



Newberg First Presbyterian Church  
501 Mission Dr. • Newberg, OR 97132 • 503-538-3313

# PEW NEWS

A message from Pastor Chris

## *Sabbath and Sabbatical Rest*

As many of you know, I will be beginning a three-month sabbatical this summer on June 1st. This will be a time for me to rest and deepen my connection with God, myself, and my family. You will likely see me around Newberg, but I will not be participating in our community worship on Sundays during the summer. My first Sunday back will be Sept. 8th.

It will be hard for me to take a break from attending our church, but the purpose of my sabbatical will be to give me restoration as your pastor, so I come back more refreshed and with stronger vision to partner with you in leading our church community.

During my time away, our church will be in the highly capable hands of Lish Mannerter and Mary Kalesse. Lish will serve as our Worship Coordinator and Mary will be our Congregational Care leader. What this means is that if you have a pastoral need, call Mary. If you have questions related to the worship service, contact Lish. Our other staff, youth leaders Joe and Emily Summers, Children's Ministry Coordinator Angela Greenbaum, Childcare Provider Lewis Thurston, Office Manager Katherine Millage, and Music Director Pat Goodman will also be supporting activities and normal church life during the summer. My daughter Cate will continue to serve as our Facilities Manager.

In the book of Genesis, chapter 2, verses 2 and 3 we read,



## Sabbath and Sabbatical Rest

“On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So, God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.”

These short verses at the beginning of the Bible set the stage for a practice among the Hebrew people called the sabbath. In the Jewish tradition sabbath begins on Friday night and goes until Saturday evening. Christians moved the sabbath to Sunday as a way to honor the resurrection of Jesus.

Whether the sabbath is practiced among Jews or Christians they share the same values of rest and worship of God. The sabbath is a day we dedicate to the Lord. It is a time of rest, so that we learn to

trust God with our lives and so that we also embrace our need to slow down, pray, and enjoy the gift of connection with those closest to us. Sabbatical is an extended time of rest inspired by the weekly practice of the sabbath.

I hope the remainder of this spring and the summer will provide some needed rest and relaxation for all of us. May this season when the weather is especially nice in Oregon help us enjoy God, God's creation, and one another. On May 12th, Mother's Day, I am going to share more details about my plans for the summer. Our family will be doing some traveling, but will also be intentionally living here in Newberg in a relaxed way. Please be in prayer for me and my family this summer and I will be praying for you.



## Stated Session Meeting

April 9, 2024

### SESSION MEETING

Kim Godshalk offered a thoughtful devotion.

- We welcomed Jan West and with gratitude, accepted her into membership.
- Pastor Chris highlighted in his pastor's report a joyful Easter and the new Stations of the Cross in the Peace Garden.
- Ciaran Hynes reported that the Peace Garden received a \$10,000 grant from the Austin foundation. Work has started on the amphitheater. Ciaran proposed a Peace Garden committee to coordinate activities. He also proposed a separate website with photos, history, event calendar and perhaps a booking portal in the future. Session approved the website idea.
- Mission & Global Witness collected for One Great Hour of Sharing and will collect for Pentecost Offering in May.
- We are happy to share that Nancy Backes has agreed to support our bike ministry. Session expressed gratitude for the faithful service of Elise Prayzich and Lois MacLean.
- We are grateful to welcome Loraine Sarnacki as our new Financial Secretary.
- Session will have special May 14th combined meeting with Deacons.
- On May 19th we will celebrate Pentecost with a special Youth and Family service.

Respectfully submitted,

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



### A FOCUS ON YOUTH!

The PC(USA) invites us to participate in four special offerings each year. In the past we've always chosen to support just three.

This year we'll add the fourth – the PENTECOST OFFERING **Focusing on Youth**, the future of our church at home and abroad. Traditionally it is received in May and is divided into four parts.

**Our congregation retains 40%** - A boost to our new youth gatherings led by Joe and Emily Summers – **THANK YOU!!**

**25% will be sent on to our higher offices** for youth programs farther from home.

**25% supports ministries with youth ages 12-18**, and those called to accompany them with focus on the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

**25% goes to support the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience** to train and equip volunteers who work with youth in the US and around the world.

**10% SUPPORTS THE "EDUCATE A CHILD, TRANSFORM THE WORLD"** national initiative to better the lives of children by advocating to ensure equitable, accessible quality education.

