

VOLUME 23
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MAY 2023



Newberg First Presbyterian Church

PEW NEWS



Resurrection Season and Christian Community



From the Reverend Chris Murphy—

Resurrection Season and Christian Community

We are in the season of Eastertide. Easter Sunday this year was on April 9th and the 50th day of Eastertide will be on May 28th, which is Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Season of Easter reminds me that as followers of Jesus, we are invited to live in the power of the resurrection throughout the year. We are encouraged to remember that Jesus is alive and is always working through the Holy Spirit to bring new life and purpose to our lives.

Our church continues to enjoy a Season of Resurrection as we welcome new people and deepen our relationships with one another. Each of us come to this church seeking to experience more deeply the power of the resurrection of Jesus, while also vulnerably sharing with one another where we need healing and wholeness.

I feel humbled to be the pastor of this community as we journey with each other and share our joys and sorrows. The call of the church to be true community for one another is an invitation to experience close friendship with God and one another. As a community, we are able to walk with each other in all the aspects of life. We celebrate the birth of new babies, like George Stevens, who joined us last summer. We celebrate weddings, like Tom and Angela's who will marry on July 29th. We often celebrate birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries. We journey through the final stages of life and honor when people in our community experience the full gift of the resurrection by entering heaven after death.

In this Season of resurrection, I feel deeply grateful for our church community and our gift of Christian community. Being in relationship to one another is not about pretending to be perfect. True community is an invitation to be open and honest and to find the support we need, while also offering ourselves and our friendship with one another. Romans 12:5 says, "so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

May we be one body in Christ, supporting one another through the journey of life. Know that we never need to live our lives alone. God has brought us together, so that we may enjoy the gift of Christian community and truly walk in the power and joy of the resurrection. Thank you for being part of our Christ centered community at Newberg First Presbyterian Church!



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 Bobby Stiehler, the brother of Nancy Thurston and the uncle of Tom Greenbaum. Bobby had surgery on May 4th and 5th to help heal a serious back injury that has caused him pain for some time. The goal of the surgery will be to reduce pain and increase mobility. It is a serious surgery, so please pray fervently for Bobby's body to respond well to surgery and that God will bring him full healing.



Please pray for Sue Micinski, (sister of Katherine Millage), who is currently undergoing chemo to treat her cancer. May God send his strength and healing to her, as well as complete healing.



Vera Patten

June 15, 1936 - February 22, 2023

Memorial Service:

June 10, 2023, 11:00 AM

First Presbyterian Church, Newberg, OR

Doris Feenstra

March 18, 1923 - March 20, 2023

Dr. Edith Parrish

May 25, 1934 - April 7, 2023

Memorial Service:

May 20, 2023, 2:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Newberg, OR



Session Meeting
February 21, 2023
6:30 pm

Greetings in Christ,

April was full of blessings as the Session approved combining remnants of memorials from decades ago into an account where their combined totals can be a blessing. Electric and plumbing work has been completed, students are graduating, Newberg's Peace Garden has all of its faucets, missionaries are accomplishing amazing work in Jesus' name and our Presbytery of the Cascades voted to allow Chris Murphy to become our installed minister at our May congregational meeting!

We are also grateful to begin a partnership with the Rev. Kelly Dickson who has received a grant from the 1001 New Worshipping Communities of the PCUSA to start a ministry for Christian leaders called Come to the Table. It is a ministry of hospitality and rest to support the spiritual formation of leaders. Kelly visited our April Session meeting and shared her vision. She regularly attends our First Friday Prayer Retreats and also works with our presbytery staff.

April finished with a fruitful Session and Deacons retreat at Windrose Conference Center in Newberg on April 29th. Your Session and Deacons built community with one another and helped vision for our church. God has great things in store for Newberg First Presbyterian Church.

Grace, Hope, and Love,
Lory Albright, Clerk of Session
Pastor Chris Murphy



First Presbyterian Church, Newberg celebrates its 133rd birthday in March.



Session members and Deacons Retreat at Windrose Center

A HEALTHY START TO 2023



Both Sunday coffee cart and case order sales for Equal Exchange products have been doing well. At the cart I have an inventory of eight varieties of chocolate bars for single sales, \$2.50 ea. As for coffee and tea, single sales are limited to a few choices. There are too many choices (coffee-15, tea-15) to stock them all. Stop by the cart and see what's available by either single sale or case order.

Case order sales are what keeps this project thriving. There is a wonderful group of faithful buyers who know what they like and order periodically by case. I simply have the names and e-mail addresses of these buyers and send out an announcement when an order is to be made. Past history shows that orders happen every couple of months. It's easy to do. The steps are:

1. Choose your product.
2. Inform me of your e-mail address.
3. When notified place your order via e-mail or in person.
4. When the order arrives, I will notify you by e-mail.
5. Pickup your order Sundays in the Fellowship Hall or during the week in the office (9-1 Tue.-Fri.) Payment is due at the time of pickup.

I ask you to consider supporting this purposeful mission project by ordering, particularly your favorite coffee, by the case.

Margie



An update from mission partner Caroline Kurtz:

Report on the Siski Area Clean Water Project--the first load of sand for building a reservoir has been delivered! Bidding is going on for building materials such as cement and rebar! Ato Samson is interviewing contractors who have water development experience! This important work is moving forward after many delays. Ato Markos was so excited when I spoke to him on Monday. Give thanks with MDC staff and board -- the log-jam has broken!



The daily lives of women in the Siski area of Maji District will change radically when the clean water project is completed.

Caroline has left for Ethiopia. She writes:

I hope to drive to Maji with my solar colleagues Ato (Mr) Samson and Ato Yonas the second week of May. We'll be carrying the solar home lighting kits everyone has been waiting so eagerly for. We hope to distribute solar lanterns in rural schools to kids who have only ever lived in the dark after the sun goes down. I'll take photos and share them with you! Thank you for making these precious lights possible for Maji families.

My big hope is to also get down off the top of the mountain to Siski and Adikas, where women are hiking up steep paths to fetch water, and where the only water they have to fetch has been contaminated by cattle who are also thirsty. We've hired the contractor and the water engineer and are ready to start with protecting the spring. Then we'll lay pipes to bring clean water down to where people live. This project will bring clean water to 400 families!

The dry season is over-due. The road will be too steep and muddy if the rain doesn't stop . . . Pray for sunshine!

People have asked if I will be safe in Ethiopia. First, I hope so, but part of being human is to move forward without knowing how our plans will turn out.

But next I assure you that Jane (my sister), Chris (my brother) and I will be with dear Ethiopian friends and colleagues. They will hear and warn us if there is danger long before the US Embassy or anyone else from outside the culture knows. They will see it a matter of honor that they protect us to the extent of their ability. It was always like that for us among friends in Ethiopia.

The tragedy of violence in Ethiopia is because the last thirty years have been spent in an experiment--creating territorial states around ethnicity. It has unleashed what one article called "ferocious ethnic rivalries." In a poor country, where goods, services and calories are in deficit, it can feel like fighting is a matter of survival. And sometimes it is. Please hold Ethiopia in your hearts, and pray that a path to peace and security for all will open.

We recently received this letter from our mission partners Julie and Brian, who work with SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Brian writes:



Dear Partners,

37 years ago on March Fourth (march forth!), we went forth from Los Angeles to Frankfurt, Germany to start our first field assignment with Wycliffe. It has been a circuitous journey, but we are thankful to see where God has brought us.

The translator just told us that the "Solomon's Wisdom" book has been audio recorded and is now in the hands of the department which gets it ready for online and app access. But on Wednesday this week, March 8, which is International Women's Day, it is also going to be broadcast in its entirety on Abaza radio! The book includes the section from Proverbs 31 about "the virtuous woman." Please pray that many will hear and really listen to this book of Proverbs (and an introduction to the wise king Solomon), and that it would draw people to find out more about the truly wise King of Kings and His Word.

This morning we learned that we may be getting a second exegete for our project! As you know, this has been a regular prayer request for a long time. It's not final yet, and we'll say more when it is, but we are very encouraged by this news. We know the person, and it seems to us like an excellent fit. [Our team now has two native-speaker translators, who can each usually draft more than 50 verses a week – often considerably more. The fastest I [Brian] have been able to work is about 80 verses a week. That means I'm constantly falling further and further behind. Once up to speed, a second exegete can reduce and eventually hopefully eliminate that lag. Please continue to pray.

March 23-28 there will be a webinar on translating Psalms. The more experienced translator in our project and I will both be attending. He has drafted Psalms 1, 8, 23 and 139, and hopefully we can make some good progress on them. Please pray for all the participants (from multiple languages) to benefit from this. The one drawback for me is that it will be run on Moscow time, which means it starts at 11:30 pm our time each day (we will only have Sunday off) and ends at 7:00 am the next day. Please pray for me to be awake when I need to be, and to get sleep when I need to. (I've never done well with all-nighters.)

Meanwhile, we continue to plod on in Mark and Genesis and make steady progress. The target at this point is to finish the exegesis of Mark by mid-May, and the exegesis of Genesis by mid-July. Please pray that we continue to make good progress without sacrificing quality.

Julie continues to make and go to doctor appointments. Her heart health and recommendations may not be ascertained until June or later (cardiologists are BUSY!!). The pulmonologist has determined that Julie definitely needs a CPAP breathing machine for her apnea, so that should be arriving this month. Altogether she has four new doctors and a few new therapists. Please pray for good communication and positive results from her tests and procedures.

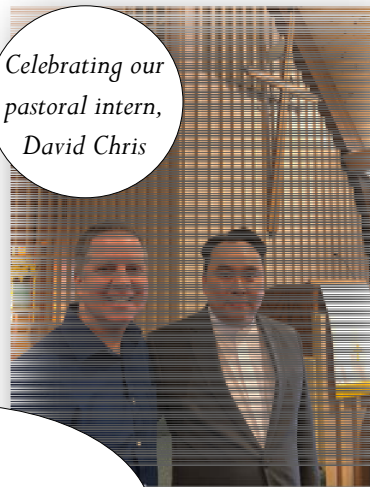
Thank you for your prayers and partnership.

Brian (and Julie)

Our Church Life



Decorating the cross as part of our Easter celebration.



Celebrating our pastoral intern, David Chris



Happy 101st birthday, Nell!



Happy Easter, Amanda and George!



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.

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm- CAYAC meets at the Murphy's home	2 3:00 pm- Worship Committee meeting	3 9:00 am- Bike Ministry	4 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship 6:00 pm- National Day of Prayer gathering	5  9:00 am- First Friday Prayer Retreat	6
7 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 	8	9 6:30 pm- Session meeting	10 10:00 am- Deacons meeting 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	11	12 11:00 am - Space for Grace Women's group	13
14 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Choir sings <i>Mother's Day</i> 	15	16	17 9:00- Bike Ministry 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	18 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm- Finance & Facilities meeting	19 3:30 pm- Mission Committee meeting	20 2:00 pm- Celebration of Life for Edith Parrish
21 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 	22	23	24 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	25	26 11:00 am - Space for Grace Women's group	27
28 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Choir sings <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> 	29 	30	31 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	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

6- Loraine Sarnacki
8- Katherine Millage
14- Liz Zion
19- Jennie Delano
19- Joyce Meyersick
21- Angela Spohn
22- Nigel Swehla
23- Steve Seaquist
28- Diane Murphy



Upcoming Events

5-14-23 - Mother's Day Sunday: We will be holding worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served (cinnamon rolls- yum!) Join us as we worship God and celebrate our moms!

5-28-23 - Pentecost Sunday: Pentecost Sunday is our chance to pause and celebrate the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, causing them to speak in tongues. The main sign of Pentecost in our church is the wearing of the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. So **wear red** to church this day!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

5-9-23 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



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GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.