



# PEW NEWS

A message from Pastor Chris

## *Love and Light*

The Season of Lent is coming earlier than usual this year. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day, February 14th. It is a little ironic that on the day of love, we will also humbly remember the fragility of life. Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, reminds us that "from dust we come and to dust we shall return." Interestingly, what makes love so precious, is that we experience and pursue love while recognizing the vulnerability of our lives? Love feels risky in a world that is so fragile and yet love is what life is really all about.

During this Lenten Season, my sermons will be based on John Philip Newell's book, *The Rebirthing of God*. We will once again spend Lent reflecting on the wisdom of Celtic Christianity. Celtic Christianity reminds us that at the heart of God and all of creation is the gift of love.

I know some people say that love is a lofty word that is used so lightly that it has lost some of its meaning, but for me love remains an exciting word that characterizes the heart of God for you and me. Just as Valentine's Day may be a day that honors love in many forms, so Lent is a church season that invites us to experience God's love in all of its fullness.

I hope this Lent is a time when we can all fall in love with God in a fresh way. As we explore John



## Love and Light

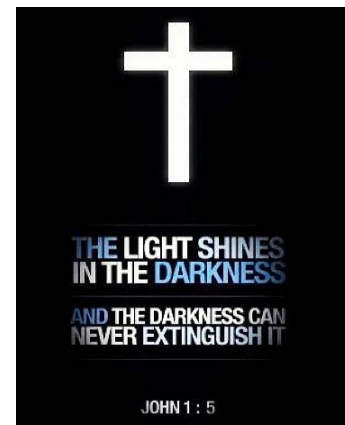
Philip Newell's insights from his book, we will be invited to explore spiritual practices that are contemplative in nature. We will learn to rest in God's love and through experiencing God's love more fully, we will see that love is all around us and that we have the power to love the world, even with all of its sorrow. Another way to talk about seeing God's love is to see the light of Christ.

When a heart falls in love with God it is natural to see the world through the lens of light. Remember the words from the beginning of the Gospel of John.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without

him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

During this Lenten Season, may we embrace God's love and see the light of Christ in one another and the world around us.





## Session Meeting January 9, 2024

A thoughtful devotion was provided by Lish Mannerter.

- Session was informed that Armond Kalesse's memorial service is set for Saturday, Feb. 10th at 2 PM.
- Session approved budget for 2024.
- Annual Congregational Meeting set to take place on Jan. 28th.
- Marc Mannerter is to serve as deacon and Bob Hamilton will serve as elder beginning in 2024.
- We thanked Bob Andrews for serving his term as an elder.
- We reviewed the job descriptions for Student Ministries Director and Children's Ministry Coordinator.
- We reviewed the Living Nativity experience and made suggestions for next year.
- Session approved the KISS AA group to use our church Fellowship Hall for meetings on Friday nights, Saturday nights, and Monday nights.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Godshalk, Clerk of Session  
Rev. Dr. Chris Murphy, Moderator

## COMING UP NEXT MONTH ....

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering that occurs each spring surrounding Easter, in which our Church participates each year.



Your offerings are divided among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. As you know, there are families living in desperate circumstances around the world, as well as here at home. Through this offering, we can all help.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE  
MARCH PEW NEWS!



## Scholarships Available

Are you interested in sending your child to a Christian camp this summer? Camp Tilikum is registering children for this summer right now! Our church has scholarship money available for FPC families who are interested in any of the summer camps available. Just contact Katherine in the church front office for an application. Fill it out and return it to her. She will forward it to the Scholarship committee for approval. It's that easy! Let your child experience the joy of summer camp!



*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 remember the Kalesse family in your prayers as they gather with friends and family to honor Armond's life at his memorial, scheduled on Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 pm.



Please pray for our Session and Deacons, and their new and current members as they lead us, with God's guidance, during this coming year.



We continue to ask for prayers for all who live in war affected places. May God send peace to them and strength, grace and comfort as they face daily hardship and grief. Pray for peace to all as we enter this new year.