We hope our congregation will respond, as you always do, with enthusiasm to this new-to-us special offering! Thank you!

*The Mission & Global Witness committee*



The Deacons are collecting NEW items for Henderson House in McMinnville,

OR. from now until May 19th. Items needed are Gift cards, Hygiene Items, Cleaning Products, Paper Goods, Children's Items, Bed and Bath, and Kitchen Items.

Henderson House advocates provide domestic violence, sexual assault, and human sex trafficking response and advocacy, crisis intervention, emergency 30 day shelter, a 24 hour crisis line, coordinated wrap around service referrals, support groups, bilingual Spanish services, and youth outreach.

Please keep in mind that Henderson House only accepts NEW items). You can go to their website ([hendersonhouse.org/donate/](http://hendersonhouse.org/donate/)) to see the comprehensive list of specific items. There is also a link to click on to see a comprehensive list of needs.



*If you are in need of prayer or know someone who is, the front office so that you can be added to our prayer list and thus served by our congregation.*



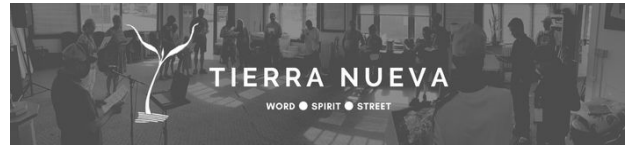
Please keep Simonsen family, Tim and Pam Weaver, and Sharon Riha in your prayers as they celebrate and remember the remarkable life of Roberta Simonsen. The memorial will be held at the church on Saturday, May 11th at 2:00 pm.



Pray also for the Loeks family as they celebrate the life of Wilma Loeks. Wilma was a long time member and raised her family in our church. Her memorial will be held at our church on Saturday, May 5th at 2:00 pm.



*Lise Bennett is on staff at Tierra Nueva, working with Bob and Gracie Ekblad.*



## The Creative Love of Jesus

*By Lise Bennett*

The past few weeks at Tierra Nueva we have been exploring creative ways Jesus is likened and referred to in the Bible, and what that means to us as followers of Jesus's way.

We talked about Jesus as the light of the world and how we are the light of the world, Jesus as living water and how that living water flows in and through us, and the love of God that is poured out to us through Jesus, and how we can share that love with those around us. After each time of teaching we have done an activation. To represent the light of the world, we engaged in a candle lighting; for living water, everyone did a visual art piece; and for God's love, we wrote a special card to someone to share God's love with them.

As we engaged in these creative acts, I was reminded of how God is still creating in this world and in each of us. The creative love of Jesus has transformed and empowered people in ways that are unique to each person and their stories. I think of dear ones in the Tierra Nueva faith community to whom God's love has been shown by the healing of body and mind. There are others, no less loved, who have been given strength to walk through difficult situations, and how the ever present love of God has never left their side.

During prayer time, people are invited to share what they are thankful for, and share things for

which they need prayer. We are seeing answered prayers in ways that we could not have imagined, and the creative love and provision of Jesus is apparent. We also continue to pray for needs that have not yet been met, mourn collectively for losses, and the love of God is in the midst of being together in sorrow, grief and suffering.

Every week, brothers and sisters, weary from life, walk through the doors of our TN building to find rest and peace in a place where they are welcomed and included. After the service, we often eat meals together, always making room at the table, sharing God's love freely, as it has been freely given to us. The creative love of Jesus is tangible in the conversation and connection in the midst of our meeting and fellowship. That is God's love at work, wrapping often battle-scarred people in love and community.

When we did the visual art activity, it was messy, some people were unsure of the process, and each person's creation was vastly different from all the others. Yet each one was beautiful, and we did them together. The creative love of God is transforming lives in these same ways. The process is messy at times, and as we go through life, sometimes we are unsure of what is to come, and everyone has different needs and desires for their unique situation. God is creating something beautiful in each and every person. God's love is creating and transforming us in vastly different ways. We respect and celebrate the differences and diverse ways God is at work in our lives. We



are invited to walk alongside God and each other through a things that can be messy and unexpected, but as we surrender our lives, our hurts, and our burdens, we can trust God and experience God's creative love uniquely transforming each of us each step of the way.

Your generous support helps us continue this ministry. If you wish to donate, please click [here](#).



