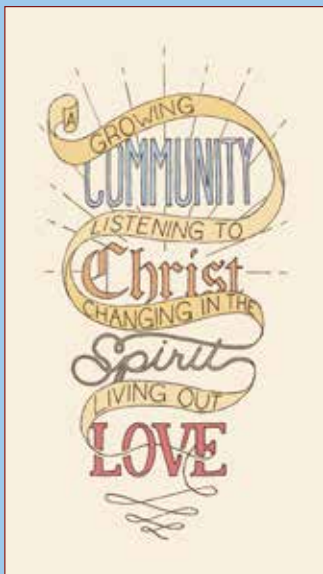


# Your NFC

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

June 16, 2017



## ☛ All in a Day's Life

by Rick Muthiah



I'm often reminded of the frailty and brokenness of our world, a reality brought home by news near and far. A college or high school student takes his own life; bombings in Afghanistan, London, and Iraq kill 80, 7, and 40 people; a colleague is killed when a car rams his stopped motorcycle; more than 65 million refugees and internally displaced people are in search of a stable life; actions by our nation's political leaders contribute to an ongoing cycle of cynicism.

We are also experiencing brokenness and pain within our church body as we have seen fractures and factions develop over the past months. Like many of you, I've been deeply grieved, troubled by the unresolvable differences within our church body. Tension, turmoil, conflict, anger, misunderstanding, hurt, judgment – and more – have been realities for folks across the spectrum on issues of human sexuality and the yearly meeting decision process. And sadness. That seems to be my core response: sadness, casting a shadow over the rest of life, a cloud I haven't been able to shake for months. And yet...

*Christ is Light, in Him there is no darkness,  
Come draw in and He will give you Light.*

These words are from a song we sang at the Taizé service in early May. They reminded me that even in times of darkness, the Light of Christ prevails. This song and others sparked hope in me.

*Sing out my soul.  
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.  
Sing out my soul.  
Sing out and glorify the Lord God!*



The words in themselves are certainly meaningful, but I wish you could hear the tunes and sing the words, repeating songs or phrases numerous times, soaking in the power of truth as we worship our Lord and God.

*Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

I left the Taizé service with hope. Hope that the God I claim to follow is larger than church divisions – difficult as the rending of community is – and that God will continue to work in and through those



who are faithfully following Jesus, even though they might be moving in different directions on some issues. Hope that God is at work beyond Newberg Friends, and that our travails will not derail God's activity in the world. I need frequent reminders of hope, of Christ as Light of the World, because I remain saddened by so much

that I see, near and far. And in the near future, I will no longer be a member of the gathered faith community that has been so important to me over the past dozen years or so.

*Come and fill our hearts with Your peace,  
You alone O Lord, are holy.*

*Come and fill our hearts with Your peace, alleluia.*

I'm hopeful I'll remain in community with many of you – the community of believers, the community of Newberg, perhaps even community through regular interaction with some of you. At the same time I remain sad that the broad umbrella of Newberg Friends Church, a place held together for so long

with members who held a spectrum of theological, social, and political views and yet remained orthodox on central tenets of historic Christian faith – I'll remain sad that *that* Newberg Friends will no longer exist as the body splits, fractures, and splinters.

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid;  
lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

Thank you for shaping me, being home for my family, and enabling us to participate in the life and ministry of Newberg Friends. God has been gracious. And now this chapter is closed.

*Peace [Love...Light...Christ] before us,  
Peace behind us,  
Peace under our feet;  
Peace within us, Peace over us  
let all around us be Peace.*

Another song has been on my mind for the past few months and has surprised me by showing up unexpectedly in the past few weeks. "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..." May we each be drawn to the Light, be filled with the Light, and shine the Light of Christ as we encounter darkness and chaos in our community and our world.

## THANK YOU, PASTORS

### An Invitation!

You are invited to thank our pastors who will conclude their time of ministry soon. On Sunday, June 25, between services, please come and say thank you to Michelle Akins (8 ½ years on staff), Gregg Koskela (15 years), Elizabeth Sherwood (11 years), and Nolan Staples (3 years). We will have cake and coffee, and there will be a place for thank you cards for each of our pastors.

