

VOLUME 23
ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2023



Newberg First Presbyterian Church

PEW NEWS

A message from Pastor Chris

A Heart of Gratitude

November is a season of gratitude. The harvest has come, and we are invited to pause and give thanks to God. As we look upon the world, we may be tempted to express other feelings. We are filled with sorrow and anger for the violence of war. We are concerned for loved ones who suffer with illness or other forms of suffering. Yet, in the midst of the burdens of life, the invitation remains to be grateful.

Gratitude is not an effort to ignore the pain and struggles of life. Instead, it is a humble way of remembering that even when life is hard, there are so many reasons to be grateful. Gratitude centers our attention on the goodness of God and the abundance of God's love. It helps us put things in perspective and remain hopeful even in difficult circumstances. What are you grateful for in this season?

I personally am grateful for our church community. I am grateful that in July, we witnessed the wedding of Tom and Angela Greenbaum. I am thankful that in September, you installed me as your permanent pastor. I am excited that this fall Joe and Emily Summers became our first youth ministers in many years at this church. Every time I walk to the back of the campus, I feel gratitude for the beauty of our Newberg Peace Garden. I feel grateful for the many saints of this church over the years that created our strong



Heart of Gratitude

community of love and witness in Newberg.

Friends may this be a season for you to awaken afresh to God's love for you. Let us treasure the gift of friends, family, the beauty in this world, and the gift of life itself. Psalm 118 verse 1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Whatever circumstances we are facing right now, may we remember God loves us and God's love will be with us forever. We are not alone on this journey in life. As we pause to give thanks, God will give us the perspective to face any challenge with hope. We as a church community are here to support one another as we express together our heart of gratitude to God.

A Thanksgiving Poem
by Paul Laurence Dunbar

*Thou hast, with ever watchful eye,
Looked down on us with holy care,
And from thy storehouse in the sky
Hast scattered plenty everywhere.*

*Then lift we up our songs of praise
To thee, O Father, good and kind;
To thee we consecrate our days;
Be thine the temple of each mind.*

*With incense sweet our thanks ascend;
Before thy works our powers fall;
Though we should strive years
without end,
We could not thank thee for them all.*





Session Meeting October 10, 2023

Summary respectfully submitted
by Kim Godshalk, Session Clerk
& Pastor Chris Murphy

Pastor Chris reported that we hosted Harriet Fowler's memorial service on Saturday, October 7th.

We hosted the first annual Blessing of the Animal's Service on October 1st and welcomed mission partner Caroline Kurtz as our guest preacher on October 8th. On October 8th, we also celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day and welcomed three new members: James Wen and Joe and Emily Summers.

The Newberg Peace Garden was featured in the Giving Town Podcast. Ciaran Hynes and Pastor Chris Murphy were interviewed by Daniel Roberts for this podcast.

A sub team of Session and Deacon members has formed and is meeting to vision for our church's future. They include Ciaran and Mindi Hynes, Mary Kalesse, Kim Godshalk, and Pastor Chris. This group will make recommendations to session.

Scholarship guidelines are being updated by the Christian Education team.

Cate Murphy has been officially hired as our new Facilities Manager, replacing Meg Huwe who recently resigned. We welcome Cate to our staff team.

Special thanks to Gary Buck for making updates to our church's website.

With Gratitude,
Clerk of Session Kim Godshalk and Pastor Chris Murphy



Save the Date & Check your Space!

On December 2, Susan King will be coordinating another Vendor's Bazaar to raise funds for the Deacons' ministry. Unlike a rummage sale, vendors rent table space in the fellowship hall and sell items they have made.

Here are a few ways you can help: **1)** If you know of vendors who might be interested, you can let Susan know their contact information; **2)** You can plan to do some fun Christmas shopping on that day; and **3)** If you have items of value at home that you no longer use, you can price them and add them to the table hosted by the Deacons. Items not sold are returned to you the following Sunday.



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.



As we consider the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering this month, please be in prayer for all of the areas of the world where there is no peace. May our offering of prayer and money further God's work in those areas and strengthen those who work faithfully to bring God's peace where it is so desperately needed.



We ask for prayers for Armond and Mary Kalesse. Medical workers are looking at the big picture related to what is called a fibrosis flare and although the flare is smaller, it looks like Armond's recovery will be slower.

