

Newberg First Presbyterian Church

AUTUMN 2025



THE PREZ

A message from Pastor Chris

What if the nature of God is grace? Does that sound surprising? I think this understanding of God may change everything. Friends, the word grace is very similar to the concept of God's unconditional love. Grace is defined as unmerited favor. It relates to the word *charis* in Koine Greek, which is the word for God's gifts to us. God gives us spiritual gifts and the gift of God's presence. We do not earn God's gifts. We are offered them daily because God is by nature loving and wishes to show us love. When we begin to realize that God is for us and wants to help us through the joys and trials of life with grace, we begin to relax.

Every September I start a new sermon series to help our church community remember our identity and mission. Our church mission statement is as follows: "We are a Christ centered church of grace, hope, peace, and love committed to the mission of the gospel in Newberg and throughout the world." Last fall I preached on peace and love. I reminded us that we really are a bunch of Christian hippies:) This fall I want to remind us of what it means to be a church of grace and hope.

I am preaching on grace throughout the month of September. In October we will talk about hope and particularly how the words faith and hope go together. My desire in preaching on these words is that we will grow even closer as a church community and be more faithful to our mission together.



Grace and Hope

Being part of a church community is a lot like being part of a big family. God our Holy Trinity are our parents. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we have a common mission of showing love to our world. But love begins with receiving grace and hope from God. We must receive in order to give.

For me this invitation to receive is comforting. As we begin a new fall season, we do not need to force our growth or mission efforts. Instead, we can rest in the love of God. We can receive the gift of grace and let it overflow in our mission of being a Christ centered church of grace, hope, peace, and love.

As we begin a new school year, I am reminded that at the heart of our church's identity is spiritual formation. Not all of us are in educational settings all the time, but together within our church we are

continually formed by our learning through God's grace. I like to think of our congregation as a spiritual formation church. We worship weekly, have retreats, and learn through Adult Formation, youth gatherings, Men's and Women's gatherings, and Children's Worship. We are constantly growing together as we grow in love with God, ourselves, one another, and our world. May we enjoy a new season of being church family for one another!



PEACE GARDEN COMMITTEE — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking to form a committee to oversee the Peace Garden and are looking for members to join the committee, with a minimum of one year commitment and a monthly committee meeting, in addition to other tasks including:

- Fundraising/Grant writing
- Web and Social Media contact
- Vegetable garden volunteers
- Maintenance and repair
- Events coordination

For details please contact Ciaran Hynes at ciaran@newbergpeacegarden.org.



The Veggie Garden keeps pumping out good food! Many pounds of fresh produce have been donated to local food banks. Thank you to all the volunteers whose care and hard work make this possible. If you'd like to join in the fun, consider being a garden volunteer! See Ciaran Hynes or contact the office for info.



Sept 9, 2025

The opening devotion was read by Jeff McNeal.

At the recent Session meeting, we welcomed visitors Jessica and Jason Fredrickson. A motion was made and passed to accept them into membership. Session discussed visioning for the fall and approved forming a Peace Garden committee. In addition, we discussed that there will be a sign up sheet for recommendations of new deacons and elders. We are also hiring two new Childcare Providers.

Next meeting is Oct. 14th at 6:30 pm.



Newberg Prayer Opportunities

Save the Date:

* Friday, October 10, 2025 **ADORE 10.0**: Lifting Jesus up at a community-wide time of worship, prayer, and celebration! 7:00 pm Newberg Friends Church. This will be followed by the grand opening of the Community Prayer Room at **510 E. 1st St.**, and 36 hours of prayer.

* 8 p.m. Friday through 8 a.m. Sunday, October 10-12, 2025 **36 hours of prayer** at the new community prayer room.



Memories



Our Church Life

Picnic in the Peace Garden



Ron and Pastor Chris



Caroline Kurtz at Friendsview



Thank You Brian and Julie!!!





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

garyb@newbergfpc.org 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

The Gathering WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP



The Gathering meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 6:45 -8:45 pm at Gina Chandler's home in Dundee. Together, we'll build community, grow in faith, and encourage one another. Bring your Bible (and a journal if you like). No homework-just come as you are.



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) or Ciarán Hynes (chynes@georgefox.edu.)

George Fox Serve Day

On Tuesday, September 10th, Newberg First Presbyterian Church was honored to host George Fox University students and employees for the annual Serve Day.

The morning began with donuts shared in fellowship before the students rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Teams tackled weeding in the Peace Garden labyrinth and flower beds, while others assisted with cleaning the exterior of the church building.

Marc Mannerter and Pastor Chris helped lead the work crews, ensuring that the projects were completed with energy and joy. Their guidance, along with the students' enthusiasm, made for another successful Serve Day.



Deacons Share Gratitude with Local Responders

On September 11th, Paula Buck and Di Murphy, through the leadership of our Deacons, delivered pies to local first responders. This gesture of thanks was a way to show our deep appreciation for their ongoing service and care for our community.

The gift of pies was warmly received and served as a reminder that our church family values the dedication and sacrifices made by those who keep us safe. We are grateful to Paula, Di, and the Deacons for making sure our appreciation was both heartfelt and delicious!



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



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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GRACE. HOPE. PEACE. LOVE.