**Newberg FISH Emergency Service**  
*Friends in Service to Humanity • Newberg's Food Pantry*

### A note from our Deacons:

The Deacons will be holding a Food Drive for FISH the last two weeks of February. Please bring donations to the church narthex (just outside the sanctuary) Feb. 18th and 25th. You can go to the FISH website or look at the list of foods they recommend to be donated in the narthex, which will be posted on Feb. 11th.

Thank you,  
The Deacons





## An Update From Erik and Maureen York

### Pioneering toward Every

As we train leaders we are always reminding ourselves of both the importance of who we are (identity in Christ) and why we do what we do (mission) toward AIA's vision in the Great Commission: Building movements (multiplying disciples) so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus on every team, in every sport, in every nation. "Every" points to the scope of the mission only God can reach.

*"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: 'Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.'" (Rom. 15:20-21)*

AIA has identified three metro areas where we do not have athletic movements : New York City, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City. This week, we have staff in NY and KS pioneering work meeting campus ministers, athletes, coaches, church and community leaders who could potentially help launch movements.

- Pray for Lee and Kelsey Grander, who are a part of the scouting team in NY. (Lee is in Maureen's team leader coaching group.)
- Biggest prayer request: if the Lord wants them to lead and recruit a team for NY, it would be a clear "yes" for Kelsey
- God would reveal clear people to partner with this week. There are two campus ministers, an athlete, and a church leader they plan to meet.
- George McGovern (AIA director NFL chaplaincy) has NY relationships over many years ministering in the NFL and MLB, pray for connections and wisdom.

*Erik & Maureen*

Thankful for the ways you make it possible for us to invest well in multiplying disciples,



Russ (in Accelerated Leadership cohort), leading in South Africa, recently hosted UTC (discipleship through sport camp) 42 participants from 12 countries

### Surrendered

Erik returned from his Accelerated Leadership conference with thankfulness for time spent with our leaders and hearing from Cru national leaders. This was relational time—but with great purpose. Rather than formal teaching time, we got to hear from our national leaders' hearts, ask questions, and learn from their experiences with the Lord in the midst of leadership—both the inspiring and challenging parts. The word I walked away with was surrendered. I am thankful to be a part of a mission whose leaders walk with the Lord in humility and seek not their own good, but the Lord's glory and purposes. Our younger AIA executive leaders now have deeper relationship on which to build unified and collaborative mission together.

*Thankful for how the Lord uses our surrendered lives for eternal purposes...*



### On a Personal Note:

Maureen's autumn group of new staff going through Introduction to Mission has been a delightfully diverse and dedicated bunch with ethnic backgrounds including Guam, Mexico, China, African American (born in AL in the 50's), and Japanese American, which has contributed to rich conversation and encouragement. Pray that these studies affirm their new calling and that each will fully raise their support so they can report to their ministry assignments.

*Right:* Natassia and three other students from her school got to participate in a regional honor choir (the HS choir was 60 voices)- the performance was phenomenal (including a finale mass choir including grades 5/6 and JH, 200 voices) and a great experience working with excellent directors and musicians.

Recently we received this letter from  
Brian and Julie O:



Dear Partners,

Happy New Year to you all! We trust your Christmas was marked by joy in the Gift of Christ to the world. Joy to the world, the Lord is come Here are some updates:

We enjoyed a rather calm Christmas break here in Los Angeles with Brian's side of the family. But Julie's side up in Oregon has just come through some dicey weather and exciting stories of large falling trees, treacherous but beautiful coatings of ice everywhere, lengthy power outages with accompanying frigid indoor temperatures in the sub-freezing storm, and frozen plumbing adventures. They are now safe and warm, for which we are all thankful. Other friends of ours in Portland had large heavy trees fall on their houses, so they are facing longer-term consequences. Please pray for them. And may we be thankful for the roofs over our heads we so often take for granted.

