

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

Shut-In of the Month

Vernetha Renwick
██████████
Newberry, SC 29108

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

October 2021

Update from the Session

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



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

Prayer List

Mark McGuffee, Vernetha Renwick, Richard Lominick, James Hill, Doris Singley, Dottie Price, Lillian Price

Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:25 am

Cong. Assembly
(2nd & 4th
Sundays)

10:55 am

Worship

Wednesday

6:15 pm

Youth

6:30 pm

Bible Study/
Prayer

1. The August Financial Report and September Diaconate minutes were received as information. The August Session minutes were approved.
2. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
3. A letter to inactive members was approved for distribution and personal follow-up.
4. Monies from the Memorial Fund (less than \$2500) was approved for the new church sign on Main St.
5. Missions Committee: A covered dish dinner at 6:15 PM will precede the World Witness virtual event on Oct. 14. A \$100 gift was approved to support the FCA Golf Tournament.
6. Herb Seigler was appointed to serve as the church's delegate for the Oct. 12 Presbytery meeting at the Greenville ARP Church.
7. The October stated Session meeting is scheduled for the 26th at 6:00 PM.

Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal



On Sunday, **October 31**, following the worship service, we will gather for a fellowship meal. The church will provide the meat, desserts, and drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish to complement the meal.

FINANCIAL DATA as of

Sept. 26, 2021

Budget Receipts \$155,536.57
Budget Needs \$130,229.97

If you have any questions, please speak with an elder.

Government Overreach

Over the past 18 months, there has been much debate in society as well as in the church over the question of the extent of the government's authority. In the wake of the civil authorities' various mandates during the pandemic, it is helpful and necessary for us as Christians to understand what the Bible teaches about this topic. As we move into another cold and flu season, we must maintain a clear and faithful position that honors the Lord. As followers of Christ, our chief aim is to please Him, no matter the cost.

The principle text from which we draw our understanding of civil authority is *Romans 13:1-7*:

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. 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. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay 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.

Paul reveals several truths in this passage that are relevant to how we are to think and respond to civil authorities.

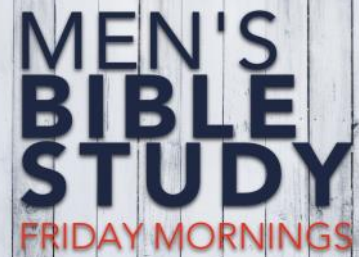
1. God is the chief source of all authorities, including non-Christian civil authority, so everyone, including Christians, are to *submit* to them (1).
2. Resisting God ordained authorities (His servants) is a *sin* not only against man but ultimately against God (2, 4, 6).
3. God has established civil authority for the *promotion* of good and the *prevention* of evil (3-4).
4. Civil authority has been *empowered* by God to *punish* evildoers (4).
5. Submission to civil authorities is an expression of *sanctification* (5).
6. Submission to civil authorities is *limited* to the sphere sovereignty that God has assigned to each authority (6-7).

In following the logic of Paul's argument, it is evident that vv. 6-7 flesh out the principles affirmed in vv. 1-5. In particular, vv. 6-7 demonstrate how vv. 1-5 are to be applied, namely Christians are to submit to the civil authority according to God's *appointment*. However, what may not be apparent in Paul's logic is the biblical assumption that all of God's ordained authorities have limits. All human authorities are bound to the realm in which God has appointed them. This overarching principle maintains God's universal authority and restricts the tendency for totalitarianism.

Jesus, who faithfully submitted to His governing authorities, illustrated this divine truth when he commanded his disciples, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (*Lk 20:25*) Here Jesus clearly distinguishes the sphere of authority between Caesar and God. Because God has appointed the civil authority to levy taxes to perform its duties, it is right for all citizens to pay taxes. However, Jesus also affirms that what belongs to God cannot and must not be given to any other authorities. Civil authorities are to operate within the bounds that God has allotted to them and no further. When an authority demands more of its subjects than what God has appointed, then they are no longer acting as God's servants but as tyrants. The apostles modeled how Christians are to respond to such conflicts. When they were ordered by the high priest not to teach in Jesus's name, they faithfully responded, "We must obey God rather than men." (*Ac 5:29*) No matter the consequence, the disciples could not submit to man's authority when it usurped God's. God's will must always supersede every human authority.

