

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut-In of the Month

Vernetha Renwick
[REDACTED]
Drive
Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

February 2022

Update from the Session

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



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)

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

6:10 pm

Family Feast

7:40 am

Choir Practice

1. Doug Wicker was elected clerk and Marc Faulkenberry vice-moderator of the Session.
2. The December Financial Report was received as information. The December Session minutes were approved.
3. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed. The following members were removed from the roll due to their lack of response to several attempts to reengage them in the life of the church: [REDACTED]
4. Sessional committees and chairmen were assigned: Doug W. - Finance, Marc F. - Missions, Christian Ed. - Herb S., Fellowship - Jason M.
5. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the Souper Bowl of Caring lunch on Feb. 13.
6. The February stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 15th, 6:00 PM.



On Sunday, **February 13**, we will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. A variety of soups will be provided. You are welcome to bring some chips or 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.

FINANCIAL DATA as of

Jan. 23, 2022

Budget Receipts \$ 11,660.96

Budget Needs \$ 13,572.16

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

Not Fearing God's Servant

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. - *Romans 13:3-4a*

God has promised judgment on those who resist the authorities He has appointed (v. 2). So Paul proceeds to instruct us as to how we might avoid such judgment. In God's wisdom and mercy, the institution of civil authority, even if it is non-Christian, is design for the common-good. Total depravity in man, if left unchecked by some form of societal judgment, would eventually lead to chaos and the collapse of every community. All men doing "what is right in their own eyes" is a sure-fire recipe for disaster, especially now in a post-modern world! As an antidote for such a societal anarchy, God has instituted civil authorities to curve the appetite of every man's sinful passions.

God has authorized His servant (the governing authorities) to terrorize, inflict fear, those who are a menace to society. These rebels are defined as those who perform "bad conduct." At this juncture, it is important to determine the basis of "good" and "bad." Who or what defines such behavior? How would non-Christians rulers know the difference between good and bad conduct?

Fortunately, in chapter 12, Paul uses this word, *agathos*, "good," three times (vv. 2, 9, 21) so that we can develop a contextual meaning. In vv. 9 and 21 it is set in contrast to evil (v. 9 *poneros*, v. 21 *kakos*). In v. 2 it is used to describe the will of God. Based on these verses, "good" describes the virtuous character of God (love, mercy, grace, etc.) that common grace has preserved in varying measures in man. It may be less apparent in some sinners than in others, but fortunately not all men manifest their "depravity" in full measure all the time. This "goodness" reveals itself in humanity through the gift of God's common grace. Thus, it is possible, even for unbelievers, to conduct themselves in accordance with this goodness and avoid the judgment of ruling authorities.

On the contrary, when men demonstrate bad (*kakos*) behavior, God's servant works to retard and retribute, if necessary, those who disturb the social order. It is important to take note that the ruling authority acts with and in compliance with God's rule. This stewardship can, of course, be abused or fall short of God's perfect will, but nevertheless, for those who do evil, some restraint is better than nothing at all in a fallen world. Therefore, God has vested the civil authority with the power of retributive justice ("an eye for an eye"). To avoid suffering from judicial punishment or even the fear of facing the threat of punishment, Paul exhorts us to "do what is good." In most non-Christian societies, this standard will likely fall short of God's virtues; so if we, believers, pursue Christlikeness, we will, more times than not, receive the authority's approval. Because the authority is acting as God's servant in approving good and deterring evil, societies can flourish when this chain of command is followed. God desires to rule mercifully over all societies through civil authorities, His servants. When this paradigm is applied, even by non-Christian authorities, the common good of all can be reached.

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.



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 February 6th.

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.



If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for this year, please **signup** on the sheet in the Main Street vestibule. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Family Feast

Sharing a meal, nurturing intergenerational relationships, praising the Lord in song, learning the catechisms, and seeking the Lord in prayer. This is some of the blessings you're missing (and more) on Wednesday nights (6:10 PM). Join your church family and grow in faith and love for one another!



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, February 1** at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will be studying the parable, *The Prodigal Son* (Luke 15:11-32).*

After the meeting, the members will clean the kitchen and enjoy lunch together (lunch will be take out from one of the local sandwich shops).

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.

[2022 Shepherding Groups](#)

According to the **ARP Form of Government** (our constitutional document) section 6.4: "It is the responsibility of elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation." In a effort to fulfill this God-given calling, the Session has organize the congregation into shepherding groups with an overseeing elder. Please be receptive to their care, and communicate any concerns you may have with them.

Marc Faulkenberry: Brown, Eising, Koon, Lominick, Parr, L. Price, Rikard, Stevenson, Wicker

Jason McCoy: Avery, Bedenbaugh, Brewington, Cole, Collins, Davenport, Harmon, McRacken

Herb Seigler: Fulmer, J & F Hill, Jennings, Petty, Porth, D. Price, Rose, Williamson

Doug Wicker: Baker, Epting, Hanna, J & W Hill, Mohler, Renwick, Singley

Sessional Committee Chairman: *Christian Ed.* - Herb S., *Finance* - Doug W.

Fellowship - Jason M., *Missions* - Marc F.

Sam Cotten - Barnabas Ministry and Mobile Theological Training Team (MT3)



Sam will be traveling to South Africa this month through mid-February to teach Christian Ethics at Dumisani Theological Institute in East London, where he taught this past fall. The school was founded by the Free Church of Scotland, and students come from a variety of backgrounds and denominational affiliations. Some are current pastors; others are anticipating future ministry.

Sam is looking forward to interacting with these students once again. Please join him in praying for:

- Travel mercies
- God's protection for Sam and his family (at home) during this 4-week trip
- Receptive students who are open to what the Lord wants to teach them
- Clear communication and the help of the Holy Spirit as I teach



Sam with Wilbert Chipenyu (principal of Dumisani Theological Inst.) and his wife.



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.



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 rotating schedule. Would you **prayerfully consider** volunteering, if not on the regular rotation, possibly some other schedule? However 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!**

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Nursery for February

6 - Brittany Petty

13 - Janet Porth

20 - Elizabeth Yi

27 - Merri Avery

Ushers for February

6 - Adam Petty & Caleb Jennings

13 - Keith Avery & Jason McCoy

20 - Aaron Eising & Marc Faulkenberry

27 - Cecil McRacken & Andre Jennings