## *News from the Yorks!*

### Scouting Trips

"We have recently had events in Oklahoma City and New York City and have been extremely encouraged by their success! We found multiple athletic directors on campuses in OKC that said, "We want AIA here now!" Additionally, at a recent launching event in NYC, over 30 people attended, and most indicated their willingness to help with prayer, resources, connections and/or volunteer time!" Continue to pray for our launch teams.

York News continued-

## GO '24 Has Begun

GO '24 is AIA's intentional international sending emphasis. Usually people think in terms of summer missions teams, but opportunities are opening throughout the year. Please be praying for teams going to the world in March to South Africa (Phil, staff care trip to our long term partnership team); Albania (preparation trip for Karen, who plans to serve there long term, 2 possible team members going too); South Asia (Casey and Trinity, Volleyball); Florence, Italy (Lee); Caribbean (Austin); Zagreb, Croatia (Brooke); San Juan, Puerto Rico (Mindy); Rome, Italy (Ivey); Argentina (Tim and Ted, Baseball, invited by national leaders to run leadership camps in the future); Torino, Italy (Jamie & Luke, establishing a long term partnership with national staff). The people mentioned are leading those trips, others are going with them. Pray for the Lord to guide for knowing where each place/people are in the process of building multiplying disciples, how to partner well and honor local leaders, that they

would be filled with the Spirit and humble as they lead.

## Discerning Conversations

We have been finding ourselves in conversations helping staff relate well with others with whom they have disagreement. We have been reminding them of things they learned in their new staff Bible classes: the distinction of beliefs on a conviction level (primary beliefs concerning salvation) and persuasions or opinions (secondary beliefs we may have values or preferences that are different, but we can love and serve alongside one another). Regardless of differences, pray that we will live out a healthy and gracious posture toward people. Pray for us as these conversations can be emotionally draining and sometimes come at unplanned times. Some of the questions that have been helping us process with people:

- What do I agree with? What do I disagree with? Does it line up with the God's word?
- How do I practice discernment,

avoid thinking someone is all good or all bad?

- How do I process this? Who can help me? If this disagreement is in a personal relationship, how can I express my thoughts, values and feelings in ways that move toward relationship and not isolation?

In these days and times, may Christ will be glorified and shine brightly through our staff as we humbly walk with the Lord and courageously proclaim the gospel. Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Erik & Trause*

*On the Side:*

*Natassia has decided to attend Miami University (OH, not FL) in the fall, general Arts and Sciences at this point, she is most interested in English, Fine Arts and French.*



News from Caroline Kurtz:



## *More about the water project:*

Šira (work) wasn't over for the men when the spring was covered, the reservoir built and the pipe unspooled! Ato Markos had been worried that the men would grow weary and quit before trenching was done, but instead they threw themselves into the sira, showing up by flashlight to dig before going to their farms for the day's tasks. They dug about five miles of trench for the pipes!



*See how she got dressed up with a wreath again for her photo!*

In their thank-you ceremony, the communities that MDC brought water to gave me a gift--a beautiful little heifer! People in the US all asked me, "What did you name her?" It made me laugh because I never once thought of naming her! The Dizi (dee-zee) people of Maji are cattle people. A cow is wealth, money in the bank--and a heifer is an interest-bearing savings account! But I've named my cow now, to be more culturally appropriate here.

She is Shilamot, the word for a prize.

Shilamot has now been walked the 15 miles up the mountainside to the MDC office and guest house compound. She'll live a long and happy life there, I hope!

# Our Church Life



Nell Greybeck turned 102 on March 28th! A special party was held for her on Bright Sunday, complete with birthday cake and roses. Everyone gathered together during fellowship in celebration of this most wonderful lady! Nell, we wish you another happy and blessed year!



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, generous congregation, for your offerings to the One Great Hour of Sharing at Eastertime.

We are able to send \$1,422 to our Presbyterian Church (USA) "headquarters" for the work of the church, serving people in need at home and abroad – this year, most specifically, Ukraine!

The offerings are divided as: 36% is received by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, while Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program each receive 32%!

Thank you all so much!  
The Mission and Global Witness Committee



Youth Group will be meeting the last two times this school year on May 12th and 26th and then we're off for the summer.

Youth Sunday is coming up on May 19th (Pentecost Sunday) and we're excited to

have some of the students involved in the service. Please join us as in this church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Heads up for the summer! We'll be doing three events this summer that we'll announce soon, but save the date of June 21st for the first one!

