

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 23
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PEW NEWS



Compassionate Christianity

From the Reverend Chris Murphy

Compassionate Christianity



You may notice that when I talk about Jesus, I often refer to him as compassionate. Compassion is one of my favorite words to highlight the gentleness and goodness of God’s heart of love for us and the world. When you imagine how people view Christians in our world, do people think of us as compassionate? Is the church viewed as compassionate?

I might answer yes and no. It depends on one’s experience. Some people find Christianity and church to be very compassionate. I hear stories regularly of people coming to know Jesus and experiencing a church community as highly positive. Sometimes people find tremendous healing from painful pasts and the church is God’s way of healing trauma and bringing great hope to hurting people.

Other times I hear people share that churches actually cause great harm by creating communities of judgment and legalism, where the compassion of Jesus feels hidden by an image of God as angry and therefore fearful. The church in these settings defines itself more by attacking the world around it than loving the world.

Every fall I remind our church of who we are called to be in this world. We are called to embody the love and compassion of Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world and is gracious and compassionate. We as followers of Jesus spread his compassion to hurting people who need a savior. This fall we will explore the theme of Compassionate Christianity. We will reflect on the church we are called to be and how to let go of ways of being church that have caused more harm than good. We will also be reminded of some of the ways the Presbyterian Church USA participates in the mission of compassion as a denomination.

I am grateful to be part of such a compassionate church as Newberg First Presbyterian. On September 10th, I will be grateful to be installed as your permanent pastor. The Stated Clerk of the Cascades Presbytery, Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman will be our preacher. In this season of our church, I give thanks for the way you have shown compassion to me over the last almost six years. May God continue to help us partner in showing compassion to others.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4: 32

🎵 NEW CHOIR YEAR BEGINS! 🎵

It’s time to gather together and sing! Our first choir rehearsal will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6th in the Fellowship Hall. It is important that all choir members attend this rehearsal because on Sunday, Sept 10th we will sing at the installation service for Pastor Chris.

Now is a great time for all of you who love to sing to come to our September rehearsals and see if you would enjoy being part of our choir. We are a friendly and fun group!

There are no auditions and music reading is not required. Every choir member receives a recording of the anthems we sing so it is easier to learn your part.

See you on September 6th and we will have a potluck dessert after rehearsal!

Pat



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 ask for continued prayers for people in distress all over the world. As the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance says, “Our best response is prayer. Seek God’s presence on behalf of disaster survivors.” For those who would like to express their support in other ways, please consider contributing to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (<https://pda.pcusa.org/>) or the World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org/>)



Please pray for the people of Maui as they deal with the destruction left by the wildfires that devastated their homes, towns and lives. May God send his protection and grace to Maui and its people, and strength to the firefighters who continue to work to get the fires under control. If you wish, donations to help the people of Maui can be made to [Maui Strong](#).



Session Meeting August 15, 2023

*Summary respectfully submitted
by Kim Godshalk, Session Clerk*

Pastor Chris Murphy accepted the invitation to become Moderator Elect for the Cascades Presbytery. He also officiated at the wedding of Tom and Angel Greenbaum. Pastor Chris will have his installation to become our permanent pastor on Sunday, September 10th, at our normal 10:30 AM worship service.

Session also approved giving Pastor Christ a 3-month sabbatical for summer 2024, following the guidelines of presbytery which offers sabbatical to pastors every six years.

Kim Godshalk sent out request for job descriptions from committees.

From Board of Deacons – the rummage sale made more than \$1600.

Presentation was given by Gary Buck on getting solar panels. Session is waiting for further information on potential lease agreement for solar panels before making a decision. Lawn next to Jaquith Park was approved as potential location of solar panels, if lease agreement is satisfactory.

Session approved hiring Susan King as paid bookkeeper. Personnel team will work out details.

New rental form agreements were approved by Session.

The noon Rotary club was approved to begin using Fellowship Hall for meetings beginning in the middle of October.

Karen Murphy was approved to host Portland Seminary class at church on October 10th and 11th.

Lory Albright will start Chair Yoga beginning on September 6th. Chair Yoga will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:15 PM.

CHILDREN!! WE ARE BACK IN SESSION!!



Children's Worship begins the Fall season on September 10th. Children are dismissed just before the sermon to meet in the children's classroom for a Bible story, activities, and fun with a loving staff of volunteers. Children in 1st through 4th grades will enjoy this active time of learning. If you don't have children but

would like to help us staff our children's ministry through teaching or being an assistant in the classroom, please call the church office or Mary Kalesse (503-709-3292.)



Pastoral Installation

"Lord, here I am, send me..."

The members of First Presbyterian Church of Newberg proudly invite all to join us as we celebrate the Installation of the Reverend

Dr. Chris Murphy. We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word, on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 10:30 am. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Pastor Chris, his family, and our church!



CHAIR YOGA RETURNS!

