

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

May 2022

Shut-In of the Month

Dottie Price

Newberry, SC 29108

Update from the Session

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

1. The March Financial Report was received as information. The March Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared, discussed, and prayed for.
3. A fellowship meal for the graduates will be hosted on May 22 after the service.
4. Possible dates for the Jubilee Birthday social in August (21 & 28) were approved.
5. Marc Faulkenberry was appointed the delegate for the June Presbytery and General Synod meetings.
6. Doug Wicker will be added as a signatory to the church's checking account.
7. During the summer quarter, the adult SS classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall.
8. The May stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 24th.

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

██████████ (cell)

sethyi1969@gmail.com

██████████ (cell)

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 pm

Choir Practice

Class Of 2022

We will recognize our graduates, Caleb Jennings, Qwon Wolfe, Noah Waldrop, and Gracie Faulkenberry on May 22 during our fellowship lunch after the service. The meat and drinks will be provided by the church. Members are encouraged to bring a side dish or a dessert.

FINANCIAL DATA as of April 24, 2022

Budget Receipts \$ 64,537.64

Budget Needs \$ 57,681.68

Ministers of God

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. -

Romans 13:6-7

As Paul begins to conclude this paragraph on submitting to governing authorities, he applies this exhortation to specific situations. Verse six is connected with verse five, *for*, by expanding on the notion of what we, *also*, as members of a larger society, are to do *for the sake of conscience*, namely, *pay taxes*. When we take into account the larger context of the nature and design of civil government, Paul's argument can be summarized as follow: Since God has instituted all civil authorities for the good of society, empowering it to punish evildoers and to approve good conduct, you all should pay the taxes necessary for its support. Paying taxes is not only a proper conduct but a necessary one in order for authorities to function.

To give additional support for this response, Paul once again refers to the *rulers* (v. 3 *archontes*, also vv. 1, 2, 3 *authorities, exousiai*) as God's personal agents, *ministers, leitourgoi* (v. 4 servant, *diakonos*). As God's ministers, governing authorities are appointed to serve not only the interest of man but the will of God. These public servants are called to promote the well-being of their fellow man and the truths of God that benefit all mankind. God's common grace is bestowed on all men through civil authority. Therefore, the payment of taxes is intended to advance God's order for a society. The principle that Paul applies to the minister of the gospel in 1 Tim 5:18 (For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages.") is just as relevant to civil servants in conducting their callings. The payment of taxes serves to build and promote the order of a society in funding its necessary infrastructure.

As ministers of God, rulers have been given divine authority to collect taxes, *this very thing*. Therefore, tax evasion is not only an affront to civil authorities but to God. When Jesus was asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" he replied, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mk 12:17, Mt 22:21, Lk 20:25) Our Lord not only endorsed the paying of lawful taxes but modeled it as well (Matt 17:24-27). Taxes are necessary for civil authorities to perform their God appointed duties. Therefore, all members of a governed society, including Christians, are the beneficiaries of the collected taxes. Even when there is a disparity in the amount of taxes that is paid by each citizen, the aim is the common good of all. Unfortunately in a sinful world, especially in cultures where the truths of the Bible are not generally applied, the abuse of authority is inevitable. Nevertheless, Christians should do all that they can, barring disobeying God, to live as model citizens who seek the welfare of the community (Jer 29:7, 1 Tim 2:1-4, Rom 12:14-18). Civil disobedience is to be a course of last resort only when the laws of men usurp the laws of God. In the case of tax evasion, Christians need to be extremely cautious, knowing that the love of money is a root of

all kinds of evils (1 Tim 6:10), whenever they consider this expression of civil disobedience. The challenge of knowing how much of the tax collected is being allocated for God-forsaking ends makes it nearly impossible to calculate how much tax to withhold. In almost every circumstance, this is a judgment that we must leave to God and allow Him to settle, if not in this life, then ultimately on the Last Day.

