

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut-In of the Month

James & Faye Hill

Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

December 2021

Update from the Session

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

1. The October Financial Report and the Diaconate Minutes were received as information. The October Session minutes were approved.
2. The Backpack and Good News Club Funds will be eliminated and the Missions Committee will disperse the monies to a local ministry this year.
3. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
4. Adam Petty was approved to be a Deacon nominee.
5. The 2022 proposed budget from the Diaconate was approved for adoption by the congregation.
6. The Advent Wreath will be a "circumstance" (used as decoration and not an "element" of the worship service, WCF 21, DPW 5.B.).
7. The Chrismon Tree will be placed in the Main St. vestibule.
8. The annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on December 5 following the worship service.
9. Pictures will be taken and added to the church directory in December.
10. The December stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 21st, 6:00 PM.



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)

congregational meeting



Annual Congregational Business Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting on **December 5** immediately following the worship service to: adopt the 2022 Budget, elect church officers, and conduct any other business.

Prayer List

Mark McGuffee, James Hill, Vernetha Renwick, Richard Lominick, Dottie Price, Lillian Price, Doris Singley

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:25 am

Cong. Assembly

(2nd & 4th Sundays)

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:15 pm

Youth

6:30 pm

Bible Study/
Prayer

FINANCIAL DATA as of

Nov. 24, 2021

Budget Receipts \$184,682.57

Budget Needs \$156,943.81

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER 24, 5:30 PM

Incurring the Judgment of God

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. - *Romans 13:2*

In this verse, Paul states a logical consequence (“Therefore”) of the statement given in verse 1, “there is no authority except from God.” So Paul deduces that because it is God, the **primary** cause, who institutes all existing authorities, the **secondary** cause, to resist any God-appointed authority is *de facto* to resist God. However, we noted last month (“Instituted by God”) that even “existing” authorities can and do reject God’s appointment. In other words, not all established governing authorities submit to God’s ultimate authority. There are, in fact, rulers and authorities who oppose and subvert God’s purposes in human government.

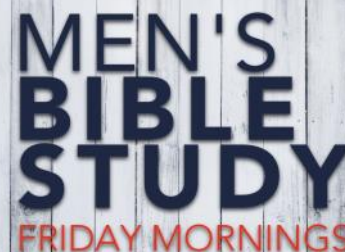
It is contextually critical to understand and interpret verse 2 (“B”) in light of verse 1 (“A”) since verse 2 is a logical conclusion of verse 1. In other words, A must be true in order for B to be true as well. In order to affirm verse 2, verse 1 must also be true. The mere fact that a governing authority *exists, i. e.,* God *allows* for a **season** an authority to rule, does not affirm that it is submitting to God Himself and governing according to God’s **institution**. It may be the case as Paul concludes in verse 2 that God’s judgment will ultimately fall upon an existing authority, either in history or on the last Day. We need to analyze two qualifications to determine confidently upon whom God’s righteous judgment falls, that is **who** is the **resister**.

The first issue is of **timing**. God’s providential workings in history are not always obvious to man’s perception. We can find examples of this all throughout human history. God’s judgments do not always follow an immediate chronological progression. On the contrary, there are historical examples when God mercifully **delays** judgement. We need not look any further than the first act of rebellion. God declared to Adam in Gen 2:17, “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Death was the designated sentence for breaking this prohibition. We can rightly conclude that **spiritual** death was an immediate consequence of sin (Gen 3:7-9, the awareness of their nakedness and the shame that accompanied it as well as their need to hide from the presence of God). Adam and Eve lost the blessedness of being right before God as soon as they sinned. In this respect, they were judged immediately. However, they did not physically die immediately. Adam lived to the age of 930 (Gen 5:5). Nevertheless, he eventually died and God’s judgment was fulfilled. Spiritual and physical death were not simultaneous but they were fulfilled. God kept His word even if one dimension of the judgment was delayed. In God’s mercy, every sinner born of Adam does not suffer immediate death, but it is inevitable (Heb 9:27). While some are stillborn, others live for more than a 100 years. The judgements of God in history cannot be timed according to a set schedule. God orders them according to His good, sovereign pleasure. Thus God may not pass judgement against an authority who resists His will for some time. As it was in the case of Assyria and Babylon (and other nations that afflicted Israel), God may delay judgement against such authorities in order to use them for other purposes. Likewise, it may be the case in our day that God has delayed judgement against governing authorities who are resistant to His will for purposes that are currently unknown to us. However, we should not presume that God’s merciful delay is an act of His forgetfulness or even forgiveness. Judgement will fall upon the unrepentant, if not in this life, ultimately on the last Day.

For many of these authorities who are not ruling according to God’s institution (see “Instituted by God”), we may be assured that their rebellion against Christ, the supreme governing Authority, will not be dismissed. God will surely judge every authority who does not rule according to His institution, who rejects His authority. In the meantime, we must remain faithful to the Lord and persevere in the midst of injustices. God’s judgment, now and in the future, will conform to what He has revealed, and we have the Bible as a sure foundation of His revelation and will. As citizens of the heavenly kingdom and an earthly kingdom, we have the Lord as our King who will eventually make all things right and judge the resisters. Until that Day, may we serve Him to the end.

Pastor Seth

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 December 12.

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.



Congratulations!!!!

Brittany Petty is graduating from USC Upstate on December 10 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing!



Our annual Christmas Fellowship will take place on **December 8** at **6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered-dish to share. After the meal, we will go caroling the shut-ins of the church.



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, November 30 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Marcia Cole will be leading our study of the Parables, "The Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) and The Talents (Matthew 14: 14-30).

Members are asked to bring a snack to share during fellowship. Drinks will be provided.

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.

Women's Ministries Christmas Social
Sunday, December 5
5:00 PM
Home of Catherine Faulkenberry

All the women of the church are invited! Please bring your favorite finger food and come enjoy fellowship with old and new friends. If you have any questions, please communicate with Julia Rikard.

Michael and Laura Cochran - U.K./England

(From a Recent Prayer Update)



Once the U.K. fully opened from COVID restrictions this past summer, we began, once again, to meet as a church as often as possible. This has resulted in a sweet season of midweek meetings in our backyard, with a shared meal, wonderful fellowship, and a time of teaching, psalm-singing, and prayer.

Several new families have joined our congregation in 2021; and one of the women recently commented that the format of our midweek meetings has really set the tone for the family atmosphere of the church – something she thinks really makes Gloucester Pres special.



(<http://gloucesterpres.co.uk/>) We couldn't agree more.

We have celebrated several milestones this year – our one-year anniversary, our first baptism of a covenant child, weekly Sunday morning/evening and midweek meetings, children's Sunday School, youth group and monthly men's fellowship.

Gloucester is a needy place, and we want our church to be a beacon of hope in our city. Please pray with us to that end. This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for God's blessings on Gloucester Pres and for the faithful prayers and support of friends like you .



Living Hope Foundation

There is a box in the Main St. vestibule to collect 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.

Christmas Card Boxes



Christmas card boxes will be set up in the Fellowship Hall in December. A box for each family in the Church will be available if you'd like to give a card.

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flower for December

5 - TBA

12, 19, 26—Poinsettias

Nursery for December

5 - Abigail Yi

12 - Merri Avery

19 - Elizabeth Yi

26 - Janet Porth

Ushers for December

5 - Jason McCoy, Herb Seigler

12 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings

19 - Keith Avery, Caleb Jennings

26 - Aaron Eising, Marc Faulkenberry