

# Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

August 2021

## Shut-In of the Month

Vernetha Renwick



Newberry, SC

## Prayer List

David Bunn (milt.); Mark McGuffee, Vernetha Renwick, Richard Lominick, James Hill, Doris Singley, Marci Cole, Dottie Price

## Ministry Schedule

### Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:25 am

Cong. Assembly

(2nd & 4th

Sundays)

10:55 am

Worship

### Wednesday

6:30 pm

Bible Study/

Prayer

## Update from the Session

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

1. The June Financial Report and Diaconate minutes were received as information. The June Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
3. The Pastor's family health insurance will be changed effective August 1 from the Synod plan to a BlueCross BlueShield Market plan. The church will establish a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for \$12,000 annually to cover the medical cost.
4. The Pastor's pension will be rolled into the new ARPC 403B Retirement Plan
5. Janet Porth and Tracie McCoy were approved to serve on the Missions Committee.
6. Fellowship Committee: 1) Jubilee Ice Cream Social, Aug. 22, 5:00 PM. 2) Fellowship Meal, Aug. 29, following the service (meat provided by the church).
7. Rev. Alan Avera and Rev. Tim Erskine were invited to administer Communion on Aug. 1 and 15 respectively.
8. A Celebration of Hymns Service will be held on Aug. 8, 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.
9. The August stated meeting is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

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



## **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

& [Redacted] (cell)

sethyi1969@gmail.com

[Redacted] (cell)



## **Fellowship Meal**

**On Sunday, August 29, following the worship service, we will gather for a fellowship meal. The Church will provide the meat and drinks. Members are invited to bring a side item to share.**

## **Bible Songs Sunday**

On August 29, at 9:45 AM, everyone will gather in the Sanctuary to sing the Bible Songs, read Scripture, and share prayer requests.

## **FINANCIAL DATA as of**

**June 25, 2021**

Budget Receipts \$ 118,802.97

Budget Needs \$100,176.90

### *No Turning Back*

It was on March 31, 2019 that we began our study of the *Gospel of Luke*. As we have worked verse by verse through this portion of Scripture, we have been confronted with and convicted by some of Jesus' most poignant and profound words. They are worth meditating and applying all the days of our lives. Lord willing, we will conclude our study of *Luke* on September 5. Lord willing, we will embark of *Galatians* next. As we race towards the finish line of Luke's first volume, I want us to keep in mind a couple of passages that I believe are especially relevant to what we may face in the months ahead (I am not claiming to be a prophet in any measure!).

It is hard to believe that a year ago most of the world, including churches, were in "lock-down" due to the fear of COVID19. A majority of the population avoided mass gatherings and limited their personal interactions with a hand-full of friends and family. It was a period of political and social upheaval as people looked to "expects" and "leaders" for some sense of direction and assurance. Unfortunately, as most churches got swept away by the tide of public fear and an "abundance of caution," she was impotent to provide the world and God's people the very thing that all sinners needed, namely corporate worship, or as the new term became to be known "in-person" worship in contrast to "virtual" worship. The one divine grace that was necessary to sustain and strengthen sinners against the uncertainties of this life was sadly abandoned by God's people. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the world and the church in many respects are still reeling from having turned away from the Lord.

In hindsight of what has happened in the past 16 or so months, I pray that the Church will now be focused more than ever on the essential nature and the ultimate priority of public corporate worship. That she will proclaim in word and in deed that there is no substitute for the soul-nourishing, God-honoring, Christ-exalting weekly worship of the gathered saints on the Lord's Day. That as we worship the Lord as He has commanded on the appointed Day in corporate assembly we will delight in the foretaste heaven and th everlasting kingdom. If God's people have learned anything through this severe providence, I trust that it is how our souls were created and designed to worship God, not only for His worth but also for our thriving. Augustine, one of the Church's preeminent theologians, has rightly captured this truth in his *Confessions*, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." This heart-restlessness was felt by many during the lock-down as Christians abandoned corporate worship. They starved themselves of the life giving and sustaining grace that was most needed in such times. Would that God's people not resort to such a misguided, self-inflicted fast in the coming days but feast on the bountiful riches of Christ.