Chair yoga will begin again in September. Plan on meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm. See you there!

SPACE 4 GRACE BEGINS FALL SEASON

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 AT 11:00 AM



Space 4 Grace will meet in the Fellowship Hall on September 8th at 11 AM as we begin the Fall Season. We meet regularly on the second and fourth Fridays each month and hope you will come. This is a time of considering our faith journey and how we live it out, building friendships with other women, and sharing our stories, laughter and sometimes even tears. All women are welcome to join us for this little retreat to a space of grace, hope and love.



ADULT ED/SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 AT 9:00 AM

Starting on September 10th at 9 AM and each Sunday thereafter, a group gathers to learn, be challenged, reflect and share life in the Adult Ed/Spiritual Formation Class. Meeting around tables in the Fellowship Hall, with maybe a cup of coffee in hand, we meet to learn, share life and build relationships as we discuss life from a spiritual perspective. This Fall our beginning series will be considering our own life stories in light of our heritage and God's big story! We invite you to join us at 9 each Sunday morning as an intentional way to grow your faith and deepen your love for God and each other. This is a great way to build friendships at FPC!!





Open House for
Mission Partners Brian and Julie O.



We recently had the privilege of a visit by one of our Mission Partner pairs – Julie and Brian O. The Mission and Global Witness Committee of FPC held an Open House so that they could share about their work and greet the church family. There was a good turn out of folks who welcomed them with cookies and questions. Julie and Brian work for Wycliffe in the translation of the Bible. As people came and went during their visit, they shared some of the intricacies of translation work, what has been accomplished and what is still to do. At an open house on June 21, we shared cookies and conversation with Brian and Julie, and were given a description of what Brian does on a daily basis in Biblical translation from English to a native language. Specific reference was made to a language group in the Russian Caucasus mountains.

The current goals are to finish Mark and Genesis by fall of this year. Brian explained the series of steps to do the translation work including finding the right words in the target language that convey the intended message. He has several people working with him as he directs the effort. His work entails oversight of the work and participation in the translation activity.

Julie noted that they were married in our church and were the first to hold a reception in the Fellowship Hall which was new in 1983.

It was an interesting presentation and a wonderful opportunity to be in person with missionaries whom we pray for and support financially. Those who attended were blessed!

NEWS FROM OUR MISSION AND GLOBAL WITNESS COMMITTEE:

You are a great congregation for your support of our Mission and Global Witness program! You met the challenge to give funds for the orphanage in India. We asked for a match of \$1500 and you gave \$2070! With the Mission committee's \$1500 we are able to send \$3570 to Reverend Undurthi for his project.

In addition to the above project, you also contribute to the following mission related activities during the year:

- ◆ Provide \$125 per month to each of our 5 mission partners
- ◆ Contribute to three annual PCUSA Special Offerings:
 - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 - Christmas Joy Offering
 - Peace and Global Witness Offering
- ◆ Support the Bike Ministry through Love INC
- ◆ Support the Equal Exchange Coffee Ministry



Update From Bike Ministry!

The Retired Recyclers and Elise received this note of thanks from a recent client. He writes:



Thank you Elise and bike ministry staff. It has helped me and numerous others.

The bike will help me in getting to a job interview and further work, as well as getting around in general.

Once again, thank you. Aiden Adams

You're very welcome Aiden! The staff of Bike Ministry, Retired Recyclers and Love INC wish you nothing but the best in all your future endeavors!



WELCOME BACK, LASANA!

We give thanks for the visit of Lasana and Karalie Kanneh on August 20th. Their visits are always inspiring and we give praise for the beautiful music and powerful testimony of Lasana. Let's continue to support and pray for Karalie and Lasana as they continue to partner in ministry and support their large family.



Lasana Kanneh (second from the left) and wife Karalie visit with Pastor Chris and his family

Recently Pastor Chris and Ciaran Hynes gave a presentation on the Peace Garden to the Morning Newberg Rotary Club, which then wrote this excellent article for publication in their newsletter.

Newberg Peace Garden, a community healing project by Newberg First Presbyterian Church, was presented by Ciarán Hynes and Chris Murphy.

Ciarán, a native Irishman, has lived in Newberg since 2011 and with A-dec, currently as Director of Quality Assurance, since 2007 (WA, England, and Ireland) with the last 12 years here in Newberg. He is also an adjunct professor at GFU.

Rev. Dr. Chris Murphy has been the pastor of Newberg Presbyterian Church for five years. One Good Friday he was walking behind the church wondering and praying about what his church could do with the property behind it.

God's voice reminded Chris of the resources he had and the gifts He'd given him.

Ken Austin Jr. was one of those gifts and resources. In a quiet meeting once Ken had asked Chris, first, what is distinctive about your church? Second, what can your church do to serve Newberg's community?

