

Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his email:
chrism@newbergfpc.org
or by calling the church office at 503-538-3313

Our website address is : newbergfpc.org



SPRING 2025



A message from Pastor Chris

As I get older, I am learning that my mood and energy are impacted by the seasons of nature. For example, I am more prone to sadness and tiredness in the winter, and I have a perk in my step during spring. Have you ever noticed that the church seasons in many ways mirror the seasons of nature? We especially recognize this during the spring, when we celebrate Christ's resurrection at the very time flowers are blooming.

What is the significance of living by the seasons? Well, one thing to be aware of is that during times when the weather is wet and gloomy, we might choose to be especially gentle with ourselves. This is ideally not the time to take on too much work or responsibilities. It is best in the winter season to slow down and expect less from us and probably from our community. Spring, however, is a season of new life and energy. It is a good time to dream big and start new things. Grace is a good word for any season of life. I once heard the word grace described as the love that picks you up when you are down and the love that lifts you up to greater heights in God's power. How refreshing to know that God is the source of love and grace. As we flow with the seasons, we are invited to flow in a relational experience of God's love.

I want to encourage us in this season of spring, to remember the gift of the resurrection of Jesus. We recently celebrated Easter with our church family

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

THE PREZ



Spring and Resurrection

here at Newberg First Presbyterian. I love this time of year because we always come together to enjoy good food, family, friends, and worship with the wonderful tradition of decorating the cross. This year, we also enjoyed collaborating with a few other churches during Holy Week. How nice to partner with our friends at Newberg Nazarene, Northside Community, and Red Hills.

Spring and Easter remind us to join in unity, love, and grace and open up to all that God wishes to do in our community of Newberg and throughout our world. How might we serve together? How might we worship together? What is God calling us to be and do now?

As usual, I have a few ideas, but I am interested in what we as a community are hearing from the

Holy Spirit. Are we entering a new season of deeper commitment to prayer? How might God wish to use our Newberg Peace Garden as it continues to develop? As we continue our capital campaign, how might a renovation of our Fellowship Hall impact our mission to the community and the support of other ministries at our church like the Newberg Spirituality Center.

Friends, may this spring and early summer open us to new energy and new vision. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ catch us when we fall and lift us up to greater heights in God's power. Let us pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit as we are guided in our mission together.



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
501 MISSION DRIVE
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. PEACE. LOVE.



Peace Garden Update

We are excited to share that the 40 raised bed community vegetable garden part of the Newberg Peace Garden is under construction. Thanks to our partners at GFU and the Austin Family Foundation for the financial support to make this a reality. The need for fresh produce in our local food pantries is greater than it's ever been. Let us know if you'd like to get involved!!!

All are welcome!



Session Meeting
April 8, 2025

The opening devotion was read by our Clerk of Session, Kim Godshalk. The Session continued discussion on the roof project. A new discussion was opened on the Elder and Deacons Retreat agenda and an upcoming possible church survey to assist with church vision work and updated church website.

Our Church in the Community



Thursday, May 1:
National Day of Prayer

Did You Know?

Newberg First Presbyterian Church hosted one of the three prayer gatherings for the Newberg area on this special day. Folks were also encouraged to gather in homes and other public places as their schedules permitted, or even to simply pray over the phone with someone. Our community was asked to join with fellow believers in calling out to God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Newberg Evening Prayer Gathering
Thursday, May 1st at 6 p.m.
Newberg First Presbyterian Church
501 Mission Drive
Newberg, OR 97132



Happy Day!

Eight new members joined our community: (from left to right) Pam Hitt, David Hitt, Alice Council, Chuck Council, Ken Alborn, Joan Thompson, Joan Klinkhammer and Marty Klinkhammer. We welcome all of you to Newberg First Presbyterian and look forward to your contributions to our mission to be a Christ loving church of Grace, Hope, Peace and Love here in Newberg and all of creation.



Well, it's almost that time of year again when our children and youth will be attending Summer Camp. These are such special times growing up, and many of us have very fond memories of times spent at Camp during the summer.

Many activities take place at Camps such as canoeing, swimming, campfires, and other various sporting events. The most significant activity our young people will be involved with involves getting to know the Lord more deeply.

With all of these available opportunities, we would like to remind you that First Presbyterian has summer camp scholarships available. Please request an application from the church office and return completed application by Friday, May 23rd. Academic scholarships are also available and need to be returned by August 8th.

Adult Spiritual Formation



- May 4 Gene Dykema "Infinite Fountain of Life and Love" by Jonathan Edwards
- May 11 Bruce Murphy "Wrestling With God"
- May 18 Rosemary Dykema "Creative and Spiritual Journey": inspired by Madeline L'Engle
- May 25 Holly Shelton (GFU) Peace Garden Project
- May 25 will be our last class before we break for the summer.



Why the [Women's Development Center](#) Matters So Much:

Caroline Kurtz has spent her life walking alongside the people of Maji, Ethiopia —with deep roots, quiet strength, and a vision for sustainable change.

Caroline first arrived in Maji as a young girl as a first grader, when her parents came to help establish a school, a clinic, and a small church. As she returned to teach English in Addis Ababa, she often thought about Maji. After the fall of Ethiopia's communist regime, she returned—wanting to see what remained of her father's work and how the community had endured. What she found were church buildings repurposed as government offices, the school turned into a struggling high school, and homes in disrepair. **Caroline stepped in, not to reclaim the past, but to help rebuild what mattered for the future.**

She worked with church leaders to recover the land, secured support to repair the buildings, and began laying the groundwork for something lasting. **In 2015, she founded Maji Development Coalition (MDC)** in response to a simple yet urgent request: solar lighting for the clinic's delivery room so women didn't have to give birth in the dark.

Since then, this all-volunteer nonprofit has grown into a powerful force for community transformation.

MDC has brought [solar electricity](#) to hundreds of homes and a new regional hospital serving 60,000 people, installed [safe drinking water](#) systems for families in town and in rural areas, and helped establish [women's self-help groups](#) that meet regularly for training, support, and economic opportunity.



Resting in God Spirituality Retreat

SATURDAY, MAY 10 FROM 9-3

\$25 Registration Fee

Scholarships available

Lunch Provided

**Newberg First Presbyterian
501 Mission Drive**

*Many thanks to all who made our
Easter Celebration possible!*

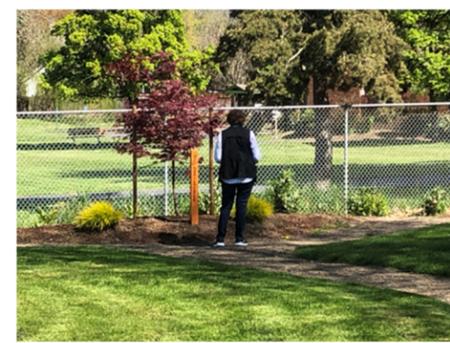
Our Church Life



Anne Poe enjoys Solisto with Pastor Chris



Stations of the Cross



*Bob, Mary and Pastor Chris
Happy 135th Birthday First Prez!*





Our Church Community: Get Involved!



Sunday Morning
Adult Study

Adult Spiritual Formation class is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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 9:00 am at the Cherry Street Bistro. To learn more, please contact Gary Buck

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. 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 Nancy Backes at 509-432-9335.



Friday Prayer Retreat

Join us on the first Friday of each month as we gather together at church from 9:00 am to 1:00 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 (musicdirector@newbergfpc.org) for more information. All are welcome!



Men's Team gets together the 1st Saturday of every month from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Good breakfast, Good friends.

Questions? Contact Jeff McNeal at 503-476-4621



Join the
Youth Group

See Mindi Hynes for details
[mindihynes@gmail.com](mailto:mindhynes@gmail.com)



Space 4 Grace

Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship

Space for Grace is currently on Summer break. 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!



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.)



I am starting to accumulate several pieces around my house containing the word "shalom." As the founder of Shalom Collective, not only do I find myself drawn to things containing the word, but others who know what I have been up to lately are compelled to share what they find too. And so, I have begun a humble collection.

People often ask about my choice of this word for the name of our ministry. Some wonder if we are a Jewish organization. Some have questioned why we didn't just use the word "peace" instead of shalom. Thank you for asking! Here is why...

While "shalom" does mean peace, it contains layers, nuance and depth that a word like "peace" does not. Shalom is the *result of peace*; it is peace fully realized. Shalom means completeness, wholeness, welfare, well-being, safety, prosperity, reconciliation.

At every one of our gatherings, we bring together Christian faith leaders who have otherwise been separated across denominations, traditions or faith practices. We do this intentionally because we believe that we are stronger, more complete, more whole, more shalom...when we are together. Each one provides a fuller picture of what perfect peace can and should look like. Seems counterintuitive these days...and yet, biblical—one body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12).

We also take care of our leaders in embodied ways because the health of the body has a direct impact on our ability to



Rev. Kelly Dickson, Founder

Kelly Dickson is an ordained Presbyterian PC(USA) pastor working on an initiative that supports the creation and facilitation of new worshipping communities. Shalom Collectives is a ministry partner of Newberg First Presbyterian.

23 YEARS with EQUAL EXCHANGE

In April 2002 the Presbyterian Coffee Project began at First Presbyterian. Margie LeMaster introduced the project to the congregation in a 'Moment for Mission' during Sunday service and opened The Coffee Café. Over the many years the Mission Committee has sponsored this project, and Margie has been responsible for it. Last month at the mission committee meeting, Margie requested to be relieved of her duties. The committee desires to see the project continue with the efforts of new leadership. James Wen has volunteered to be the liaison with Equal Exchange and manage the bimonthly case orders. Another is needed to oversee the inventory and sales at the Coffee Cart. Margie is willing to help make for a smooth transition. Contact her or Jan West, Mission Committee chair for additional information.

Thank you Margie for your faithful leadership for 23 years! We are very grateful!

Rev. Kelly Dickson