

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

November 2020

Shut In of the Month

Richard & Glenda Lominick



Prayer List

David Bunn (milt.); Mark McGuffee, Pat Harmon, Tony Fulmer, Vernetha Renwick, Eliza Parr, Glenda & Richard Lominick, James Hill.

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

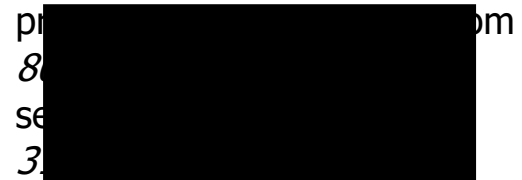
Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session in October:

1. The September Financial Report was received as information.
 2. The September Session minutes were approved.
 3. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
 4. After much *Supplication & Testimony*, it was decided to continue using the *Bible Songs* in each service keeping them *Safely Guarded* as we continue *Under His Wings*, dwelling in *Christian Unity*. A song from the *ARP Psalter* may be used as an insert and if/when there is no anthem, the congregation may *Sing Praises to Jehovah* via an additional psalter from either book.
 5. The 2021 budget as presented by the Diaconate was approved.
 6. Herb Seigler will serve as the congregation's delegate at the Nov. 10th Presbytery meeting.
 7. The November stated meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17, 7 PM.
- If you have any questions, please talk 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.



SERVICE LIVE-STREAM

The Sunday morning worship service is being live-streamed, 10:52 AM, on the church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/newberryarp. There is a **Worship Guide** on our website, www.newberryarp.org, which includes all the material needed to follow along.

We appreciate all those who are mailing their tithe and offerings to the church. We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness expressed through your continual giving and support! Let's finish the year strong in our stewardship.

FINANCIAL DATA as of October 25, 2020

Budget Receipts \$ 130,749.81
Budget Needs \$ 142,285.71

Summary of the General Synod of the ARP

The major business (in order of time spent addressing):

- Special Committee on the ARP Retirement Plan
- Special Committee on Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF) Spending
- Committee Reports Highlights
- Memorials

Actions:

- 1) The **Special Committee on the ARP Retirement Plan** (Blue-Ribbon Committee) spent 2019-2020 analyzing projected income and actuarial costs of our current pension plan along with possible funding alternatives to address shortfall partially. The Synod voted to close the current plan to new participants effective Jan 1, 2021; and to begin simultaneously a 403-b plan. Thus, we are moving from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. Congregations will continue to fund the current plan for retirees and those approaching retirement; younger participants will be offered a buy-out, with amounts to be determined by actuarial considerations and plan pay-out affordability. Approximately \$3 million will be immediately reallocated from the net assets of Synod boards and agencies to the retirement reserve. Another \$2 million will be solicited from committees & Presbytery reserves.
- 2) The **Special Committee on Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF) Spending**, created by vote of the 2018 Synod and appointed by the Moderator to review the income and expenses of each Board & Committee.

The DMF report presentation began by an examination of current ARP membership stats and demographics. At the close of 2017, the ARPC had 28,732 members in 264 churches. In one year, by the end of 2018, membership had fallen to 27,729; and we believe the losses will be further exacerbated by the COVID shutdown. 12% of our 264 churches have 200+ members, 15% 100-199 members, and 73% have fewer than 100 members. 31 churches account for 61% of all members; and 20 churches account for 60% of giving to DMF. It is estimated that the average age for a majority of our members is over 55. Hence the evangelism emphasis in the retired Moderator Leslie Holmes' opening Synod sermon. However, one pastor who has recently brought his congregation to the ARP from the PCA, noted that the ARP is shrinking in size, and with an aging membership; but we are not dying spiritually, we are not becoming Liberal, nor conforming to or compromising with the culture. The ARP is almost alone in truly being a remnant among Presbyterian denominations

The DMF committee recognized that we cannot continue to support administrative costs of our scale at our denominal size, and therefore recommended the formation of a **Re-**

structuring Committee (3 ministers, 3 elders), to be appointed by the Moderator, to examine and recommend potential cost savings thru consolidation, restructuring, and/or elimination of Synod boards and agencies. This recommendation passed.

3) The **Special Committee to Produce Directory on Private and Family Worship** presented a draft of *The Directory of Private and Family Worship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* which will be reviewed by the presbytery and finalized at the next Synod.

4) **Theological & Social Concerns**

A) A draft of the revised *Book of Discipline* was approved and sent to the presbyteries for approval.

B) *FOG* Congregational Vows for Elder & Deacon: **obedience** to be removed from congregational vows to deacon. It was sent to the presbyteries for approval.

C) A study on the issue of membership in the Masonic Lodge will be presented to the 2021 Synod.

D) Pastor Seth made a motion, which passed, that the T & SC Committee study and recommend to the next General Synod, under what conditions, according to *FOG* 6.8.L., a Session may suspend corporate worship, for how long a Session may suspend corporate worship, and whether or not a Session may offer virtual communion.

5) **Worship:** Their document, *Suggested Singing and Worship Guidelines during Viral Outbreaks such as COVID-19*, was not approved as a guide for ministers and Sessions.

6) **Memorials:**

A) The T & SC Committee was directed to “give both theological and practical advice as to how we, the Church, should respond to the Civil Magistrate’s authority in the imposition of restrictions on public gatherings during a time of a declared state of emergency regarding a communicable disease.”

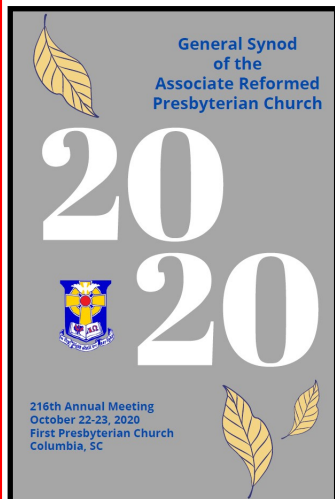
B) A memorial to change the *FOG* (9.23) to specify a “M.Div degree (or its equivalent)” from “a course of theological studying embracing 3 years” was approved.

C) The Board of Benefits will study the option of congregations who cannot afford Synod’s medical insurance program using various cooperative medical plans.

The Rev. Patrick Malphrus, pastor of the Old Providence ARP Church (Spottswood, VA), was elected as Moderator Elect and Mr. Jay Younts, ruling elder at Redeemer ARP Church (Moore, SC), as Vice-Moderator Elect for 2021-2022. Rob Roy McGregor III is the current Moderator and Rev. Rob Patrick the Vice-Moderator.

It was an honor and a blessing to serve as your delegate for this historic Synod!

In His service,
Herb Seigler



GENERAL SYNOD 2020

Thank you for all your prayers for the 2020 General Synod meeting that took place in-person and virtually at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC on Oct. 22-23. The Lord was gracious in allowing us to meet and conduct some vital business (please read Herb Seigler's article for a summary of the meeting). As our denomination moves forward, there are some more significant matters that need to be resolved in order to maintain our long-term viability. We are in the process of fixing a significant deficit in our current pension program.

A special committee (3 minister, 3 elders) for restructuring our denominational ministries will present to the next Synod how we might better steward our resources. Please pray for these men as they seek to be faithful in proposing a wise and God-honoring plan for our Synod's future.



Congregational Sunday School

On **November 29**, at 9:45 AM, everyone will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for a joint Sunday School class. We will read Scripture, pray, and sing some of our favorite Bible Songs. It will be a wonderful time to be together as a Church family and rejoice in the Lord with the Bible Songs. You will have the opportunity to request your favorite selections to sing.

Bible Songs



Covered Dish Dinner

We will fellowship and share a Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, **November 11**, 6:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. The Church will provide the turkey and drinks. If you're able, please bring a fixin' to complement the feast.

Women's Ministry

Our theme Scripture for 2020: "And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:3 (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, November 3** at 10 AM in the Carson Room for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Marcia Cole will be leading the 2020 Bible study on Daniel. In preparation for the study please read Daniel 9, Daniel's Prayer of Repentance.*

We will also be viewing the video from World Witness on the School of Nursing Program at the Christian Hospital Sahiwal in Pakistan. If you missed the viewing and would like to see it, please join us on Tuesday.

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

If you are interested in the study, please contact either
 Marci Cole, ty [REDACTED] OR
 Allison Yi, [REDACTED]

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!



Manna House Food Pantry Dried Soup

The Manna House box is in the Main Street vestibule to
Receive non-perishable food donations.

Due to COVID-19 we have had to reduce our days of service to two (normally five) and are still having a difficult time getting volunteers to work. Most of the twenty-one churches that provide service have older volunteers who are unable to serve. If anyone has an hour on a Tuesday or Thursday and would be willing to volunteer, please contact Julia.



If you were not able to watch the virtual program live about the School of Nursing Program at Christian Hospital Sahiwal in Pakistan and to hear stories and reports from people who are strategically involved in sharing the Gospel through medical mis-



sions, you can watch it at your convenience at [REDACTED]. It will inspire and encourage you to see how God is at work in shaping the futures for young ladies. The password [REDACTED]. Please do not share without permission. The material in the video needs to remain private.

If you would like to be a part of God's work in this ministry by giving a special gift to the **Nursing Scholarship Program**, you may do so at <https://worldwitness.org/shapingfutures>, or mail a check to: World Witness , 918 S. Pleasantburg Dr. Ste. 218, Greenville, SC 29607, memo: **Nursing Scholarship**.

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 1 Peter). 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 November

- 1 - Communion
- 8 - Mary Baker
- 15 - Kathy Seigler
- 22 - Kathy Wicker
- 29 - Morning Circle

Ushers for November

- 1 - Jason McCoy, Marc Faulkenberry
- 8 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings
- 15 - Ben White, Herb Seigler
- 22 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings
- 29 - Andre Jennings, Ben White