In conclusion, Paul's exhortation to submit to all governing authorities is made practical. Regardless of the civil authority whom the Lord has established, Christians are to pay all their taxes (*taxes* - direct payments to the government; *revenue* - indirect governmental assessments) and to give deference to such rulers in accordance with their office. As is the case with all expressions of faithfulness, God is not only concerned about outward conformity but the attitude from which all actions flow. He tests both the motive and the act. The rendering of *respect* and *honor* to divinely ordained officials demonstrates a Christian's subjection to God's sovereignty and trusting His will in ordering our lives. Because God's will cannot be bound by the ill-intentions of godless men, Christians can wholeheartedly submit to God while submitting to men. Even when rulers do not faithfully honor God or affirm the Bible, Christians can in good conscience submit to all governing authorities as long as we are not required to disobey God (Acts 5:29). Until Christ establishes His eternal kingdom at His second coming, no earthly government will fully reflect God's perfect will. But as we continue to pray for that fulfillment ("Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."), we can usher in that glorious Day with biblical hope as we live godly lives reflecting Christ's lordship in us. May God be glorified through His Church!

Pastor Seth

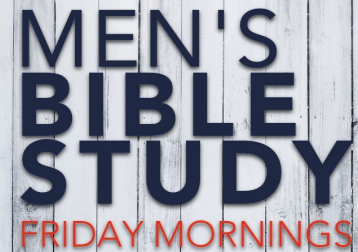


On Sunday afternoon, April 24, Village Presbyterian Mission in Greenville was officially organized as a particular congregation of Second Presbytery (the State of Georgia and the South Carolina counties of Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Barnwell, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, and Union)! Rev. Jay Crout, formerly the church planter, was installed as their first pastor.



We give thanks to the Lord for the birth of another covenant child, **Avery Caroling**, to Thomas and Joanna Bedenbaugh Kiker on April 14! Let us pray that she will grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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.



MEN'S
BIBLE
STUDY
FRIDAY MORNINGS



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 May 15th.

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.

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 June 1, Rev. Lee Shellnut (WW candidates) will share about his call to the Barnabas Ministry. As Discipleship Ministries team leader in Pakistan and Rwanda, he will lead the Barnabas Ministry's pastoral and leadership training programs. Previously, Lee served WW as a volunteer in missions for more than 10 years, where his work was primarily mentoring Pakistani ARP pastors.

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, May 3** at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We will conclude our study of the parables with "The Householder" Matthew 13:51-33. In June we will begin a study of Elijah and Elisha (I and II Kings). After the meeting we will be having lunch at a local restaurant.*

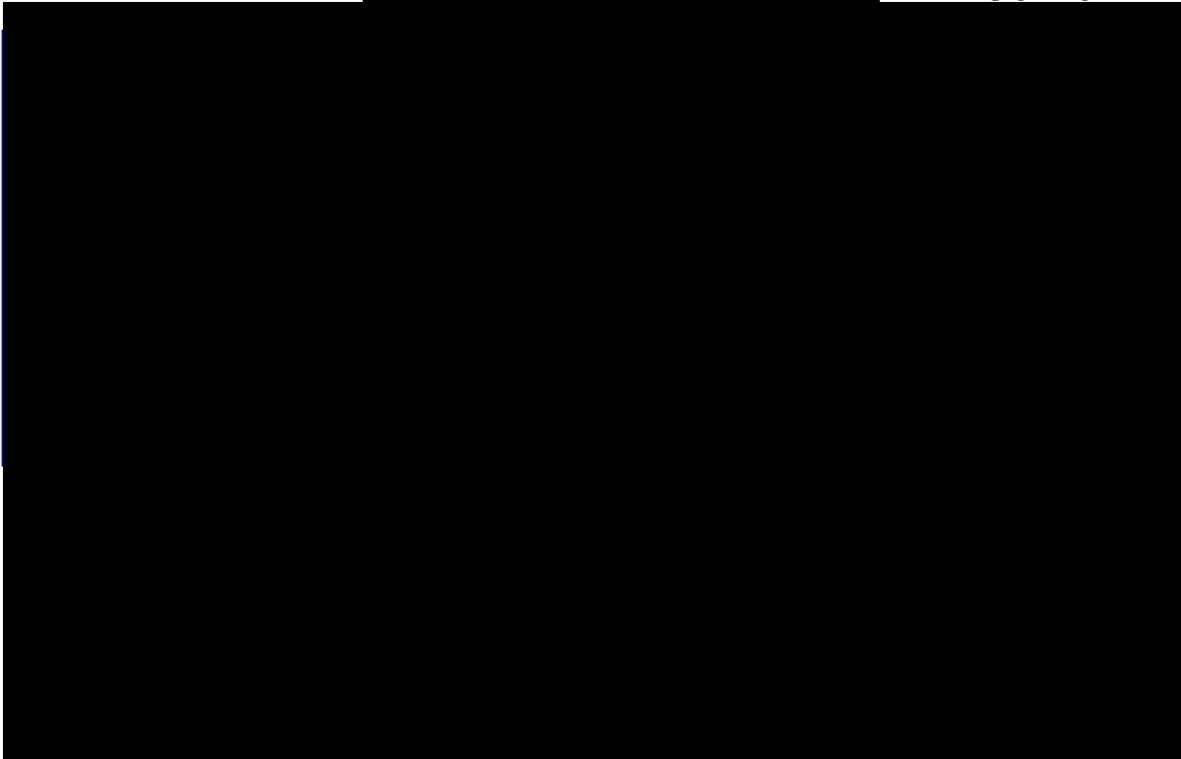
Are you free on the first Tuesday of the month? The Morning Circle is always open for new members or visitors, contact Julia Rikard for further information.



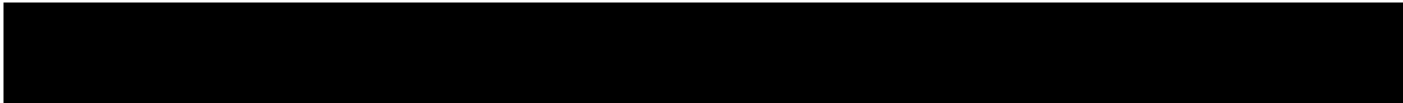
**NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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!**

- Lithuania



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We are still alive and helping others. God is kind, allowing us to serve. My brothers and I have been working with a team from Kharkiv Evangelical Presbyterian Church to coordinate help for over 5,000 people and have arranged for the evacuation of several hundred. This is thanks to friends like you.

During a trip to Kharkiv, my 2 brothers visited our parents who are located 10 km from the Ukraine front, where they are constantly bombed and must live in the basement. The video linked below provides insight into their living conditions. Our mother does not lose optimism. We hope this ends soon. May the Lord have mercy on us all.

At this writing my brothers are alive and returning here. What a joy to spend some time together. We are preparing to receive humanitarian aid from friends and partners, which will be sent to Kharkiv. Today, as I write this, we received sad news that a rocket landed in one of the Kharkiv churches where our friends were sorting humanitarian aid. Thank God everyone is alive because they were on the ground floor! God saved.



ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flowers for May

- 1 - Mary S. Hanna
- 8 - Kristy Jennings
- 15 - Julia Rikard
- 22 - Carol McRacken
- 29 - Merri Avery

Nursery for May

- 1 - Tracie McCoy (Abigail Yi)
- 8 - Katie Eising (Merri Avery)
- 15 - Elizabeth Yi (Janet Porth)
- 22 - Tracie McCoy (Allison Yi)
- 29 - Abigail Yi (Katie Eising)

Ushers for May

- 1 - Aaron Eising & Marc Faulkenberry
- 8 - Cecil McRacken & Andre Jennings
- 15 - Chip Porth & Michael Jennings
- 22 - Adam Petty & Caleb Jennings
- 29 - Keith Avery & Jason McCoy