We are already "hearing" from the "experts" of the highly infectious nature of the Delta variant of the coronavirus. What will this mean for the near future? Will we repeat the same mistakes by allowing the fear of the unknown to eclipse the light of God's Word? Let's apply Jesus' words in *Luke* to this situation. In 9:62 Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." These words were addressed to a would-be disciple who wanted to first say farewell to his family, but the principle is just as relevant to us. If you profess to be a believer, a disciple, then following Christ means moving forward with Him and not turning back. If you have made any genuine progress in your faith and walk with Christ, it is all of grace, and that same grace is more than able to carry you into His kingdom. When you allow your eyes (i.e. faith in Christ) to be drawn away by worldly fears to anything other than Christ, you are starting to look back to a life of self-rule and self-preservation. Jesus also had something to say about this in 17:32-33, "Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it." What are you willing to exchange for your soul? Remember Lot's wife! She not only lost her life but her soul as well because she took her eyes off the Lord. Don't be tempted by the fear of death in this life to throw away your soul for eternity.

It has been an encouragement to see most of the congregation return to corporate worship in the past few months. I trust your souls have been nourished in worshipping God corporately. As we move forward, take every thought (and emotion) captive to obey Christ (*2 Cor 10:5*) so that you may no longer be tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (*Eph 4:14*). Then and only then will you have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, having your hearts and your minds guarded in Christ Jesus (*Phil 4:7*). Let us advance regardless of the cost to the glory of God!

*Pastor Seth*



## **Annual Jubilee Birthday Ice Cream Social**

Sunday, **August 22 at 5:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

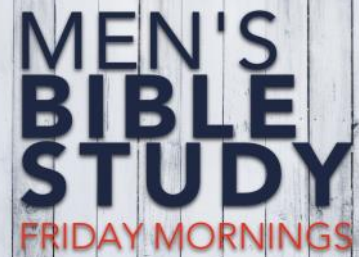
This event is held yearly to honor our two Birthday Ladies, Rebecca Carson, WW missionary to Germany, and Sheila Osborne, WW Short-term Mission Coordinator and Liaison to Women's Ministries. We want to honor these servants of the Lord by faithfully praying for them as well as helping to raise the support they need as they uniquely represent the women of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. A basket for donations will be available.

This year we will be having ice cream sundaes and banana splits. Everything will be provided. Please come and join us for a time of fellowship.

## *A Celebration of Hymns Service*

On Sunday, **August 8 at 6:00 PM** in the Sanctuary we will gather to celebrate in song and in music the greatness and goodness of our glorious Redeemer! Several hymns will be offered (congregational singing, instrumental, and vocal arrangements) with a Scripture reading and a brief history of each song. Following the service, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we exalt the Lord our God in joyful celebration!!!

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



MEN'S  
BIBLE  
STUDY  
FRIDAY MORNINGS

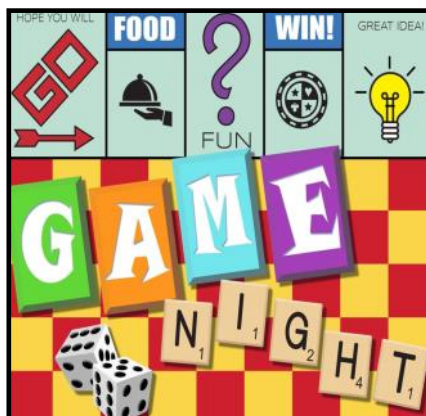


SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

*All singles and widows are invited to share in this monthly gathering of delightful fellowship and delicious food following the worship service at the Pastor's home.*

### SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from 10:25 to 10:50 AM to nurture *koinonia* with one another. Drinks and refreshments will be available. Prayer requests will also be shared.



### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Gather with your church family on August 27, 6:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall, for a joyful time of fellowship and outreach. Bring your favorite games and an appetizer to share. Please invite others who may enjoy the fun!



