

# Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

## Shut-In of the Month

Mr. Richard Lominick

[REDACTED]  
Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

March 2022

## 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. The January Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
3. The Finance committee is searching for an accountant to perform a financial review per the Form of Government.
4. A request to use the Fellowship Hall on March 12 for a baby shower for Joanna Kiker was approved.
5. A request to use the Sanctuary on March 6 for a Newberry HS choral concert was approved.
6. Marc Faulkenberry was appointed as the delegate for the March 8 Presbytery meeting.
7. The March stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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

[REDACTED] (cell)

sethyi1969@gmail.com

[REDACTED] (cell)

## Ministry Schedule

### Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:25 am

Cong. Assembly  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays)

10:55 am

Worship

### Wednesday

6:10 pm

Family Feast

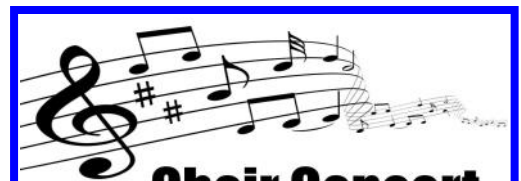
7:40 am

Choir Practice

## FINANCIAL DATA as of February 20, 2022

Budget Receipts \$ 28,422.21

Budget Needs \$ 27,144.32



## Choir Concert

On Sunday, **March 6, 3:00 PM**, in our Sanctuary, the Newberry High School Choir, under the direction of Hannah Collins, will present *An African American Choral Celebration*, featuring spirituals and folk songs. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

### *The Sword of the Avenger*

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. - *Romans 13:4b*

In a God-ordered society, those who live in compliance with God's law need not fear the civil authority. However, for those who reject God's law, they should expect to suffer God's vengeance through His servant. The fear of God's wrath for persistent wrongdoers is a mercy designed to warn and to deter them from continuing on their destructive path.

The fear that persistent wrongdoers experience is a product of the human conscience (Rom 2:15). Most fallen sinners (except for those whose consciences have been "seared") still have within them the desire to avoid punishment. Thus, Paul commands the wrongdoer to be afraid so that they might stop walking along that destructive path before it is too late! This God-given fear of punishment serves as a safeguard from harming others and even oneself.

In order to prevent or limit the damage that a wrongdoer might inflict on others, God has armed His servant, the civil authority, with the authority to punish the evildoer. The "sword" that Paul references in this verse is a symbol that represents the legitimate and righteous use of force. This sword's purpose is authorized by God. Not all wrongdoing deserves death (the ultimate punishment of the sword), but if necessary, the civil authority has been authorized by God to enforce capital punishment (Gen 9:6). The sword can be used by God's servant to execute a wrongdoer who has sinfully taken another person's life.

The civil authority has been instituted by God to serve as His temporal representative in carrying out retributive justice. They are to punish lawbreakers in proportion to their wrongdoing. Lesser offenses ought to be punished less severely than more severe offenses. In wielding the sword with wisdom, righteousness, and impartiality (according to the truth and principles of the Bible), God's servant protects the innocent and those who do good while dissuading and deterring would-be wrongdoers from perpetrating evil and punishing those who have done wrong.

Unfortunately, in a fallen world justice will not be administered perfectly. Not all governing authorities are righteous or seeking to promote the good. Therefore, it is not rare that the innocent suffers unjustly or the wrongdoer escapes judgment. Until the Day of Judgment, when the Righteous Judge makes all things right, we will see the abuse of the sword by those in authority. Depending on how biblical the civil authority is will greatly determine the manner in which he wields the sword. Moreover, the degree to which a society has been transformed by the church will also determine how judiciously the governing authorities wield the sword.

Since we live in a post-Christian society that is increasingly becoming anti-Christian, it will not be uncommon for the civil authority to abuse the use of the sword. When this happens, God's servant is acting out of character. Nevertheless, we can be assured that God will judge all such renegades, if not in this life, certainly in the life to come. As we seek to honor God in this life, we need not fear the sword for our lives are ultimately secure in Christ!

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 March 6<sup>th</sup>.*

### SUNDAY MORNING CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from 10:25 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!

On March 2, various groups will visit local shut-ins and deliver dinner. On March 30, Rev. Jonathan Cook, RUF Minister at Erskine College, will share with us how the Lord is advancing His Kingdom at Due West! Take advantage of these special opportunities to love your neighbor as yourself!

## Women's Ministry

Our 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, March 1** at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will be studying the parables, The Pharisee and the Publican ( Luke 18:9-14) and The Barren Fig Tree( Luke 13:6-9).*

*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.*



**NURSERY  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

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 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!**

[REDACTED]

(From their February prayer update)



As I [REDACTED] preached at a special joint worship service of three smaller congregations in villages outside of [REDACTED], it was an honor to share both what the Lord is doing among Muslims around the world and give attendees practical ways they could reach out in their own communities.

[REDACTED]

Afterwards, a pastor told me how the message personally rekindled a long-lost burden for Muslims. He said other churches need to hear this message and offered to help get the word out. We know that the call to reach Muslims living in Europe will require the local church to catch the vision for this work.

What a privilege to move from imagining how this could take place to having an invitation accompanied with clear steps forward. We are beginning to see long-held hopes and dreams being fulfilled. As we rejoice, we also ask that you join us in praying that local churches will catch the vision and respond.

**Please pray:**

- That each of us would abide in the Lord
- For spiritual protection and growth for both our marriage and our kids
- As we seek to live and work among [REDACTED]
- For God's wisdom as we mentor both missionaries and national leaders



**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.

We collected several non-perishable food items and \$120 in love offering during our Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Thank you!!!!

# ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street  
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web  
[NewberryARP.org](http://NewberryARP.org)

## Nursery for March

6 - Brittany Petty

13 - Janet Porth

20 - Abigail Yi

27 - Katie Eising

## Ushers for March

6 - Chip Porth & Michael Jennings

13 - Adam Petty & Caleb Jennings

20 - Keith Avery & Jason McCoy

27 - Aaron Eising & Marc Faulkenberry