

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

January 2023

Shut-In of the Month

Dottie Price

Newberry, SC 29108

Prayer List

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

Update from the Session

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

1. The November Financial Report and the December Diaconate minutes were received as information. The November Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared, discussed, and prayed for.
3. Ronnie and Beth Johnson were received as church members.
4. The Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch will be hosted on Jan. 29.
5. Elected deacons will be installed on Jan. 8.
6. The Officers Planning Meeting will be held in Jan. 21.
7. The January stated Session meeting is scheduled for 12:30 PM on the 21st.

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:30 am

Cong. Assembly

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:10 pm

Family Feast

Thursday

Noon

Community Bible Study

FINANCIAL DATA as of

Dec. 25, 2022

Receipts	\$202,401.83
Budget Needs	\$176,438.00

The State of Theology

From January 1 - March 12, the congregational Sunday School Class will study the 35 statements from The State of Theology survey, thestateoftheology.com. This tool is designed to measure "the theological temperature of the US to help Christians better understand today's culture and to equip the church with better insights for discipleship." **This would be a great time to start attending SS!**



On Sunday, **January 29**, we will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. A variety of soups will be provided for lunch. 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 a local food pantry.

Newberry on Mission

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” – Mark 16:15

What is the mission of the church? Truly the mission of the church is to worship and praise the Creator both here and for eternity. But this worship and praise is to be expanded to all the earth. The resurrected LORD commissioned His church to be on mission, to *“go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”* In this way, the church is to expand worship as part of the Creation mandate to *“be fruitful and multiply”* to *“fill the earth and subdue it.”* (**Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 35:11**)

How has the church responded? From the time of the ascension of Christ, the church has been on mission. With the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, His church has been about expanding the Kingdom of Heaven to the ends of the earth. The Father is seeking those who will worship in spirit and in truth from the four corners of the earth to worship Him. (**John 4:23**)

The zeal for missions continued for centuries as the Kingdom continued to expand and the Gospel was preached in lands that had previously never heard of the name of Jesus Christ. To China and India to sub-Saharan Africa to the “New World” in North and South America.

As missions expanded in the west and churches became more affluent, a sudden change developed in the later part of the 20th century. Churches, whose budgets had always reflected expanding the kingdom with 40% of tithes and offerings going to missions began spending less and less on missions and more and more on...itself. Its “ministries” became more expansive, but kingdom expansion – the Great Commission - was put on the backburner.

Missions giving in churches in America has waned to under 5% in the last 40 years even as the church in America has itself declined. **Is there a correlation between missions giving and the rise and fall of our churches?** I believe there is. In poorer, developing countries, missions giving is higher than in the wealthy United States. These churches are also growing and flourishing - even in the face of stiff persecution.

How will Newberry respond? Just a few years ago, in 2014, total missions giving at Newberry ARP was less than \$5,000 in a total budget of \$144,000, or about 3%. But this has expanded the past few years. In 2019, missions giving more than doubled and exceeded \$10,000. This year we budgeted for \$18,000 with a total budget of \$176,000, just over 10%.

Our budget only reflects a portion of our overall giving to missions. The Women’s Ministry, Sunday School classes, and individual members have given “above the tithe” an additional \$16,000 to support the work of missions in 2022.

If you look at our missions footprint for this year (see chart on the next page), you will see that we have given **nearly 20%** of our total dollars for missions: **From 3% to 20% in just 8 years.** That’s a remarkable improvement. But let’s not pat ourselves on the back and say, “what a good boy am I.” There is still much work to be done both in the world of missions **and in our own hearts.**

Take time to consider what you may do to be on mission for the LORD in 2023. Go to our missions board in the hallway. Learn about our missionaries. Pray for our missionaries. Partner with those who have gone to the ends of the earth to preach the Gospel. Write them notes of encouragement. Be a participant, don’t just sit on the sideline and watch.

May He continue the good work He has begun in us.

When Jesus did His great inspection of the churches of Asia Minor in **Revelation 2** and **3**, He praised them for the good things they had done. But He also admonished them and warned them of what they lacked. **What**

would He say to the Church of Newberry? Will we “stand firm” for the Gospel of Jesus Christ or will we leave our first love and compromise with the pressures to conform to the patterns of this world?

May we always repent when we fall, and may we live in remembrance of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ which has been extended to each of us. Let us continue towards faithfulness in our giving in 2023 and beyond.