Julie had the third ultrasound on her leg Monday, and unfortunately the blood clot is still there. Please pray for it to fully dissolve. In better news, Julie has been doing physical therapy for her injured knee, and she is making good progress.

- Genesis is still out for field testing.
- Brian is working steadily on exegeting Exodus and John with the respective translators.
- Psalms is nearly all drafted, and Brian has begun initial glossing into English in preparation for exegesis.
- The Gospel of Mark is now back translated into Russian and currently the consultant is looking over everything. Then the consultant and the translator and Brian will meet and go through the whole book together looking for any places that could be improved. We answer any questions the consultant may have about each passage. We expect to do that final consultant check of Mark in March, and then it should be ready for publication (which has its own stages to go through.)

We have asked for prayer for an increase in partners in our translation work and ministry. We still desire to have more individuals and church groups like you, praying for and undergirding our project and the Abaza people with faithful commitment as you do. As to recent funding, though, we want to joyfully report that in December the Lord provided funds to cover our budget last year! Thank you to all who were part of that huge answer to prayer; praise our faithful God with us for meeting that need!

Thank you for your prayers and support as we partner together for the Lord's work in getting His Good News of Jesus to the Abaza people in their language!

*In Jesus' love,  
Brian and Julie*

## Our Church Life



*New Year's Eve game night! Food and fun...what a great start to the New Year!*

*Congratulations to our new Elder, Bob Hamilton, and Marc Mannetter, our newest Deacon. May God guide you as you both lead and serve our church. We're thankful for your service!*



## Lenten Reflection

(Mark 1:13):

## "Ministered to by the Angels"

Karen Murphy, Ph.D.



As you know, the church will soon begin the season of Lent, the forty days (excluding Sundays) prior to Easter which the early church set aside as a time of preparation to center one's heart, mind, and spirit on the Paschal mystery. The church's choice of forty days is by no means a coincidence. Not only does the number forty remind us of Jesus's extended temptation in the desert, but it additionally intimates passages of significant Old Testament wilderness episodes, namely that of Moses (Ex. 24:18; 34:28), Elijah (I Kings 19:8), and the children of Israel. In Deuteronomy 8:2-3, as Moses prepares the Israelites to enter the land of Canaan, he admonishes the people to remember always that the Lord led them in the desert "to humble [them] and test [them] in order to know what is in [their] heart... [and] to teach [them] that [they] do not live by bread alone." Later in the chapter, he urges the Israelites to remember that their power and strength come from the Lord (Deut. 8:17-18).

In Jesus's quoting of the opening verses of Deuteronomy chapter 8, the reader learns of the broader biblical narrative surrounding Jesus's wilderness experience. Much as the Israelites wanderings took place prior to their entrance into Canaan, Jesus's testing took place prior to the beginning of his earthly ministry. The allusion to Moses's sermon indicates that Jesus too must be tested in order to demonstrate his ability to keep the Mosaic admonitions as a faithful follower of the Israelite tradition. Additionally, the connection between Jesus's desert experience and that of the Israelites

serves to remind us that the power and strength for Christ's earthly ministry came from the same source upon which they relied. It was God who empowered, strengthened, and gave the children of Israel their ability to thrive once they entered the Promised Land. It is the same God who empowered and strengthened Christ, and it is the same God who empowers and strengthens us, leads us out of deserts and into positions and places in which we can thrive.

Moreover, much like the Israelites' wilderness experience, Jesus's time in the desert was not merely a spiritual testing. As Mark indicates in verse 13 of chapter one, we discover that Jesus was "with the wild animals," which, can be noted, were more prevalent in Jesus's day (including lions!) than they are now in Palestine. Thus, in verse 13 we encounter Jesus in the wilderness, tested by Satan, and vulnerable to danger of bodily harm. In any good film, such a scenario as this would be the precursor to highly dramatic scenes in which the protagonist fights for his or her life, yet, as we come to the end of verse 13, we stumble upon this small, seemingly innocuous, yet beautiful phrase "and the angels were ministering to him," (NASV) a phrase which appears to be somewhat of an afterthought.