Our theme Scripture for 2021: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (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, August 3** at 10 AM in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Our Bible Study will be on the parable "The Two Foundations", Matthew 7:24-27 and "The Two Debtors", Luke 7:36-50. Mary Baker will be leading the Bible Study. After the meeting the group will be going to The Palms for lunch.*

*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.*



Fellowship, Study, and Prayer

**SUSPENDED FOR THE SUMMER**

**The study will RESUME, Lord willing, in the fall.**

If you are interested in participating, please contact either

Marci Cole, [REDACTED] OR

Allison Yi, [REDACTED]

**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!**





## Living Hope Foundation Food Pantry

There is a box in the Main Street vestibule to receive non-perishable food donations. Living Hope Foundation focuses on the needs of our community in the areas of hunger, counseling, youth education, mentoring, health awareness, computer, and literacy skills. Their mission is "to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community ~ through our time, finances, product and lives. To be good stewards of all that God has given us, and to serve our fellow man faithfully using Christ as our example."

### UPDATE on the [REDACTED] (7/22/21)



**Family visits:** Thank you all for praying for our family as we travelled to and back from the US for a relatively short visit, mainly to spend time [REDACTED] though we were able to see a very few of you. We are so grateful to the Lord for His faithful provision through family and friends, in particular members of Neely's Creek church in Rock Hill, SC. Through loan of cars, a house, financial help to cover airfare and otherwise, meals, fun activities, etc, we have been the recipients of a tremendous amount of hospitality and generosity. Jesus' words to his disciples in Mark ring so true: "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much..." (Mk. 10: 29-30). We thank you all for your love and care for us. It is truly humbling, as is the faithful support through giving and through prayer of so many for so long. Thank you, from the heart.

We have a couple of days to get over jet-lag and repack to go down to visit my [REDACTED] six hours south of here. Please, pray for us as relationships on my side of the family is fraught with difficulties. It is in fact a minefield which has often ended up affecting our own family relationships, especially as husband and wife. We take refuge under the blood of the Lamb, looking to the Spirit's leading and empowerment. Pray for us!

**Our kids:** Many thanks to those of you who we [REDACTED] As we stated in our last general newsletter, her feet were healed and now look absolutely normal save for a few marks that bear witness to the fact that all was not well earlier in the Spring. She also passed her "Bac de Français" with a 17/20 for the oral exam and a 17/20 for the written part. Pretty impressive as one considers that she started schooling in French three years ago. [REDACTED] BFA with honors. [REDACTED] school year with the congratulations of the teachers' council, as is his ha [REDACTED] on did well too, though school doesn't come as easy for them. We are grateful for, and are proud of, our children. In this period - the teenage years, may they come to find for themselves the meaning and purpose of life, and of their individual lives, in Christ - the beloved, Word of God made flesh - knowing deeper in experience what they know well cognitively. I often worry for them and often feel inadequate in knowing how to speak into their lives in a way that I feel is relevant. I am so thankful that there is power in the seed of the Word itself. May [REDACTED] each good news to them, good news they can hear, see, and touch. My prayer for them of late rests upon two Scripture passages: "your eyes will see the King in his beauty" (Is. 33: 17) and "my prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one" (Jn. 17: 15). May they see the King in his beauty and be kept from the evil one.

In the meantime, [REDACTED] to ship out early September. He is still diligently seeking to develop a group of partners in giving and in praying to walk alongside him as he prepares to join the OM Logos Hope. If the Lord moves you in that direction, you can reach him at joelbenic@gmail.com. He would be thrilled to hear from you as he still has quite a ways to go. Last week, we went down to visit the campus of Columbia International University (where Patti and I were studying when he was born) to visit with teachers and tour around. He seems pretty excited about the prospect of studying there once his time on the OM ship comes to an end. Pray for our kids!

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[REDACTED]

# ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web  
[NewberryARP.org](http://NewberryARP.org)

## Flowers for August

1 - TBA

8 - Carolyn Fulmer and Dottie Price

15 - Julia Rikard and Mary Baker

22 and 29 - TBA

## Ushers for August

1 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings

8 - Cecil McRacken, Herb Seigler

15 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings

22 - Caleb Jennings, Marc Faulkenberry

29 - Keith Avery, Audre Jennings