonsey
19- Paula Buck
21- Sandi Olmstead

27- Wilma Loeks



Upcoming Events



Ash Wednesday Service
2-22-23 at 6:00 pm

Imposition of ashes during worship service

Ash Wednesday leads into the season of Lent which will feature Pastor Chris' sermon series on Celtic Christianity. Be sure to join us!



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2-21-23 6:30 pm Session Meeting
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
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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.