In Scripture, the protecting and guiding presence of angels is revealed in numerous instances – II Kings 6:16 (Elisha and the army), Psalm 34:7 ("the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him"), Psalm 91:11 ("he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways"), Daniel 3:28 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace), Daniel 6:22 (Daniel in the lion's den), Acts 12:6-11 (Peter

freed from prison), Heb. 11:33, and II Timothy 4:17 to name a few. When angels minister armies are re-routed, fire does no harm, the mouths of lions are closed, prison doors are opened, and those who fear the Lord are surrounded, guarded, and protected from harm. Suddenly those seven words do not seem so little or innocuous anymore! Though in the middle of the desert, surrounded by wild animals, and facing the prospect of physical harm, Jesus was cared for, ministered to, and protected by the angels. The wild animals could no more do harm to Jesus than the fire could burn Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and no more than the lions could turn on Daniel in the lions' den. Though it appeared it might be the end for Jesus, the presence of angels infused hope, security, and peace into what was most certainly a perilous situation.

The Amplified Bible translation elaborates that "the angels ministered continually to [Jesus]." I have a feeling that many of us need to be ministered to continually by the angels during this Lenten season, a season during which we are afflicted by the wild animals of an ongoing pandemic, fear, uncertainty, anxiety, loneliness, chronic pain, illness, stress, boredom, and hopelessness. When angels minister, circumstances may not always change, but the mouths of wild animals are shut, perils are lifted, and we are enveloped in a cocoon of peace, comfort, hope, and safety. In this forty-day season of Lent, may you be ministered to by the angels. May you receive comfort, peace, protection, and hope. May you be guarded in all your ways. May you remember that it is God who empowers, God who strengthens, and God who gives you the ability to make it through each day!



## Our Church Community: Get Involved!

VOLUME 24  
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**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](mailto: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](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!



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 2nd and 4th 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!



### 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.



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](mailto: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.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:secondwindsb@hotmail.com)) or Ciarán Hynes ([chynes@georgefox.edu](mailto:chynes@georgefox.edu).)

# February 2024



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 <b>8:00 am-</b> Men's Fellowship	2 <b>9:00 am-</b> First Friday Prayer Retreat 	3
4 <b>10:30 am-</b> In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  <b>6:00 pm-</b> CAYAC 	5  <b>3:30 pm-</b> Chair Yoga	6	7  <b>9:00 am -</b> Bike Ministry  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Practice	8	9  <b>11:00 am-</b> Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship	10  <b>2:00 pm-</b> Memorial for Armond Kalesse
11 <b>10:30 am-</b> In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  <b>6:00 pm-</b> Youth Group 	12  <b>3:30 pm-</b> Chair Yoga	13  <b>6:30 pm-</b> Session meeting	14 <b>10:00 am-</b> Deacon's meeting <b>6:00 pm-</b> Ash Wednesday Service <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Practice 	15 <b>8:00 am-</b> Men's Fellowship  <b>6:30 pm-</b> Finance & Facilities meeting	16	17
18 <b>10:30 am-</b> In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> 	19  <b>3:30 pm-</b> Chair Yoga	20	21 <b>9:00 am -</b> Bike Ministry  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Practice	22	23 <b>11:00 am-</b> Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship <b>3:30-</b> Mission Committee meeting	24
25 <b>10:30 am-</b> In-Person and Livestream Worship Service  <b>6:00 pm-</b> Youth Group 	26  <b>3:30 pm-</b> Chair Yoga	27	28  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Practice	29		

## Birthdays

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



## Upcoming Events

**2-10-24, 2:00 pm-** Memorial for Armond Kalesse at First Presbyterian Church.

**2-14-24, 6:00 pm-** *Ash Wednesday Service-*  
 Please join us for a short service of reflection as we begin the Season of Lent. During the service, we will receive the imposition of ashes and consider the fragility and sacredness of life. Lent is a period of 40 days of spiritual growth in preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.



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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.