Blessings in Christ,
 Marc Faulkenberry

Missions Committee 2022

Marc Faulkenberry, Chair; Kristy Jennings; Jason McCoy; Tracie McCoy; Janet Porth; Julia Rikard

Total Missions Giving 2022

Each one must do as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB)

Total Church Budget	\$ 176,438
----------------------------	-------------------

Total Missions Giving	\$ 34,849
Giving as Pct of Budget	20%

On Budget Giving	
Recipient	Amount
WW: Thomas	\$ 2,000
Lifebridge	\$ 1,200
Free Medical Clinic	\$ 600
Nurse Scholarship	\$ 1,200
RUF Erskine	\$ 2,000
WW: Witte (Ukraine)	\$ 1,500
WW: Cotten	\$ 1,200
Denominational Ministries	\$ 8,000
Speakers	\$ 300
Total	\$ 18,000

Above the Tithe Giving	
Recipient	Amount
Nursing Scholarship (thru Nov)	\$ 1,849
Hurricane Relief	\$ 2,500
WW: Alexander	\$ 4,000
Living Hope Food Pantry	\$ 195
Easter Offering	\$ 2,430
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 400
RUF Erskine	\$ 625
Total	\$ 11,999

Women's Ministries Gifts	
Recipient	Amount
World Witness	\$ 700
GAAP (local)	\$ 400
Ukraine Crises	\$ 250
ICS Emergency Relief	\$ 200
Free Medical Clinic	\$ 200
Council on Aging	\$ 150
Bonclarken	\$ 200
Camp Joy	\$ 200
Nursing Scholarship	\$ 300
ONA	\$ 200
Synodical Causes (Women)	\$ 400
Total	\$ 3,200

Sunday School Gifts	
Recipient	Amount
World Witness	\$ 900
Ian Relief	\$ 200
Ukraine Crises	\$ 100
ICS Emergency Relief	\$ 100
GAAP (local)	\$ 50
Council on Aging (Gift bags)	\$ 300
Total	\$ 1,650

2022 Year in Review

Births: *Avery Caroline Kiker* (daughter of Thomas & Joanna Bedenbaugh Kiker, former members); *Henry Adams Petty* (son of Adam & Brittany Petty)

Deaths: *Doris Singley*

New Members: *Robin Bedford, Elena Eising, Beth Johnson, Ronnie Johnson, Denelle Williams*

Transfers: *Joanna Bedenbaugh*

Removals from Roll: *Trudy Brewington, Jimmy Hill, Wanda Hill, Leslie Koon, Scott Koon*

Elected Church Officers

Deacons: *Marc Faulkenberry, Keith Avery*

Congregational Chairman for 2023: *Keith Avery*

Treasurer: *Julia Rikard*

Trustees: *Marc Faulkenberry, Julia Rikard, Kathy Wicker*

Dear Church family,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your gift given to me at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is always greatly appreciated. I pray God's blessings upon everyone as we begin another year of ministry.

In Christ Love, Pete Simpson



**Newberry Community
BIBLE STUDY
PODCAST**

Audio recordings of each week's lesson from the Newberry Community Bible Study on the *Gospel of John* by Pastor Seth are available via the following formats:

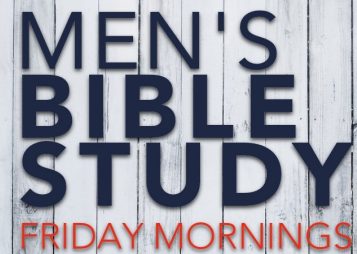
1. newberrycommunitybiblestudy.substack.com
2. On **amazon music podcasts** search for "Newberry Community Bible Study"
3. Add the following **RSS feed** to your podcast App:
<https://api.substack.com/feed/podcast/1042002.rss>

Dear Church Family,

*It has been my joy and privilege to serve this congregation for over seven and a half years! Thank you for making them such a blessing to me and my family. Moreover, I want to express my gratitude for the **gracious** Christmas gift presented to me at the congregational meeting. May the Lord continue to deepen our bond for the sake of His Kingdom!*

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 *Daniel*). 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 meal following the worship service. We will next meet on January 8th.

SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday mornings** from **10:30 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!

Women's Ministry

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, January 3**, at **10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will be studying the book of Revelations this year. We will begin the year with an introduction to this book with Marcia Cole leading us in our study.*

After the meeting, the members will enjoy a Soup and Sandwich lunch.

Are you free on the first Tuesday of the month? The Morning Circle is always open for new members or visitors!!



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!



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 **nine** 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!**

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flowers

1, 8 - TBA

15 - Julia Rikard

22, 29 - TBA

Nursery

1 - Elizabeth Yi (Tracie McCoy)

8 - Edith Bedenbaugh (Merri Avery)

15 - Abigail Yi (Allison Yi)

22 - Kathy Wicker (Elizabeth Yi)

29 - Katie Eising (Edith Bedenbaugh)

Ushers

1 - Aaron Eising & Marc Faulkenberry

8 - Cecil McRacken & Herb Seigler

15 - Chip Porth & Adam Petty

22 - Keith Avery & Jason McCoy

29 - Aaron Eising & Marc Faulkenberry