

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

April 2022

Shut-In of the Month

Faye & James Hill

Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session in March:



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, please email, text, or call **Marc Faulkenberry** or **Pastor Seth**, and it will be distributed via email.

prayers4newberry@gmail.com

██████████ (cell)

sethyi1969@gmail.com

██████████ (cell)

Prayer List

Mark McGuffee, James Hill, Vernetha Renwick, Richard Lominick, Dottie Price, Lillian Price, Jean Williamson

1. The February Financial Report and March Diaconate minutes were received as information. The March Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
3. Marc F. presented the Missions Committee's fund supporting plan for 2022.
4. Marc F. gave a report of the March 8 Presbytery meeting.
5. An amended version of the FoG's questions for communicant membership was approved for use with youth candidates.
6. An Easter Sunrise Service with a brunch following was approved. No SS for that morning.
7. The April stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 12th.

If you have any questions, please speak with an elder.

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:25 am

Cong. Assembly

(2nd & 4th Sundays)

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:10 pm

Family Feast

7:40 pm

Choir Practice



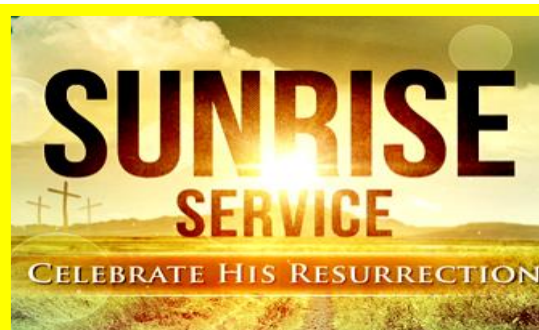
April 14, 6:30 PM

Come celebrate the Lord's Supper as we gather for this holy service of worship.

FINANCIAL DATA as of March 27, 2022

Budget Receipts \$ 42,798.14

Budget Needs \$ 44,109.52



On Easter morning, 9 AM, we will gather in the Church Courtyard to celebrate in song Christ's resurrection. Afterwards we will enjoy brunch in the Fellowship Hall.

For the Sake of Conscience

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. - *Romans 13:5*

In verse four, Paul has warned his readers about the wrath of God rightly being administered to those who do evil. God has equipped and authorized the civil authority with the "sword" to prevent evildoers from pursuing bad conduct and to punish evildoers who have (13:4). Therefore, if for no other reason than to avoid retributive punishment, Christians should pursue good conduct (13:3).

As an expression of God's common grace, civil authority is designed and instituted to promote the order, peace, civility, and justice of society. Even when a governing authority does not fully embrace or submit to the Bible as the final authority of righteousness and truth, it is generally better for a society to have a "servant of God" in this function than not. Unfortunately, until the new heavens and the new earth, no civil government will totally reflect God's righteousness; but if no civil authority exists, then every man will do what is right in his own eyes, which will lead to anarchy and social disorder. Moreover, in such a society, "might makes right" and eventually totalitarianism will develop in which those with the might dictate those without. Therefore, some form of civil government is naturally better than not having one at all.

So in this verse, Paul reiterates the necessity, "must be," for Christians to submit to civil authority. Doing so will alleviate unnecessary conflict and pain. If we are going to suffer, we should do so for the sake of righteousness and as witnesses of Christ not as an evildoer under the sword of God's wrath (1 Pet 4:15). Christians who seek to live peaceably (Rom 12:18-21), doing good to all men, may in some situations still suffer injustice and even persecution, but we are, as much as it is within our ability, without disobeying God, to be model citizens. We are to seek the welfare of our earthly city (Jer 29:7) living as Christ's witnesses and servants. In the latter half of this verse, Paul adds a distinctly Christian reason for submitting to rulers. While the unbeliever may be motivated to submit to civil authorities to avoid punishment, merely out of self-preservation and personal interest, we have a much more virtuous and spiritual motivation, namely to honor God. Paul expresses this notion with the phrase "for the sake of conscience." For Christians, being in subjection to "God's servant" is a part of our sanctification.

Earlier in Rom 2:14-15, Paul referred to the conscience as that inner awareness of right and wrong that God has written on every man's heart. As image-bearers of God, all men have been endowed with a conscience. That being said, not everyone's consciences are equal. The conscience can be enlivened towards or hardened against God based on one's responses to truth and illumination. Christians who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, submit to the authority of the Bible, and are being renewed in the inner man, will have their consciences shaped ac-

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According to the mind of Christ (Rom 12:2). As we mature in sanctification, our ability to discern and reflect biblically on life’s situations will be sharpened. Moreover, our capacity to receive and apply the Word of God to our lives will increase and become more regular. Our conscience becomes more attentive and responsive to the will of God (1 Pet 2:19) so that we submit to rulers not simply as men but as the servants of God.

This maturation of the conscience is not only vital to submitting to rulers but if and when the time comes to obeying God rather than men. A biblically trained conscience has neither a higher nor a lower estimation of the civil government than as warranted by God. The conscience is not a separate dimension or operation of the believer but the byproduct of a genuine relationship with God. It is nurtured and strengthened by the will of God. Therefore, whenever civil disobedience becomes a necessity, the believer’s conscience is not bruised or suppressed, but it affirms what is honoring to the Lord regardless of the temporal suffering that may be endured. Consistently walking in step with the Holy Spirit not only enables us to submit to the servant of God but also to know when the servant has rebelled against God so that we resist his godless tyranny. On such occasions, submission to God is necessary and right. May we know when that time comes and the boldness to serve Him alone.

Pastor Seth

2022 Sanctuary Flower List

April 3	Mary Baker	August 21	Jennings
April 10	Eising	August 28	OPEN
April 17	Easter - Morning Circle	September 4	Norman Bunn
April 24	Seigler	September 11	OPEN
May 1	Mary S. Hanna	September 18	Mary Baker
May 8	Jennings	September 25	Faulkenberry
May 15	Julia Rikard	October 2	Julia Rikard
May 22	McRacken	October 9	McRacken
May 29	Avery	October 16	Morning Circle
June 5	Wicker	October 23	OPEN
June 12	Avery	October 30	OPEN
June 19	OPEN	November 6	OPEN
June 26	Shirley Mohler	November 13	Dottie Price/Carolyn Fulmer
July 3	OPEN	November 20	Kelly Rose/Laura Lemay
July 10	Avery	November 27	Seigler
July 17	Judy Harmon	December 4	Shirley Mohler
July 24	OPEN	December 11, 18, 25	Poinsettias
July 31	Jennings		
August 7	Jean Williamson	Sanctuary Windows (Nov. 27) Shirley Mohler	
August 14	Dottie Price/Carolyn Fulmer	Sanctuary Outside (by Dec. 4)	

News from Your Missions Committee

Our church missions budget has increased substantially over the past several years, indicating that our congregation has a heart for missions. In 2014, our congregation budgeted \$4,800 for missions which was split between the Denominational Ministry Fund and Missions, representing about 3% of our total budget at the time. By 2019, our missions giving had increased to \$10,800, or about 6% of our overall budget.

With conscientious stewardship in other areas of our budget, we were able to increase our giving to missions in 2022. Our Missions budget has increased to \$18,000, or just over 10% of our total budget.

But these budget numbers only reflect a portion of our overall giving to missions. The Women's Ministry, the Friendship Class, and various individuals have given over and above our budget to such ministries as Camp Joy, the Interfaith Community Services Emergency Relief, Bonclarken, and the Nurse Scholarship Fund. Every year the Women's Ministry host our Jubilee Birthday Celebration in August which raises additional money for missions.

Our church has also recently participated with CEF Good News Clubs and the Backpack Program at Newberry Elementary School, local food banks, FCA, and the Free Medical Clinic.

Our Missions Committee desires to accomplish several things this year:

- Boost awareness of various missions opportunities and needs to our congregation.
- Allocate the funds for our missions budget early in the year.
- Contact and encourage the missionaries we support as a congregation.
- Support "Gospel centered" ministries for local missions.
- Have special collections for specific ministries throughout the year.

Some of the **highlights** of our missions giving for 2022 are as follows:

\$2000	Support the Thomases in Germany (World Witness missionaries)
\$2000	Support Erskine RUF Ministry (Second Presbytery, Rev. Jonathan Cook)
\$1500	Support Wittes in Toledo, Spain (World Witness missionaries)
\$1500	Support Cottens with MT3 (World Witness missionaries)
\$1200	Support LifeBridge of SC (Newberry County)
\$1200	Support Sahiwal Nursing Scholarship (Pakistan, World Witness ministry)

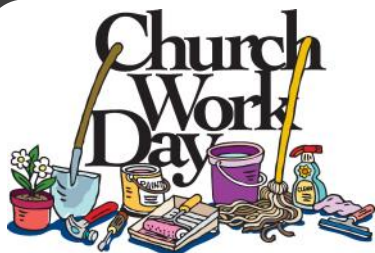
We are also continuing to look for opportunities to serve our community locally.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our committee, please contact your committee members: Janet Porth, Julia Rikard, Kristy Jennings, Jason and Tracie McCoy, or me.

Looking forward to what the LORD will do through our faithful stewardship and giving.

