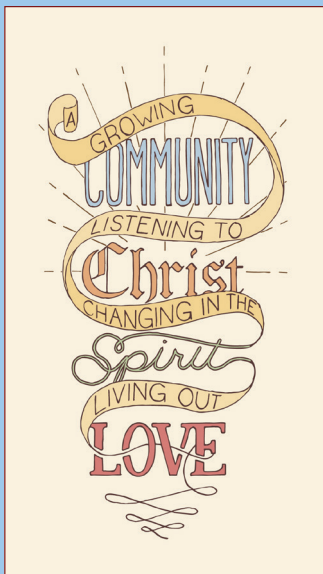


Your NFC

a weekly newsletter for the
people of the
Newberg Friends Church
community

September 16, 2016



🌟 All in a Day's Life

by Reid Thurston

I often feel as though I live in two different worlds. At *home* I live in the lovely community of greater Newberg. It seems everyone is middle class; it seems everyone is Christian. At *work* I am a mental health therapist in Salem. I work mostly with people on Oregon Health Plan. Most people think of themselves as living in poverty. Many people describe themselves as *not* Christian. When I had a chance to write about “a day in the life,” I felt I wanted to write to my Christian friends what I wish they knew about my non-Christian friends.



Most people I work with grew up in Oregon and all have been exposed to the Christian message. Many describe themselves as “having lost” their faith, and each person tells an interesting story about that. But it seems to me there are two primary reasons people lost their faith. And both of them are reasons Christians can do something about.

First are all the people who have felt deeply hurt by someone who loudly proclaimed they were Christian. Physically hurt; emotionally hurt. I know people who were brutally beaten while their assailant quoted scripture! Sadly, for many people the word *Christian* is synonymous with *judgmental*. We have wandered far from “they will know we are Christians by our love.”

Then there are those who tell me they have lost their faith because God did not hear them, didn’t answer their prayer—sincere, good prayers. Praying for a sick child to live, praying that God would save them from the horror ahead every night. People sincerely pray, sincerely believe God will answer their prayer and then feel abandoned when it does not happen. A big part of this problem is what we Christians teach others about God and prayer.

I have been a Christian a long time and know that Christians have struggled with “the problem of evil” for centuries. I often encounter the problem: *This truly horrible thing happened. Either God was not powerful enough to stop it, or God did not care enough to stop it. Either way, this is not a God I can believe in.* I benefited from reading St. Augustine and C.S.Lewis address the problem of evil, a problem resolved through understanding that God chose to create us with free will. I have read Rabbi Kushner’s *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Other theologians explain that this world is not designed to be paradise. This world is designed with pain and suffering. Paradise is designed to be paradise. I have been comforted by Phillip Yancey’s *Disappointment with God*. Yet none of these answers fit into an easy sound bite.

I want to urge you, as I urge myself, to understand that people can “lose their faith” for a valid reason—not a *theologically* valid reason,

but an *experientially* valid reason. When we encounter folks who say this, I hope we can address it with compassion, to first address the “logs” in our own eyes before focusing on the splinter in the eyes of

other. Let us try to talk with people about their pain; not jump to quick solutions. As St. Francis of Assisi would say, let us seek to understand more than we seek to be understood.



Newberg Friends Church College / Young Adult Group

Sundays @ 9am • Room 232

Come for weekly connection, conversation, and a chance to gather with other young adults. Bring and share your ideas as this group takes shape.

For more info, contact
[Aren Thomas](#) or 971-281-4226 or [Steve Fawver](#).



Newberg Friends is a Growing Community...

Are you interested in connecting with others in a small group for fellowship and building community? Maybe you have an idea for a group you want to lead and invite others to join. Maybe you'd rather just meet with a group already established. Contact [Steve Fawver](#) for existing options or for encouragement as you get something new started!

Rooted: A Group for Adopted Kids

We are excited to have MereAnn Reid, MA, from Northwest Adoption Support facilitate a group for youth and elementary aged kids in the fall and a group for teens in the winter.

Adoptive Family Community Group

In our gathering on September 25 (6-8pm at North Valley Friends) MereAnn Reid will present on Ambiguous Loss and Epigenetics in Adoption. If you come to only one gathering this year, come to this one!

Other gatherings (TBA) will include presentations and discussion on various topics: navigating racial issues in the PNW, adoption through the developmental stages, parenting adopted teens, and more.

Group structure will be: short gathering for introductions, learning together and discussion on current topic.

Lifestory Book Workshop

In spring 2017 we will also host a series of gatherings that focus on creating your adopted child/teen's lifestory book. Information will be distributed later this fall.

[Contact Kim](#) for more information.



A Great Family Activity! Learn a little Chinese (cooking)!

An authentic Chinese cooking event will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 3 to 5 pm at the Newberg Friends social hall/kitchen. This is a great opportunity to not just watch the Food Network but to live it!

Contact [Tim Olmstead](#) or text 503-538-1651 to register. There will be a small lab fee for supplies. Space is limited.

READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

[Acts 14:8-20](#)



Pastoral Team

Michelle Akins
children and family ministries

Steve Fawver
spiritual health and care

Cindy Johnson
seniors ministries

Gregg Koskela
lead pastor

Eric Muhr
youth ministries

Elizabeth Sherwood
administration

Nolan Staples
worship ministries

Support Staff

Kara Estep
youth ministries coordinator

Denise Lyman
bookkeeper/receptionist

Sherry Macy
admin assist / communications

Arnie Mitchell
buildings manager

Dan Ritter
buildings manager

Mark Thompson
cemetery sexton



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Please direct
all publications items
to Sherry Macy.

What's Ahead

SUNDAY

9am | worship gathering
9am | Resume full Sunday school schedule
10-10:45am | Community Time | on the lawn, weather permitting
10:15-10:45am | library staffed
10:30am | Agape Sunday school class
10:45am | worship gathering
1pm | Bible Quiz Practice | FC Room 100
6pm | All-church business meeting

Monday, September 19

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C
Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Wednesday, September 21

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B
Middle School youth group resumes | 6pm | Friends Center
WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C
High School youth group resumes | 7:30pm | Friends Center

Thursday, September 22

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B
Women's Bible Fellowship | 8:45am | social hall

Friday, September 23

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, September 24

Men's prayer meeting | 8am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room

Sunday, September 25

Read ahead: Romans 12:1-8

Plan Ahead

September 26 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Dan Cammack, EFM executive director
October 2 | Taizé gathering | 6pm | NFC sanctuary
October 3 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older
October 3-5 | pastoral team retreat | NFC office closed
October 8 | Wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508
October 10 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236
October 11 | CMC (Children's Ministry Cultivation) | 7:30pm | 14035 NE Tangen Rd, Newberg | parents, volunteers, and NFC community invited to talk and pray focused on growing and improving children's ministry
October 13 | Pre-K Fun Night | 6-7pm | FC gym | ages 3-5 yrs
October 20 | K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade
October 27 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade
November 2 | Red Cross Blood Drive | 9am to 4pm | social hall

NFC's Calendar on the Web!