Armond continues to stay in the ICU and is unable to have visitors. As some of us know, Mary tunes into Lectio365 often. It is an app that offers morning and evening prayers. Armond thinks that is a good one for him to listen to also, so if interested, you might give it a try. It's a blessing to know we are hearing some of the same words of praise and encouragement. Thanks for your continued prayers.



Mission News from Brian and Julie O



Translation is moving forward in these books:

Genesis: We have finished chapters 1-5 (recall that we did chapters 12-50, and then circled back to chapter 1), and should finish chapters 6-11 in October. Then Genesis will go out for philological editing and field testing.

Exodus: I am plodding steadily through my initial back translation and have only 4 chapters to go.

Psalms: The translator has drafted the first half of Psalms (chapters 1-75) plus a few special ones in the latter half (e.g. Ps. 110 – one of the most quoted in the New Testament).

Mark: We got the philological editing report back and have incorporated its suggestions. Our next stage of revision needs to wait for the report to come back from the field testing, which is happening right now.

John: John is almost completely drafted. I've started some preliminary back translation, and I've been having conversations with the translator about some problem areas that were quickly evident.

As you can see, we are juggling multiple books at the same time, each in their respective stages. Please pray for all the different stages.

October 13-17 is the biannual Bible Translation Conference, which Brian will be attending virtually. This conference includes people from many organizations involved with Bible translation from all over the world. With the online option, this year it will include far more than the 500 on-site participants. Pray for it to be fruitful for all participants world-wide.



News from mission partner Caroline Kurtz, Part 2!



Safe Water—For the First Time Ever!

In our culture, things change. A new cell phone comes out every eighteen months; a new, slimmer laptop makes the news; a new pedometer that also tracks our sleep health is all the rage. Fashions change faster than we can wear out our clothes. Stores and restaurants open and close all around us. It's hard for us to imagine living a life that looks just like our grandmother and grandfather's lives.

It's hard for us to fathom that the 400 families in the rural communities of Siski and Adikas, down the mountainside from Maji,

- Have ALWAYS had to walk long, steep paths and carry spring water home for drinking, bathing, and cooking
- Have NEVER had safe water available, because cattle had to share those springs.

But that's how life is in remote traditional communities of the world. And now, shocking change has come to these two communities! I was told that most people there had never before seen cement: now this is what they saw being constructed. Now they began to believe that uncontaminated water might actually come to water distribution points like this, in central locations in their communities!



Several miles up on the hill, near the spring, the community members had gathered stones, as instructed, pulling them out of their fields and ditches. Up went a reservoir for the spring water, now protected by more of that amazing cement. Helen Gebeyehu, our Ethiopian water engineer, checked the construction as the walls of the reservoirs rose.



The professional crew, brought in from another part of Southern Ethiopia, continued on, plastering the reservoir inside and out, and constructing a lid to keep the water clean.



Five miles of pipe had been trucked from the capital, Addis Ababa, to Maji to run from the reservoir down to the water distribution points. One grand day, workers unspooled the pipe and pulled it down to the communities.

Water! The first running water these children had ever seen!



Now it was up to the men of the two communities to dig trenches to bury and protect the pipe—all five miles of it! They collaborated with Ato Markos to divide up the distance and divide the able-bodied men into crews, each with an assignment marked off on the hillsides. Men began showing up before daylight to the trench. They worked by flashlight until the sun rose, and worked until it was time to go to their fields to plow and plant next year's food crop.

The system includes troughs for the cattle. They will grow sleeker and fatter not having to climb up into the forest for water. They will bring a better price to market for these families.



As Ato Markos said to me recently, "To us, MDC is like a miracle." Thank you to all who helped MDC work this miracle in the Siski and Adikas communities in Maji District.



In interviews Ato Markos has sent me, women and men have spoken passionately about how grateful they are for your help. How hard their struggle for life-sustaining water had always been; how this project speaks to them of your compassion; how amazing it is to have clean water running from faucets near their homes. They used to have to go to the water. Now clean water comes to them!

Our Church Life

Blessing of the Animals

On October 1st we enjoyed our first annual Blessing of the Animals service on our church lawn at 1 PM. It was a joy to celebrate our treasured pets!



The Installation of Pastor Chris Murphy

We celebrate that Pastor Chris Murphy was installed as our permanent pastor on Sunday, September 10th. In this photo, a prayer is offered for Pastor Chris and his ministry as friends and family join him in the front of the sanctuary.



Youth Group is off to a great start. In this photo, Joe and Emily Summers, Liam Hynes, Manny Sandoz, and Chiara Murphy hang out together in the Joy youth room on a Sunday night.



College Scholarship Opportunity!

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

College Scholarship applications are available in the church office. We request that all college students who are part of our church community apply before Thanksgiving to be eligible for potential assistance for the Winter Semester.



We are excited to announce opportunities to support our **Newberg Peace Garden**. There are many ways to give to the Peace Garden, as we work together to make it a beautiful place for everyone who works, plays, or visits.

Donations are always appreciated. Checks can be made out to Newberg First Presbyterian Church. Please indicate on the check that the money is for the Newberg Peace Garden.

But you can also provide tangible gifts in the form of suitable art pieces, fencing, irrigation/sprinklers, benches, trees, flower bulbs, gravel for paths or bark dust for beds. Other gifts could include a pergola, rock or gravel for the amphitheater, or a peace post. Please contact Ciarán Hynes (hynesciaran@gmail.com) to make a donation.

Lastly, your time and labor are wonderful offerings! Volunteers are needed to rake the paths and Zen garden rocks, and now that fall is here, leaf rakers would be greatly appreciated. Watering specific plants/trees, grass mowing, and weed removal are necessary tasks that need doing. Then, when bulbs, trees, or bushes are donated, we need people to plant. Again, check with Ciarán Hynes (hynesciaran@gmail.com) to arrange work parties, or times when you can step in to help. Thanks!



[Click for video on the Peace Garden](#)



Our Church Community: Get Involved!

VOLUME 23
ISSUE 11



CAYAC
(College and Young Adult Community)



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!

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.



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!



Join the
Youth Group

We are excited to begin our new youth ministry this fall! Led by our new youth ministers, Joe & Emily Summers, Youth Group meets every Sunday evening, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, at the church. Our youth ministry is open to ages 11 to 18. Come join us!



Bike Ministry *In partnership with Love INC*

First Presbyterian Church partners with Love INC in providing bikes to eligible clients. 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.

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



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 from 3:30-4:15 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

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 at church 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.



Calling all who love to sing! Our choir, led by Pat Goodman, is always looking for new voices to praise God. Our choir sings two times a month but practices every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.

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!



The Newberg Peace Garden is always looking for volunteers to plant, water, weed, and give our garden the TLC it needs.

If you would like to volunteer, or make a donation to the NPG, please contact Sylvia Burns (secondwindsb@hotmail.com) or Ciarán Hynes (chynes@georgefox.edu.)

November 2023



All Saints Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Adult Education class meets each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Children's Worship happens each Sunday morning. Children will leave Worship right before the sermon and join their teacher for fun and learning!			1 9:00 am- Bike Ministry 12:00 pm- Rotary Club meets 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	2 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship	3 9:00 am- First Friday Prayer Retreat	4 Set your clocks back one hour tonight!
5 Generosity 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 6:00 pm- Youth Group 6:00 pm- CAYAC	6 3:30 pm- Chair Yoga	7 3:00 pm- Worship Committee meets	8 10:00 am- Deacon's meeting 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	9	10 11:00 am- Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship	11
12 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 6:00 pm- Youth Group	13 3:30 pm- Chair Yoga	14 6:30 pm- Session meeting	15 9:00 am- Bike Ministry 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	16 8:00 am- Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm- Finance & Facilities meeting	17 3:30 pm- Mission committee meets	18
19 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 6:00 pm- Youth Group	20 3:30 pm- Chair Yoga	21	22 7:00 pm- Choir Practice	23 	24	25
26 10:30 am- In-Person and Livestream Worship Service 6:00 pm- Youth Group	27 3:30 pm- Chair Yoga	28	29	30		

Birthdays

10- Elijah Chris
 17- Joe Steve
 19- Bob Hamilton
 22- Corban Harwood
 30- Alan Johnsen
 30- Martin Millage

Anniversaries

20- David & Corinne Waterbury
 27- Julie & Brian O'Herin

Upcoming Events

11-4-23 - Daylight Savings time ends tomorrow! Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed tonight. Then you can make Sunday's worship service on time!

11-5-23 - Generosity Sunday: Bring in your church pledges of time, talent and treasure for the coming year. Thank you all for your many gifts! November 5th is also **All Saints Day**, a time for remembering those who have passed away this year. We will honor them during our worship service.



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**

The poem on the front page of this issue was written by Paul Laurence Dunbar, who was born in 1872 and was the author of numerous collections of poetry and prose. He was one of the first African American poets to gain national recognition. The poem is in the public domain.



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.