## Oh, Baby!



Welcome to **Christopher Corban Harwood**, born on Monday, June 5, 2017, to **Corban** and **Mary Harwood**. Christopher joins big sister, **Elizabeth**.



### Yearly Meeting Sessions July 23-26

George Fox  
University  
Newberg, Oregon

No link provided here, but you can find more info at <http://nwfriends.org/ym-sessions/>



**Pastoral Team**

Michelle Akins  
children and family ministries

Steve Fawver  
spiritual health and care

Gregg Koskela  
lead pastor

Elizabeth Sherwood  
administration

Nolan Staples  
worship ministries

**Support Staff**

Corbin Gronvold  
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.

**READ AHEAD FOR SUNDAY**

**Luke 18:35-19:10**

**What's Ahead**

**SUNDAY**

9am | Nursery offered both services. Pre-K Sunday school, Room 124;  
K-5th grade Sunday school, Room 121

9am | worship gathering

10-10:45am | Community Time | in the social hall and library

10:15-10:45am | library staffed

10:30am | Agape Sunday school class

10:45am | worship gathering

**Monday, June 19**

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

**Wednesday, June 21**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Pizza and Movie Night — Peace and Justice Committee | 5:30pm | social hall  
| We'll share pizza and watch the movie "Beyond the Gates," an intense  
movie that tells of the beginning of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. The  
Thomas family got to be extras in this movie! We'll take time to pray for  
the NFC people going on the YCEW trip to Rwanda—June 25-July 13.

**Friday, June 23**

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

**Sunday, June 25**

Read ahead: Hebrews 12:18-24

"Thank your pastors" reception on the lawn between morning services

8th grade graduation celebration at Old Spaghetti Factory | depart after  
second service

**Plan Ahead**

July 2 | new summer schedule begins | see info below

July 3 | JOY breakfast | 8am | Friendsview Hess Creek dining room | \$4 | for  
seniors 55 and older

[Click here to see the calendar online.](#)



**SUMMER  
SCHEDULE**

**BEGINNING  
JULY 2**

**Christian Education • 9 a.m.**

**Gathered Worship • 10:45 a.m.**

**Community time and library open between**

**Christian Education includes: Agape, Children of Light, Shalom,  
Middle and High School Youth, K-5th Grade, Pre-K, and nursery**

**Watch for classroom assignments in next week's Your NFC.**



SINCE 1918



TWIN ROCKS  
friends camp

It's time to sign up for summer camp at Twin Rocks Friends Camp! Brochures are available at the welcome center or [on their website](#).

**Girls Camp: July 2-7**

**Boys Camp: July 16-21**

**Tween Camp: July 9-15**

**Surfside Camp: August 6-12**

**Family Camp: September 1-4**

## ***BECAUSE OF NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING...***

“When Grace Happens...” is the theme for the 2017 NWYM Annual Sessions. We want to grace each other by recognizing the legacy shown by and through the lives shaped through ministries and churches who comprise what NWYM is all about. It is not an organization, but the people who make NWYM what it is.

While we acknowledge there is anger, pain, and suffering around the restructure decision, we encourage this exercise to focus on the positive legacy.

### ***Because of Northwest Yearly Meeting I...***

Use these prompts as you reflect:

- What is your story? How were you shaped and influenced to serve Christ and others through a relationship, activity or ministry of NWYM.
- What are you doing today because of NWYM?

You can participate individually by printing out [this document](#) and adding your answer. Another way is to attend Community Time on Sunday and find a table with pre-printed sheets. Find Michelle to take your picture holding your answer (see samples below) or ask someone you know to take a picture on their/your Smartphone, then email it directly to [legacy@nwfriends.org](mailto:legacy@nwfriends.org). These will be used at Annual Sessions. Thank you for your participation.

