

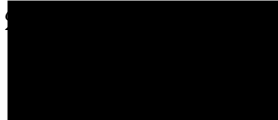
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

March 2021

Shut In of the Month

Richard & Glenda Lominick



Prayer List

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:15 pm

Youth

6:30 pm

Bible Study/
Prayer

Update from the Session

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

1. The January Financial Report was received as information.
2. The January Diaconate and Session minutes were approved.
3. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
4. Manna House was removed as a designated donation and replaced with Local Food Bank. The church will no longer receive and distribute donations to Manna House. Members are welcome to donate to Manna House directly.
5. The Facebook livestream of the worship service will end on March 28.
6. Ezra Blackwell will serve as the regular organist until he attends college in the fall.
7. LIFEBRIDGE was given permission to use the Fellowship Hall for their Community Bay Shower on March 27.
8. Herb Seigler was appointed as the church's delegate for the March Presbytery and the June General Synod meetings.
9. The church will host a Game Night, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall, the last Friday of the month.
10. The March 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/newberryp.

There is a **Worship Guide** on our website, www.newberryp.org, which includes all the material needed to follow along. This service will conclude on **March 28** in an effort to encourage everyone to return to corporate worship.

Audio CD recordings of the service will still be available for shut-ins and sermon recordings on the church website.

FINANCIAL DATA as of February 21, 2021

Budget Receipts \$ 31,239.22

Budget Needs \$ 26,713.84

Returning to "Normal"

The month of March will mark a year that most of our lives have been dramatically altered by SARS-CoV-2. Can you believe that it has been that long since our world has been radically "denormalized" by an invisible microorganism? How accustomed has our society become to facial covering, social distancing, and more recently, vaccination schedules. When, if ever, will our society return to "normal"? What does normal even look like in a post-COVID19 world? What have we learned, for better or for worse, from this providence of God?

As we wholeheartedly affirm from Scripture, our God is sovereign; thus nothing, not even the existence and activity of a virus, is outside of His authority and will. The Lord uses all these events, despite what we can see or know, to accomplish His purposes and bring glory to Himself. The actions of men, even those who have been appointed by God with earthly authority, are but His instruments for sanctifying and disciplining His church and declaring His wrath against sin in the world. No matter how bleak or unsettling life may appear to us, God is true to Himself (all that the Bible reveals about His nature and character) and His people can take comfort in the fact that our God reigns!

Despite these indisputable truths about God from Scripture, we are constantly bombarded every day with a wide range of opinions and declarations from "experts" from various sectors of our society. Unfortunately, as is the case with human and finite knowledge, it is ever changing and at times in conflict with one another. So, if we allow our understanding of reality to be shaped and formed by these "voices" above and beyond the Word of God, we will be subjected to the inherent limitations and sins of fallen humanity. But instead, if we commit our hearts and minds to the inerrant, infallible, eternal, authoritative Scriptures, we have a sure foundation upon which to build our lives and a divine compass by which to navigate through this perilous journey. If we have learned anything over the past year about the so-called experts, it is how much they do not know. They are constantly learning and changing what they claim to know.

So what does it mean for Bible-believing Christians in a post-COVID world to be normal? Maybe that's the wrong question. Instead, what we should be asking is, what does it mean for Bible-believing Christians in a post-COVID world to be *faithful*? The simple answer to this question, if we truly affirm the Bible as the Word of God, is not all that different. The way we live our lives now should *still* be directed and guided by the Bible. There may be some biblical truths and applications of God's Word that are more relevant in our present context, but it is still the Bible that should be the final and authoritative voice that determines how we live, what is faithful, what is right, regardless of what our society deems as "normal." How has your life been altered by the uncertainties of the coronavirus over the past 11 months? Have these changes conformed to God's Word? Has your faithfulness to the Lord been altered by the many voices of the world? Who knows what normal will look like in the coming months, but for God's people it has never been about being normal but honoring the Lord!

Pastor Seth



Join us for the

IMPRISONED *for* CHRIST VIRTUAL EVENT

FRIDAY | MARCH 5, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.



