

# Newberg First Presbyterian Church

SUMMER 2025



# THE PREZ

A message from Pastor Chris

This summer at Newberg First Presbyterian we are enjoying the opportunity to reflect together on some of the healing stories within Scripture. You may wonder why I decided to focus on healing this summer. A couple of reasons.

First, as we entered summer, we were experiencing the season of Pentecost, and I realized that Pentecost and therefore the Holy Spirit gets only a week or so of appreciation within our church calendar. I thought one way we could appreciate the Holy Spirit and Pentecost more would be to keep the liturgical color of red up all summer long and to reflect more on healing, since in Scripture when healings happen the power of the Holy Spirit is at work.

The second reason we are reflecting on healing this summer is that we desperately need it in our lives and in the world. As a child first encountering the Bible, the stories I liked the most were the healing ones. They awed me as I encountered the idea that God became one of us in Jesus and healed the sick and then somehow at times also used regular folks like you and me to heal people as well.

We have this wild idea in the Christian faith that by the power of the Holy Spirit physical and emotional healing are possible. Even whole communities are able to experience healing of some kind by the power of the Holy Spirit. How fun therefore to focus on these



## Summer Healing

stories within Scripture and gain encouragement for our current lives.

At the time you are reading this article, we are close to a month into the summer, and the topic of healing has connected with areas like mental health, physical health, family, relationships, peace, nonviolence, shalom, rest, and community. I am excited for how God might continue to open our hearts through the healing message of the Gospel and how we might experience some form of healing together.

Our hope this summer is to have the healing power of the Holy Spirit support each person in our church. I encourage you to reflect with God on your own feelings about healing. Who in your life needs healing? Where do we need healing in the world? What areas of your own life need healing? I know that seeking

healing from God may seem difficult as times. What if it does not happen the way we hope?

May I suggest that God wants us to pray for healing and to partner in the healing of our world even when it can be scary to hope for this reality. God's grace wishes to hold us on the journey of faith and trust. The Holy Spirit gently keeps us on the path. We do not need to fear. We can dare to hope. May the Holy Spirit become more real to us as we seek healing in our lives and in our world.

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” – Psalm 147:3





### Peace Garden Update

A new addition has been added to the garden. A Jasmine arch! This will be beautiful when the Jasmine plants cover the arch. Thank you to our neighbors for the wonderful gift of the metal arch. Seating to follow.



The Veggie Garden has been planted and there is no better place to grow than in the Newberg Peace Garden! We look forward to harvest and sharing our abundance to help heal hunger in our community.



### June 10, 2025

The opening devotion was read by our Clerk of Session, Kim Godshalk.

Among discussion were plans to solidify language for the church vision and continue with marketing updates like the website and new signage. Discussion included the leak in the Fellowship Hall roof and the subsequent repair. Also discussed was a summary of online payment options. A motion was made to approve the acceptance of the quote to fix the drain areas of the parking lots. New business included motions to approve Beth Stiehler as a new member. Next meeting will be on August 12th.



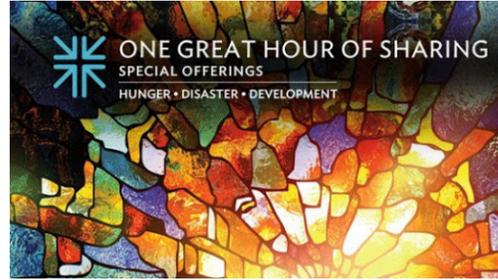
### Newberg Prayer Opportunities

If you are interested in reaching our community in prayer or learning how to pray for others, consider joining the Prayer Tent effort to bring God's truth and love to the streets.

Prayer Tents will be set up at various locations and times during both the McMinnville fair (July 30 - Aug. 2) and the Newberg Old Fashioned Festival the last weekend in July.

If interested, contact [hello@the-vine.org](mailto:hello@the-vine.org) for more information and to sign up. Whether you serve in this way or not, please be praying for the lost to be found in our community. And feel free to stop by for prayer, whether prayer for yourself or if you'd like agreement with your prayer for others!

# Mission News



## The Mission and Global Witness Team

Thank you! & Thank you again!

Your generous response to our two most recent Special Offerings

is most appreciated!

\* **Christmas Joy** – An offering that is divided equally to support pastors and the widows with special needs, and the Five Racial and Ethnic schools sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). – your donation was a generous \$1,125

\* **One Great Hour of Sharing** – An offering that also divides your donations with 36% going to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; 32% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program; and 32% to Self-Development of People. Your donation of \$1,390 will go a long way to help those in need.

Our most generous congregation provides a substantial portion of the Presbyterian (USA) funds to help those less fortunate.