This precept is especially relevant to the Church of Jesus Christ as it pertains to the overreach of the civil magistrate in any mandate that relates to the worship of God. Above all things, biblical worship belongs to God. God alone is worthy of it and has absolute sovereignty over it. It is a sphere that no human authority must dare to transgress. God has rightly commanded His people to worship Him on the Lord's Day according to the prescription of His Word. (*Dt 5:12-15, Heb 10:25, John 4:24; WCF 21.1* "But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the holy scripture.") God's Word and our Confession command us in all matters of worship. We must not allow any other authority to corrupt or compromise the sacred worship of God. God's righteous jealousy will uphold and guard those who faithfully worship Him and judge those who yield to any other idol. (*1 Sam 2:30*) May the Lord grant us His grace that we may be found faithful in our continuing worship of Him!

On Friday mornings, 6:45 AM, a group of men gather at Doug Wicker's home, [REDACTED] Dr., 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

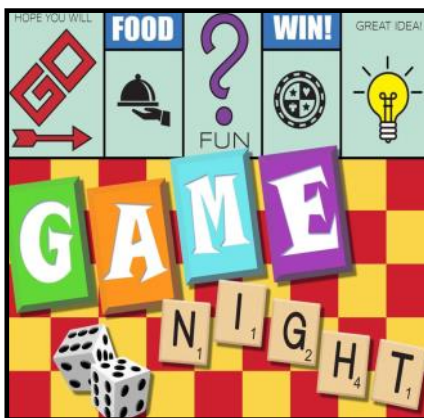


OCTOBER 10

All singles and widows are invited to share in this monthly gathering of delightful fellowship and delicious food following the worship service at the Pastor's home.

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 to 10:50 AM to nurture *koinonia* with one another. Drinks and refreshments will be provided. Prayer requests will also be shared.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Gather with your church family on October 22, 6:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall, for a joyful time of fellowship and outreach. Bring your favorite games and an appetizer to share. Please invite others who may enjoy the fun!

Women's Ministry

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, October 5 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Allison Yi will be leading our study of the Parables, "The Persistent Friend" (Luke 11:5-13) and "The Wicked Vine-Growers" (Matthew 21:33-41). Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Living Hope Foundation Food Pantry

There is a box in the Main Street 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. 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."

The Unchanging Gospel: "The Mission Continues"

Second Annual Virtual Event

Thursday, October 14, 7:00-7:45 PM EST



Join the staff of World Witness and other ARPs around the globe for a **live, impactful, interactive** event! Our missionaries will be sharing encouraging stories of how God is working in the world today.

The **goal** is to raise **\$100,000** for our missionary families.

You can register at www.worldwitness.org/ug#event-registration to participate at home or gather with the church at **6:15 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall** to share a covered-dish dinner before watching the virtual event together!



GIDEONS
INTERNATIONAL

Gideons International Sunday

On Sunday, **October 31**, we will have a local representative from the Gideons share about how the Lord is working through their ministry. A **love offering** will be collected. Please consider supporting their labors with a gift!



**Associate Reformed
Presbyterian
Church**

A NEW CHURCH SIGN

Through the generous gifts of many people (Memorial Fund), a new sign has been secured for Main Street. May the Lord use this sign to gather many new worshippers into our church in the coming days!

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flower for October

3 - Julia Rikard
10 - Tracie McCoy
17 - Morning Circle
24 - Faye Hill
31 - TBA

Nursery for October

(Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot serve)

3 - Kristie Jennings
10 - Elizabeth Yi
17 - Abigail Yi
24 - Brittany Petty
31 - Janet Porth

Ushers for October

3 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings
10 - Cecil McRacken, Herb Seigler
17 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings
24 - Caleb Jennings, Marc Faulkenberry
31 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings