

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street, Newberry, SC 29108

September 2020

Shut In of the Month

Pat Harmon



Prayer List

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday
9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am
Worship

Wednesday

6:30 pm
Bible Study/
Prayer

Update from the Session

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Session at the August stated meeting:

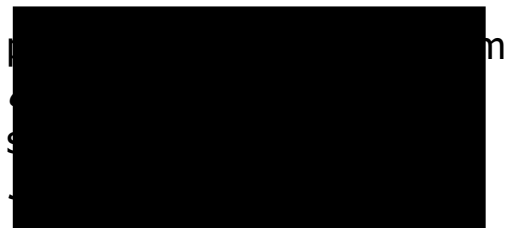
1. The July Financial Report was received as information.
2. The July Session minutes were approved.
3. The shepherding concerns of the congregation were shared and discussed.
4. Supplies needed for the handbells will be purchased from the Music Fund.
5. Marc Faulkenberry gave a report about the summer Zoom Second Presbytery meeting. The Session's Pastoral Letter was received as information per the recommendation of the Moderator's Ad Hoc Study Committee.
6. A cleaning service will be secured to clean the church following the Bedenbaugh wedding on Sept. 12.
7. An email to the congregation will be distributed to respond to a member's positive coronavirus test.
8. The September stated meeting is scheduled for the 16th.

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.



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.

Officer Nominations

Starting Sunday, September 6, ballots to nominate church officers will be available in the Main Street vestibule.

FINANCIAL DATA as of August 23, 2020

Budget Receipts \$ 106,544.32.
Budget Needs \$ 112,504.98

We appreciate everyone mailing their **tithe and offerings** to the church. We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness expressed through your continual giving and support!!!

The Session's Authority and Responsibility Concerning Public Corporate Worship - Part 2

Ten or so years ago, the definition of “public” and “corporate” would have never been questioned or scrutinized by anyone reading the ARP Standards. However, with the technological advancements in media and communication in the recent years, the definitions of these words are being stretched to their breaking point. Despite the fact that the FOG allows for members to vote via electronic media,¹ the application of this medium to public corporate worship is an overreach of the clear intended meaning of the Scriptures and the Standards. Surely the intended meaning of public corporate worship requires that a congregation gather physically in a common location at the same time and not remotely via electronic media. The Scriptures and the Standards clearly establish this view.

The Session's Responsibility in Calling the Congregation Together

The concluding paragraph of the Preamble of the DPW opens with this statement: “Finally, since this is a directory for the public worship of God’s people as they **meet together corporately**, we must recognize that **public worship** flows most beautifully when the people of God **also** meet with the Lord in **private, as individuals or families.**” (emphasis added) This sentence expresses two points that qualify the scope of a Session’s authority with regard to worship services. The expression “as they meet together corporately” clearly indicates that congregants will be physically present for worship based on the meaning of “corporately.”² The notion of gathering virtually or remotely via electronic media is excluded by this word. Secondly, “public worship” is maximized (“most beautifully when”) as a corporate gathering with the Lord when His people additionally, “also,”³ meet with the Lord in “private, as individuals or families.” In other words, public worship, or gathering with the Lord, is distinct from private worship where individuals or families meet with the Lord in separate or remote locations. Thus private worship is distinct from public corporate worship. These public and private gatherings with the Lord are not intended to be in competition or in lieu of the other but working in concert with one another so that regular private worship enhances public worship.⁴

Clearly the Session is responsible for **gathering**⁵ the congregation together for public corporate worship. The FOG speaks to this matter directly in stating that it is the Session’s responsibility to: “**Assemble** the people for worship in the absence of the pastor.”⁶ The *Merriam-Webster* online dictionary defines “assemble” as “to

¹ Footnote #28 to Form of Government 3.25.F. (The Congregational Meeting) The presiding officer of the meeting shall determine the meaning of “present” in light of electronic media.

² “Corporately” is an adverb based on the adjective corporate. Corporate is borrowed from Latin *corporātus*, past participle of *corporāre* “to form into a body, form (an organized social group),” verbal derivative of *corpor-*, *corpus* “body, organized group of people.” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/corporate#other-words>

³ “Also” is used here to mean “in addition to” which implies inclusion.

⁴ This pattern is born out in the Reformed Presbyterian heritage with the promotion of directories of private/family worship. A Synod committee has recently submitted a draft to be approved by the Synod.

⁵ Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread.” συνάγω: BDG 2. bring or call together, gather a number of persons. Arndt, William et al. *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*, 1979: 782. This pattern is continued in the early church in the second century. Justin Martyr (ca. 100–ca. 165), writing about A.D. 160 in his *Apology*, says, “On the day which is called Sunday, all who live in the cities or in the countryside gather together in one place.” (quoted by Hughes O. Olds in *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture*, 2002, p. 27).

⁶ FOG 6.8.L.

bring together (as in a particular place or for a particular purpose).” As it applies to the Session, they are responsible to gather the congregation for public corporate worship at a set **time** and **place**. When a congregation has a pastor, he is responsible to “serve with elders in all matters pertaining to the...worship...of the congregation,” this includes specific duties of corporate worship such as: “read the Scriptures; preach the Word; ...administer the sacraments; pronounce the blessings of God upon the people.”⁷

The Nature of Corporate Gatherings

Paul’s admonishment to the Corinthians leaves no doubt about defining the **corporate** nature of congregational worship. They failed to share the Lord’s Supper as a unified body when they came together as a congregation from various households.

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you *come together* it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you *come together* as a *church*, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be *recognized*. When you *come together*, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat. For in eating, *each one* goes ahead with his *own meal*. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have *houses* to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?...What then, brothers? When you *come together*, *each one* has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up (1 Cor 11:17–22; 14:26 ESV)

The verb *sunerkomai* that Paul uses in 1 Cor 11:17, 18, 20, and 14:26 means to come together, literally to assemble, to gather⁸ as the church (*ekklesia*). The fact that there was a division between the “haves” and the “have-nots” clearly indicates that their gatherings were *in body* not just *in spirit*. Moreover, in chapter fourteen their gatherings in worship involved various members’ exercise of spiritual gifts by the numerous individuals who were present. Edmund Clowney provides clarity to this subject when he writes:

Corporate worship at Corinth was distinct from gatherings at homes. Paul rebukes them for evident divisions when they came together as a church. The language is definitive: “When you come together as a church [*en ekklesia*]” (1 Cor. 11:18). This is in distinction from being in their homes. Paul reminds them of the difference of eating meals at home and coming together at the table of the Lord in the fellowship of the church....The very word *ekklesia* has its Old Testament background in the gathering of the people of God at Sinai to hear God’s spoken word. The church is an assembly, called out of dwellings to stand together before the Lord....To be sure, the definitive assembly for the church catholic is the assembly in the heavenly Zion (Heb. 12), but for that very reason those with access by faith to the festival assembly of heaven are “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some” (10:25).⁹

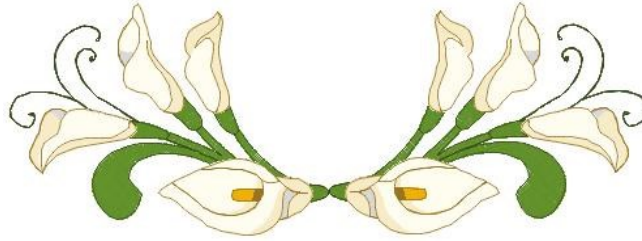
No matter how much modern technology advances remote communication, a necessary and essential component of public corporate worship is the **physical** gathering of God’s people at a common location. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Session to establish the **place**, a physical location, where the congregation is to gather for these weekly services.¹⁰

⁷ FOG 9.6.A.

⁸ Arndt, William et al. *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*, 1979, p. 788.

⁹ “Corporate Worship: A Means of Grace” in *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship*, 2003, p.98.

¹⁰ DPW 3.4 “Though no part of worship is tied to or made more acceptable by any place in which it is performed, yet it can be convenient and helpful for particular places to be set apart for worship, especially for public worship.” This statement is not an endorsement for *substituting* public corporate worship with virtual or live stream services nor minimizing the need for corporate gatherings but emphasizing the need to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Doing one does not eliminate nor necessarily devalue the other.



SYMPATHY

The church family extends Christian sympathy to the families of Lee Ringer, Betty Bland (Trudy Brewington's mother), Kyong "Tina" Yi (Pastor Seth's mother), and Christine Lindler (Fae Hill's sister and Gene Wicker's aunt).

Newberry ARP Church Family,

Thank all of you for your prayers, thoughts and spiritual support during Lee's sudden passing. The church family always meant so much to Lee. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers that arrived to our house and for the white rose that was placed in the sanctuary in memory of Lee.

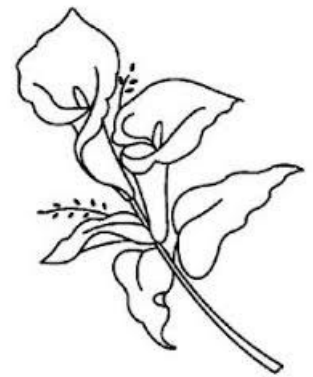
Sincerely, Shine and Family

Dear Newberry ARP Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that you sent. We appreciate the prayers, cards, and calls. This church has been an important part of our mom's life for over 50 years, and we appreciate that you continued to reach out to her during the later years of her life.

Thank you for showing God's love to her and to our family.

With much love, Gwen Lawrence and Trudy Brewington



Dear Church Family,

On behalf of my whole family, I want to thank you for all the love, encouragement, cards, prayers, and expressions of kindness showered upon us. Thank you also for the lovely flower arrangements displayed during her funeral service. Even though, my Mom was not able to participate actively in the life of our church, your many cards gave her a sense of belonging! We are so thankful to have such a loving church family to share our joys and sorrows.

By His grace, Pastor Seth



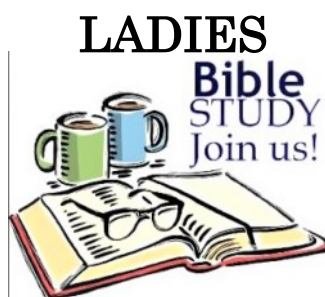
Our theme Scripture for 2020: "And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:3 (ESV)

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, September 1** 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 7, The Vision of the Four Great Beasts.*

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

Mondays 7 - 9 pm

Fellowship Hall

If you are interested in the study, please contact either
 Marci Cole, ty [REDACTED]
 Kristy Jennings, [REDACTED]

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!!!!



Manna House Food Pantry

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

“... the Lord Jesus Himself said, ‘there is more happiness in giving than in receiving.’ Acts 20:35

Church Officer Nominations

Starting September 6, brochures will be available in the Main St. vestibule for church officers. Nomination ballots may be submitted in the box located in the vestibule or the church office until October 4. The following officers may be elected at the December Congregational Meeting: elder(s), deacon(s), Church Treasurer, Congregational Chairman, and Congregational Trustees.

The current officers and when their term expires are as follow:

- **Elders:** Andre Jennings (2021), Marc Faulkenberry (2022), Herb Seigler (2024)
- **Deacons:** Keith Avery (2021), Aaron Eising (2023), Jason McCoy (2023), Cecil McRacken (2023)
- **Church Treasurer:** Jean Williamson (Annual)
- **Congregational Chairman:** Gene Wicker (Annual)
- **Trustees:** Mary Baker, Julia Rikard and Clyde Brown (Annual)

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

MISSIONS FOCUS

World Witness Virtual Event

Thursday, Sept 24 at 7:00 pm



World Witness is trying something **new** and completely **unprecedented**, a **30-minute virtual event**, to assist our **missionaries** in light of COVID-19.

The **purpose** of this event is to:

1. **Connect** with our regular fellowship dinner guests.
2. Allow as **many people** as possible to participate.
3. **Raise funds** for our missionaries.

The online presentation will include **live** and **pre-recorded** interviews with **missionaries** and WW staff. The theme is “**The Unchanging Gospel for an Ever-Changing World.**”

It will include an “**ask**” (**an opportunity to give**) for missionary support during this time of great uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic. We want to help our World Witness missionaries who are in **most need** of support.

Since the event will be in the **evening**, some missionaries will be up at **1:00 AM** to share, encourage, and allow us to **pray** for them. This event will pave the way for future denominational-wide virtual events by WW that could fill a regularly scheduled ministry.

You can **participate** in the event in **two** ways:

- a. Watch the live feed on your **computer** at **home**.
- b. Gather with others in the **Fellowship Hall** to watch it **together**. Following the presentation we will share a time of **fellowship** and **dessert!**

In the coming weeks more information will be made available to **register** personally or **RSVP** to gather together in the Fellowship Hall.

ARP Church of Newberry

1701 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108

We're on the web
NewberryARP.org

Flowers for September

6 - Communion – Norman Bunn

13 - Shirley Mohler

20 - TBA

27 - Julia Rikard

Ushers for September

6 - Jason McCoy, Marc Faulkenberry

13 - Keith Avery, Andre Jennings

20 - Ben White, Herb Seigler

27 - Chip Porth, Michael Jennings