

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

February 2021

Shut In of the Month

Vernetha Renwick



29108

Prayer List

David Bunn (milt.); Mark McGuffee, Pat Harmon, Vernetha Renwick, Eliza Parr, Glenda & Richard Lominick, James Hill, Doris Singley

Update from the Session

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

1. Marc Faulkenberry was elected as Vice Moderator and Andre Jennings as Clerk of the Session.
2. The December Financial Report was received as information.
3. The December Session minutes were approved.
4. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
5. Souper bowl of Caring fellowship meal to be conducted on Feb. 7 following the service.
6. The Living Hope Foundation will be the new local food pantry ministry that we support.
7. A fellowship time will be scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:30-10:55 AM beginning in February.
8. New shepherding groups for 2021 were assigned.
9. The February stated meeting is scheduled for the 16th, 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

sethyi1969@gmail.com

318-680-4375 (cell)

SERVICE LIVE-STREAM

The Sunday morning worship service is being live-streamed, 10:52 AM, on the church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/newberryarp.

There is a **Worship Guide** on our website, www.newberryarp.org, which includes all the material needed to follow along.

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:15 pm

Youth

6:30 pm

Bible Study/
Prayer

FINANCIAL DATA as of January 24, 2021

Budget Receipts \$12,216.22

Budget Needs \$13,356.92

On **Sunday, February 7**, we will participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. A variety of soups and sandwiches will be provided. You are welcome to bring a dessert to share. We will also collect non-perishable food items and monetary gifts that will be donated to the Living Hope Foundation's food pantry.



Shepherding the Flock of God

With the installation of newly elected elders, the Session in January reorganized the membership of the church into new shepherding groups. This is a practical arrangement by which each elder is paired with a deacon to oversee the spiritual and temporal needs (via deacon) of each member. God has called the elders and deacons to serve Christ in the church through their various gifts and responsibilities. Therefore, as you pray for one another, and especially the officers of your church, may the Lord use us all to bring greater maturity, unity, and ultimately glory to Himself through our lives together.

The shepherding groups for 2021 comprise of:

(D = deacon)

Andre Jennings	Herb Seigler	Marc Faulkenberry	Doug Wicker	Jason McCoy
Ken				Ann
De				
Jir				
De				
Cl				
De				
Bi				

It is the Session’s primary responsibility to engage in the “spiritual oversight of the congregation” (Form of Government [FOG] 6.6). Two of the most important duties included in this responsibility are (but not limited to, see FOG 6.8):

- Shepherd the members by visiting with them, especially the sick; praying with them; comforting the sorrowing, encouraging the weak, guiding the wayward and the careless, and, in general, discharging all other duties in Christian love.
- Counsel with the members of the congregation and inquire into their Christian knowledge and conduct.

In this coming year, the Session is seeking to be more faithful in fulfilling these services. We have learned from 2020 how easy it can be for all of us to lose sight of what is most essential, so we want to encourage everyone to keep the Lord at the forefront of all our minds and hearts.

In faithfully serving the Lord in our calling as His under-shepherds of this flock, we will lovingly endeavor to hold you accountable to the Lord as members of this church, local congregation.

The final four questions of church membership (FOG 4.5.A.) are a good reminder of what we are to pursue together:

- (4) Do you promise to trust in the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit so that you can live all of life as a Christian, following the example set by Jesus Christ?
- (5) Do you promise to exercise faithful stewardship of God's resources entrusted to you for the furtherance of God's Kingdom and purposes?
- (6) Do you accept that the doctrines and principles of the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church are founded upon the Scriptures?
- (7) In loving obedience, do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of this church, promising to seek the peace, purity, and prosperity of this congregation as long as you are a member of it?

Furthermore, FOG 4.4 ("Responsibility of Church Members") is a helpful reminder of what it means to be a member of this fellowship, a visible expression of Christ's body. Just as every organization requires certain commitments to fulfill one's membership in it, likewise we are to bear visible fruit of our Christian discipleship. They are as follows:

- A. Make diligent use of the means of grace.
- B. Share faithfully in the worship and service of the Church.
- C. Give of their substance as the Lord may prosper them.
- D. Render wholehearted service to Christ and His Kingdom throughout the world.
- E. Continue in the peace and fellowship of the people of God.
- F. Submit to the authority of the elders.
- G. Live so as to bear faithful witness to the Gospel.