## Care Team Ministry



The church Care Team needs more members! If you can contact someone who's ill or homebound once every couple of weeks and just see how they're doing, let me know. It's not time consuming and you'll maybe get to know somebody new. Contact Corinne Waterbury at 503-997-2048 or [cawater@msn.com](mailto:cawater@msn.com) if you are interested in joining us!

### CARE TEAM MISSION STATEMENT

*The Care Team is designed to nurture relationships with people who are no longer or rarely able to attend church. Contacts are made via phone calls, sending cards and visiting them.*

The duties of a Care Team member are simple:

- Contact "clients" every two to three weeks. This can be done as described in the mission statement, or if you ascertain other ways of communication, that's fine. Make it clear that you are the main contact for church requests.
- At some point, send a card with your contact information in case they don't have a church directory
- If people need help, contact the Deacons. If they have prayer requests, you can pass those on to the "Pew News" or Chris for inclusion in the "Prayer Requests" part of the service.
- Some people will say they want to see Chris. The Care Team is designed to take a burden off Chris, as there is only so much of him to go around. But you can pass these requests along to Chris if it seems appropriate (end of life concerns etc.)



## Scholarships Available



Are you interested in sending your child to a Christian camp this summer or attending college in the fall? 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. And don't forget about college! We have college scholarships that are available as well. Think ahead to fall—could a scholarship help you pursue your studies? Again, contact Katherine in the front office. But be fast—the **deadline to turn in all scholarship applications is Sunday, May 19th.**



## Our Church Community: Get Involved!

VOLUME 24  
ISSUE 5



**CAYAC**  
(College and Young Adult Community)



**Sunday Morning  
Adult Study**

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 Mindi Hynes and the education

Committee. 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**

**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 for our new youth ministry this year! 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!



*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.



### **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](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).)

# May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Adult Education class meets each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. <b>Note: class is cancelled for May 26th.</b></p> <p>Children's Worship happens each Sunday morning. Children will leave Worship right before the sermon and join their teacher for fun and learning!</p>			<p>1 9:00 am –Bike Ministry</p>	<p>2 8:00 am– Men's Fellowship</p>	<p>3 9:00 am– First Friday Prayer Retreat</p> 	<p>4</p>
<p>5 10:30 am– In-Person and Livestream Worship Service</p>  <p>6:00 pm- CAYAC</p>	<p>6 3:30 pm– Chair Yoga</p>	<p>7 2:00 pm–Worship Committee meeting</p>	<p>8 10:00 am– Deacon's meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 11:00 am– Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 10:30 am– In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Choir sings 6:00 pm- Youth Group</p> 	<p>13 3:30 pm– Chair Yoga</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm– Session meeting</p>	<p>15 9:00 am –Bike Ministry</p> <p>7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 8:00 am– Men's Fellowship</p> <p>6:30 pm- Finance &amp; Facilities meeting</p>	<p>17 3:30 pm– Mission Committee meeting</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 10:30 am– In-Person and Livestream Worship Service Pentecost Sunday Youth &amp; Families Sunday</p> 	<p>20 3:30 pm– Chair Yoga</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11:00 am– Space 4 Grace Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 10:30 am– In-Person and Livestream Worship Service No Adult Ed. 6:00 pm– Youth Group</p> 	<p>27                        3:30 pm– Chair Yoga</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 pm- Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Mother's Day

## Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, May 19th** is a busy Sunday! Firstly, it is Pentecost Sunday, the day set aside to honor the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' Apostles.

**May 19th** is also Youth and Families Sunday when we collect the Pentecost offering which is then used to unite us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

**And finally, May 19th** is the deadline for submitting applications for scholarships for both summer camp attendees, and college students looking forward to fall.



Birthdays		
	14– Liz Zion	22– Nigel Swehla
6– Loraine Sarnacki	19– Jennie Delano	23– Steve Seaquist
8– Katherine Millage	19– Joyce Meyersick	28– Diane Murphy
	21– Angela Spohn	

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Pastor Chris Murphy may be reached at his email:

[chrism@newbergfpc.org](mailto:chrism@newbergfpc.org)

or by calling the church office at 503-538-3313

Our website address is : **newbergfpc.org**



NEWBERG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
501 MISSION DRIVE  
NEWBERG, OR 97132



GRACE. HOPE. LOVE.