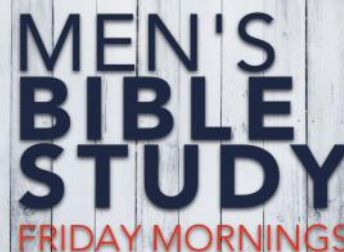
Blessings!

Marc Faulkenberry



The Diaconate has scheduled a Church Work Day for Saturday, **April 9**, starting at **9:00 AM**. Various projects in and around the church will be planned. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM. Working together is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others better.

On Friday mornings, 6:45 AM, several men gather at Doug Wicker's home for a time of food, fellowship, Bible Study, and prayer. Pastor Seth leads an interactive study (currently *Jeremiah*). Email Doug to be added to the weekly reminder.



MEN'S
BIBLE
STUDY
FRIDAY MORNINGS



All singles and widows are invited to share in this monthly fellowship following the worship service at the Pastor's home. We will meet on April 10th.

SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on the 2nd and 4th **Sundays** of the month from **10:25 AM** to **10:50 AM** to nurture *koinonia* with one another. Drinks and refreshments are provided.

Wednesday Night Family Feast

Sharing a meal, nurturing intergenerational relationships, praising the Lord in song, studying the Larger Catechisms, and seeking the Lord in prayer. These are some of the blessings we enjoy on Wednesday nights (6:10 PM). Join your church family and grow in faith and love for one another!

On April 27, Ben & Trish Alexander (WW candidates) will share about their desire to serve long-term in Chelmsford, England with a church where Ben has been called as an associate minister. They have four children: Haddon (11), Piers (8), Charlotte (6), and Swithin (2). In 2021, Ben graduated from Gordon Conwell Seminary and was licensed by the Catawba Presbytery.

Women's Ministry

Our theme Scripture for 2022: "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, how long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21a (ESV)

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages, equips, and connects the community of ARP women to minister together for God's glory and purpose.

Our desire is that all women in the ARP Church will: Know Jesus Intimately, Love Jesus Faithfully, and Serve Jesus Fruitfully.

*The Morning Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 5** at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will be studying the parables, "The Unjust Judge" Luke 18:1-8 and "The Good Samaritan" Luke 10:25-37. We will conclude the parables in May with "The Householder" Matthew 13:51-53.*

Are you free on the first Tuesday of the month? The Morning Circle is always open for new members or visitors, contact Julia Rikard for further information.



**NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

There is a **ministry** in our church that can easily be overlooked but is **critical** to our church's vitality. As the Lord graciously grows our church, the need for **nursery volunteers** increases. Currently, we have only **seven** workers who serve during the worship on a rotational schedule. Would you please **prayerfully consider** volunteering, if not on the regular rotation, possibly some other schedule? Anyway you can serve will lesson the load on the regular volunteers. Many hands make light work! Please communicate with **Katie Eising**, if you are willing to **serve in any capacity!**

██████████ - Bridge Europe/Germany

██████████ began service with World Witness in 1999 in Germany, partnering with German nationals in three different urban church-planting efforts in former East Berlin. Their ministry emphasizes hospitality and neighborhood outreach for youth and families. They also spearheaded efforts to involve the church in refugee outreach, and have joined the Bridge Europe team, serving in the Black Forest area of Germany.



A Recent Update

We began visiting the refugee camp in mid-March, along with missionary friends of ours. At the camp we saw some 60 people – from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and several African countries. The camp is truly a “melting pot” of nations. Helping Ukrainians seems the most urgent need, but



refugees from other countries are coming from equally horrific situations. This is an amazing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to the nations, in Kandern!

We spoke with a friendly Ukrainian, a 15-year-old from Kharkiv, and later met his mother. They showed videos on their phone of bombs falling in their neighborhood. We've seen such images on TV, but watching it with two people, who just weeks ago lived there, was quite vivid. The boy could speak English and was excited to hear many native speakers in Kandern. However, the shock and despair were more apparent in the mother's face.

By the time you read this, the camp will have likely doubled in size, exceeding its intended capacity of 120. Please pray for these people, the camp workers, local government officials, volunteers. Also pray our relationships will glorify Christ and be a witness to the hope we have in Him.

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flowers for April

- 3 - Mary Baker
- 10 - Aaron & Katie Eising
- 17 - Morning Circle
- 24 - Herb & Kathy Seigler

Nursery for April

- 3 - Tracie McCoy (Allison Yi)
- 10 - Janet Porth (Katie Eising)
- 17 - Merri Avery (Elizabeth Yi)
- 24 - Abigail Yi (Tracie McCoy)

Ushers for April

- 3 - Cecil McRacken & Andre Jennings
- 10 - Chip Porth & Michael Jennings
- 17 - Adam Petty & Caleb Jennings
- 24 - Keith Avery & Jason McCoy