With a focus on spirituality and prayer a vision took root that the church campus could be a place of peace and reflection. He announced on Easter Sunday that God had given him a vision for a peace garden.

Ciarán was in attendance for that service.

As a master gardener, Ciarán volunteered to get the project off the ground. So, with initial funding from a Thriving Congregations grant and labor from George Fox University's Serve Day (*thank you, David Brandt*) students, the labyrinth was built.

The labyrinth is not a maze and has no tricks, choices or dead ends. It is a walking metaphor for every person's individual journey through the twists and turns of life to the center of self and return to the outside world.

Newberg Presbyterian is a church that seeks unity and peace. From a vision last week, Chris illustrated with outstretched arms that we have opposing opinions and politics. "Are you the type of person that can bring your hands to the center and form a heart of love?"

Ciarán says the shape of the Peace Garden is to move through it echoing the intent of the labyrinth, just like life's journey.

The approach to design, construction is simple and basic: to keep existing trees, source materials locally, and pay as they go to avoid debt.

There will be a small amphitheater in the top left corner with seating for up to 100 and ambitions for a pergola, wedding arch and a community garden.

While the gravel paths are packed and navigable by wheelchair, the goal is to pave them for even easier mobility.

A hedge of laurel will obscure the neighboring Jaquith pickleball court but still have an access point which is currently always open but may become dawn to dusk like the main entrance.

Q: When will the amphitheater be complete?

A: We are waiting on budget and volunteers, but the project is already underway.

Newberg Peace Garden



The labyrinth, built in the Peace Garden by GFU students during Serve Day last year

Q: Will plants all be native?

A: Yes. They will be native to our area, sourced locally and be as drought and deer resistant as possible.

Q: Being in the corner, how will the amphitheater be accessed by performers?

A: Down the center steps through the audience.

Q: How is drainage being managed?

A: The low part actually follows the terrain but care is being taken not to create problems for homes below grade.



As a result of the presentation, the Noon Rotary Club has donated a bench and a ginkgo tree to the Peace Garden. They will also be volunteering to work in the Peace Garden as we continue to build and develop this space of beauty and peace.



Our Church Community: Get Involved!



Adult Spiritual Formation class is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This year Adult Education is led by the dynamic team of Mary Kalesse and Mindi Hynes.

Come gather with us as we learn together, sharing life and building relationships, while we discuss life from a spiritual perspective. It's a great way to deepen your spiritual journey...and make some great friends!



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!



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 those 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.

We appreciate Marc Manner's participation in being our "truck and muscle guy"!

If you would like to help out with this ministry, you may contact Lois McLean or Elise Prayzich (307-690-3762.)



Calling all who love to sing! Our choir, led by Pat Goodman, is always looking for new voices to praise God. our choir that sings two times a month but practices every Wednesday beginning the first week of September.

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!



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CAYAC
(College and Young Adult Community)

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 know any college students or other young adults who would be interested in participating in this amazing group. CAYAC meets on the first Sunday of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



We are excited to begin our new youth ministry this fall! Led by our new youth ministers, Joe & Emily Summers, Youth Group will begin on Sunday, September 17th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and will meet at the church. Come join us!



Space 4 Grace

Space 4 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!



Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga class meets weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:15-4:00 pm.

If you are interested in joining this restorative class, you can contact Lory Albright at 971-226-8407, or email her at lorylyn808@gmail.com.

Class is led by Lory, who is a licensed yoga instructor. She is happy to share her gifts of love and joy, as well as her training, with her church family.



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.

September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Adult Education class meets each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning September 10th.</p> <p>Children's Worship happens each Sunday, beginning September 10th. Children will leave Worship right before the sermon and join their teacher for fun and learning!</p>						<p>1</p> <p>9:00 am- First Friday Prayer Retreat</p>
<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am- Bike Ministry</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 am- Men's Fellowship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 am- Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> <p><i>Installation Sunday</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:00 pm- Worship Committee meets</p> <p>6:30 pm- Session meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am- Deacons meet</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30 pm- Mission committee meets</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> <p>6:00 pm- Youth Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am- Bike Ministry</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am- Men's Fellowship</p> <p>6:30 pm- Finance & Facilities meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:00 am- Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service</p> <p>6:00 pm- Youth Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>3:15 pm- Chair Yoga</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

Birthdays

5- Tim Olmstead
 6- Karen Black
 13- Chris Murphy
 19- Jacob Godshalk
 25- Ed Godshalk

Anniversaries

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

Upcoming Events

9-10-23 - Installation Sunday. Come celebrate in worship as Pastor Chris is formally installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Newberg. The Reverend Paul Belz-Templeman will be preaching.

9-13-23 - George Fox Serve Day. Students from GFU will be working in the peace garden. If you wish to join them, please arrive at 10:00 am. **If you have any yard work tools, please bring them in. They will be needed, even if you can't stay to work.**



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9-12-23 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.