## Tierra Nueva

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Isaiah 55:1

Tierra Nueva's Faith Community is a gathering of people impacted by incarceration, addiction and immigration, who come together to worship Jesus, pray for each other, share communion and explore how the Holy Spirit is leading us through Scripture and the spiritual gifts. All are welcome, regardless of who you are, where you have come from, or how you have been living your life. God's love for us is so strong .

Tierra Nueva is about making disciples of Jesus and raising up shepherds, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who seek after lost sheep until they are found, bringing them back to secure home settings where their return is celebrated among friends and neighbors, and where they pursue their healing, holistic liberation, and transformation.



## Frontier Fellowship

Of the nearly 8.2 billion people alive today, more than two billion have never heard of Jesus. That reality compels us to engage the world's least-reached places, supporting efforts to establish local churches that can proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom to their communities and beyond. We long to see all people, from every distinct group on earth, encounter the grace of God and become thriving expressions of the Body of Christ in their

unique contexts.

# **\$165,000 Total Campaign**

**\$80,000 New Roof**

**\$45,000 A/C in Fellowship Hall**

**\$20,000 Peace Garden Support**

**\$15,000 Mission Pledge**

**\$5,000 Mission Drive Plants or Trees**

## **INVEST IN THE FUTURE**

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR GOAL OF \$165,000 IN 3 YEARS!

**DONATE TODAY!**

# Our Church Life

Liam McNeil Earns Eagle Scout!



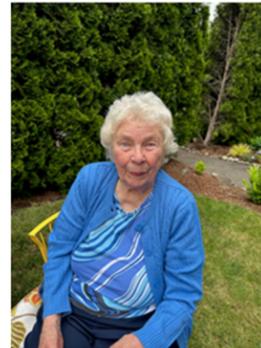
Proud Mama Kat!



Pastor Chris and Ron enjoy some DQ!



## June in the Peace Garden



Spirituality Retreat - thanks Lori!





### 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](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!



#### 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](mailto: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 meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 11:00. 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](mailto:secondwindsb@hotmail.com)) or Ciarán Hynes ([chynes@georgefox.edu](mailto:chynes@georgefox.edu).)

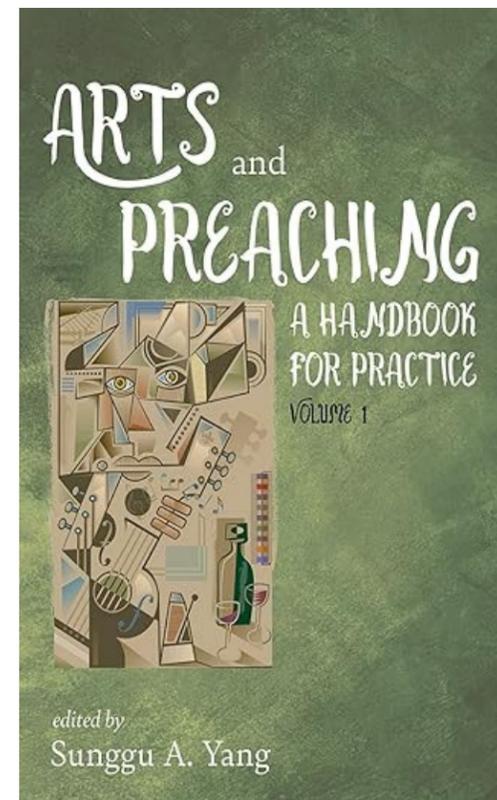


*Arts and Preaching:*  
***A Handbook for Practice - Vol. 1***

Did You Know? - Pastor Chris spent time last year contributing a chapter to a newly published book, “Arts and Preaching: A Handbook for Practice, Vol. 1”. The book is a guide that integrates various art forms with the practice of preaching. The handbook presents an approach that incorporates artistic elements such as painting, architecture, fashion, film, and theater into sermon delivery. It aims to provide preachers with methods for engaging contemporary audiences through multisensory experiences and creative practices, enhancing the communication of religious messages.

The handbook examines how sensory engagement and interactive experiences influence preaching in the current era. Featuring contributions from preachers and academics, it discusses ways to apply the intersections of art and homiletics to communicate theological concepts. Each chapter considers different art forms as avenues for expressing the gospel message. Intended for preachers interested in integrating artistic expressions into their sermons, Arts and Preaching: A Handbook for Practice offers practical perspectives on enriching worship and encouraging deeper congregational involvement through the arts.

Pastor Chris authored the chapter “Preaching and Film”. The book is currently available on Amazon and other booksellers. We congratulate Pastor Chris on this achievement and thank him for contributing his knowledge and experience to help other pastors spread the Good News of the Gospel.



Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his email:  
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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. PEACE. LOVE.