PETR JASEK
Imprisoned in Sudan



ANDREW BRUNSON
Imprisoned in Turkey



DAN BAUMANN
Imprisoned in Iran



TODD NETTLETON
Moderator

NATALIE GRANT
Worship Music



We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM to share heavy hors d'oeuvres. The virtual event will conclude at 11 PM, but you are welcome to stay as long as you're able.

NEW ORGANIST



We are thankful for the services of our new organist, Ezra Blackwell. He is a homeschooled senior from Cayce, SC. He has studied organ under Mr. Thomas Russell at First Presbyterian Church for four years and has also studied piano under Dr. Ka-Young Lee for ten years. Ezra hopes to study and major in organ at the college level next school year.

SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:25 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 10:23 AM so members can participate in the fellowship gathering.

GAME NIGHT



On the last Friday of the month we will gather in the Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM, for a relaxing time of fellowship and outreach. Bring your favorite games and snacks and invite others who may enjoy the fellowship!

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

The youth are looking for opportunities to serve our members. If you have some projects around your home that the youth could undertake to be a blessing to you, please let a deacon or Allison know. It is a joy to serve each other in the church!





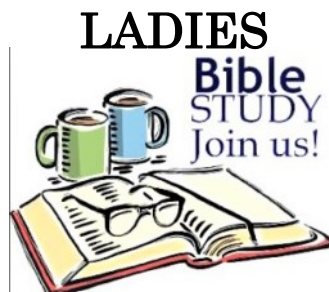
Our theme Scripture for 2021: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (ESV)

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, March 2** at 10 AM in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We are beginning a new Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus. Marcia Cole will be leading the study. In preparation for the study please read Matthew 13:10-17, 34-35, Mark 4:10-12, and Luke 8:9-10.*

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))

From Justin and Gillian Brickey



This past Sunday, we celebrated four years of life and ministry in Spain! Thank you for your prayers and encouragement over these past years. The Lord has been and continues to be faithful. In many ways, He has demonstrated His faithfulness through you. We couldn't have made it without the help of so many people.

We are thankful to report that our family is in a peaceful, though busy, season despite the many restrictions due to COVID-19. For the past three weeks we were confined to our town, and we continue to have a 10PM-6AM curfew. This is a far cry from the full lockdown that happened a year ago, and we have access to all we need.

Justin continues with evangelism outreach through a local English conversation group that meets weekly on Zoom. He and the team of two other local workers have begun using passages of scripture as their basis for English reading and discussion. So far, they have discussed the parable of the sower, the prodigal son, and the healing of the man lowered through the roof. Exploring these passages with people of such different backgrounds has been refreshing. Pray that the Lord would use this time and His word for His glory.

Just before Christmas, our street evangelism ministry was suspended because of increased COVID-19 restrictions, but we are hoping to resume this Thursday. Admittedly, this has been a stretching ministry for both of us. It is one thing to stand on a box and share a gospel message to passersby and a small crowd that usually gathers, but in between each gospel sharing, we pass out postcards with the gospel message and talk with people. Sometimes this goes well, and we have interesting chats with someone as they reminisce about their childhood in church or ask questions about local churches (we have a list of local churches to give them). Sometimes we just hand out postcard after postcard without conversation. This is when it helps to know the stories of people who have received such postcards over the years and been touched by their gospel message at home, in private. You never know whose hands these tracts touch and the path they will take when they leave us. We pray the Lord will do a miraculous work in these hearts.

Gillian continues to teach full time at Evangelical Christian Academy. Her classes keep her hopping. She loves her students and enjoys watching them grow! All her classes just finished reading books that touch the heart in big ways. Class discussions often bring up questions about the Lord and our place in His world. We are thankful to serve a school that so openly shares Him with its students, and where the students feel free to discuss their questions and ideas. Please pray for Gillian's students to know the Lord, and pray for our school as we seek to fill many positions for the coming school year, both teaching and support positions. See our website for more information: www.ecaspain.com

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

Flowers for March

7 - Communion

14 - TBA

21 - TBA

28 - Shirley Mohler

Ushers for March

7 - Jason McCoy, Marc Faulkenberry

14 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings

21 - Ben White, Herb Seigler

28 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings