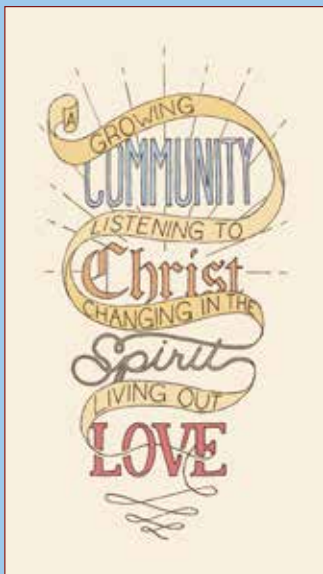


# Your NFC

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

September 2, 2016



## From Me to You

by Steve Fawver  
spiritual health  
and care

Thank you to this amazing community called NFC for the gift of a four-month sabbatical.

Thank you to the pastoral team for covering things, carrying extra weight, and being willing to create time and space for me to be away with my family for these months. What a gift this time has been and even continues to be. It is hard to put into words how grateful I am to you all for allowing me to be away, so I will keep it simple by saying, "Thank you!"

I started my sabbatical last April with a month at the Trappist Abbey, near Lafayette, living with the monks in that community. This rhythm of prayer, hard work, deep rest, and soaking in the Psalms was transformative (we read and prayed the whole book of Psalms two full times). This community was very gracious and helped me settle in as a Quaker dropped into this different world of worship and spiritual practice. On the first Sunday I felt a bit anxious about Mass as I joined the other brothers up front, still trying to get acclimated with when to bow, use the sign of the cross, sing, pray out loud, or sit silently. Although I knew it was worship and that I wasn't performing, I still felt a bit unsure. I prayed a simple prayer, "Lord, I offer you myself, help me to rest in you..." God has a beautiful sense of humor. Without missing a beat, God sent Brother Brian (who just moved to this Abbey from Ireland a few years ago) to help ease my soul.

When he came and sat down he leaned over and whispered, "Steve, just so you know, we start Sunday Mass with a little liturgical dance, and you get to go first." The twinkle in his eye and the joy in his voice (mixed with his deep Irish accent) brought a moment of quiet laughter to us both and a settling of my heart. "God, thank you for knowing me and meeting me right now." That was one of the many experiences when God was active in real and practical ways.



That month of quiet, reflection, and prayer set a tone for my whole sabbatical and, I have a sense, for the rest of my life. The time away was infused with a growing desire to be aware of God and grateful to God:

... with every breath  
... in every moment  
... in every experience  
... for every person  
... in every day.

How can I live in a way that expresses gratitude at all times as I notice God's presence and love?

As a family we celebrated the many moments, experiences, and people (especially one another) as we



traveled for five weeks through Scotland, England, France, and Switzerland. I imagine I will tell a bit more about these experiences over the next months—being in the beauty of the Scottish countryside, seeing Iona, visiting St. Andrews, wandering through ancient castles,

staying in the former home of Margaret Fell-Fox and George Fox and seeing the ground from which Quakers flourished, being in London and then the beauty of the French landscape, sitting in the very church building from the 1700s in which my great (6 times) grandfather preached and taught, gazing on stunning Swiss mountains, breathing the fresh mountain air. As we traveled we celebrated God and practiced gratefulness. What a gift!

While it was good to be away and have a change of pace, it is also really good to be back—to fly in over the beauty of the Cascade Mountains, to reconnect with the NFC community I love, to consider how to continue to nurture a heart of gratitude among each of you. I come back with a full heart and look forward to what God will continue to do with each breath, moment, experience, person, and day. God is good and I am thankful for the deep love and life we each get to soak in right where we are planted.



## Outdoor Worship

September 11  
@10:45 a.m.

Potluck Brunch on the Lawn  
@ 9:30 a.m.

Bring your own table service along with a brunch item and/or a box of cereal to share. Milk and coffee will be provided.

## R • E • M • I • N • D • E • R

***We still need items for refugee school supply kits!***

Leave items at the Welcome Center this Sunday or bring to the church office throughout the week (*note office closure on Monday*). On Saturday, September 10, you are invited join the fun of finishing and filling the kits in the social hall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact [Paula Hampton](#) with questions.



# READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY

## Psalm 73



### 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** | summer Sunday school

• nursery • pre-K class, Room 124 • K-5th class, Room 121

**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

**6pm** | Taizé gathering | NFC sanctuary cancelled this month

### Monday, September 5 . . . . .

JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for seniors 55 and older

NFC office closed for Labor Day holiday

### Wednesday, September 7 . . . . .

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Children's Ministries Orientation | 10am and 7pm | Room 132 | for all children's ministry volunteers; please attend 1 of these or the repeat sessions offered on September 12

### Friday, September 9 . . . . .

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

### Saturday, September 10 . . . . .

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

Wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

### Sunday, September 11 . . . . .

Read ahead: Psalm 73

Outdoor Worship | 10:45am | preceded by a potluck brunch on the lawn at 9:30am | bring your own table service along with a brunch item and/or a box of cereal to share; milk and coffee provided

### Plan Ahead . . . . .

September 12 | Children's Ministries Orientation | 10am and 7pm | Room 132 | for all children's ministry volunteers

September 12 | Call to Prayer | 6:30pm | Room 236

September 14 | WBFpm begins | 7pm | Barclay C

September 15 | Women's Bible Fellowship begins | 8:45am | social hall

September 16-18 | Men's Retreat at Twin Rocks Friends Camp

September 18 | resume full Sunday school schedule

September 18 | all-church business meeting | 6pm

September 21 | Middle School youth group resumes | 6pm | Friends Center

September 21 | High School youth group resumes | 7:30pm | Friends Center

October 3-5 | pastoral team retreat | NFC office closed

## NFC's Calendar on the Web!

## Men's Retreat at Twin Rocks Friends Camp • September 16-18, 2016



For details and registration, [click here](#).



**THANK YOU** for the generous financial response for Karen Swenson's six month sabbatical. We are at 84% of goal; \$1,600 will take us to the top! Checks may be made out to "NWYM" with Karen's name in the memo line (mail to 200 N Meridian St, Newberg, OR 97132).

Karen has moved into her apartment in Newberg and looks forward to rest and renewed relationships with us and other meetings in the Northwest.



If you are interested in participating in children's ministries at Newberg Friends Church this school

year, help is needed in nursery through 5th grade during either service. Please let me know your availability and desired class-room/age to work in by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

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**Children's Ministry Orientation** for all parents and volunteers is available during four different times. *Attendance is mandatory for volunteers.* Pick any one of the following:

**September 7 — 10 a.m. or 7 p.m.**

or

**September 12— 10 a.m. or 7 p.m.**

**NFC's Room 132**

If you have questions, please contact [Michelle Akins](#), pastor, children and family ministries.

## NWYM Friends Women Retreat September 30-October 2, 2016

**Twin Rocks Friends Camp**

**\$155 (cabins)**

**\$196 (Lodge) \$130 (RV)**

Registration forms available by clicking [HERE](#) and at the NFC welcome center.

*Come gather with other Friends Women around the Northwest to enjoy the beach and each other, relax and listen to what God has to say to you, his child.*