These are not intended to be understood as "membership dues" of a club or even some form of merit by which we find favor with God, but the genuine overflow of hearts in faithfully following and serving the Lord. Consequently, we all need to be encouraged and exhorted by one another and especially the elders to grow in these disciplines.

We certainly covet your prayers as we seek to be faithful in our calling as elders. Shepherding, even though it is one of the most important aspect of eldership, can easily be a responsibility that is avoided or abdicated. There are many temptations that would draw us away from fulfilling this task, but that would be a deterrent to your souls and a stain on our witness as the church of Jesus Christ. So as you pray for us, pray also for yourselves and your fellow members of the church that this service will bear much fruit, especially joy, and that all the glory will be given to our Lord (*Heb 13:17*). May the year 2021 be even more memorable than 2020 for all the right reasons and cause you to deepen your commitment to Christ and His church. To God alone be the glory!!!

Pastor Seth

*Thank
You*

Dear Church Family,
I would like to thank all of the church members for their support, prayers, cards, and visits when we lost Lee suddenly here on Earth to our Heavenly Father on August 2, 2020. There are so many memories with the church family since I surprised Lee and joined Newberry ARP one Sunday when Reverend Bland announced me as a new member. Lee on the other hand was born into this church. A few of you have watched him and his family grow over the years as a church family. Lee grew in his walk with God and was placed in a leadership position, one that he respected. Lee is with his Lord now, although this gives me and our family comfort we will miss him greatly until we are united one day.

Blessings to all of you,
Sharon "Shine" Ringer

SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Starting in February, everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (Feb. 14 and 28) from 10:30 AM to 10:50 AM to nurture *koinonia* with one another. Hot drinks and light refreshments will be available. Prayer requests will also be shared. Sunday school teachers are encouraged to start their classes at 9:45 AM and concluded by 10:28 AM so members can participate in the fellowship gathering.

Sing and Make Music to the Lord!



For the last nine months or so it has been a blessing and joy to see how the Lord has used so many members' gifts and talents to expand our music ministry. We are so thankful that the COVID crisis has not silenced the worship of our great God in our corporate worship! If you would like to serve in some musical capacity, please talk with Hannah Collins about your desire. May the Lord be praised with gifts HE has provided!

Women's Ministry

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, February 2 at 10 AM in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Marcia Cole will be concluding the Bible study on Daniel. In preparation for the study please read Daniel 12. In March we will begin a study of the Parables of the Bible.

After the meeting, the group will clean the kitchen and order lunch to be enjoyed together.

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

Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm

Fellowship Hall

We are currently studying *Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible, and What He Wants to Do with You* by John McArthur

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." ([facebook.com/LivingHopeNewberry](https://www.facebook.com/LivingHopeNewberry))



This is a recent excerpt from the Thomas' (Joshua, Vonia, Isaiah 19, Krystyna 17, Ella 14, Isaac 11, Samuel 5; Bridge Europe/Germany) prayer email.

In December Joshua and Isaiah left for the States. Joshua went to help Isaiah transition to life in the States. We underestimated all needed to be done and the complications that restricted government offices bring. We are trusting the Lord in the details that are left undone. Another main purpose of the trip was for Joshua to spend a little time with his parents who are navigating difficult health challenges with incredible grace.

During their first week back, while in quarantine, they became ill and tested positive for COVID. The couple with whom they were quarantining have been unbelievably amazing. We are so humbled by their grace and kindness. Every time I've spoken to Joshua he remarks about this amazing couple. Their hospitality reminds me of the Middle East and we are truly in awe. We praise the Lord He has kept the couple COVID free. Please pray for continued blessing on this family.

May the Lord bless Joshua's time with his family and open doors for him to easily come back into Germany. New regulations came into affect today and they may complicate his return. Please pray with us for a smooth trip back and open doors for Joshua's reentry.

Schools here closed a week before Christmas holidays and are scheduled to remain closed until at least February 15. All stores - besides those ruled essential, which are usually food related - also remain closed. People are required to work from home unless they can prove it isn't possible. Curfew is at 8 pm and you may only have 1 person visit your home.

In spite of all these restrictions, we are praising the Lord that churches are still allowed to meet. There are however many ever changing, challenging and complicated regulations. Please pray with us for wisdom, ideas, clarity and unity on how to proceed.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

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

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Ushers for February

7 - Jason McCoy, Marc Faulkenberry

14 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings

21 - Ben White, Herb Seigler

28 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings