



from . . . Dick Sartwell, interim pastor

February contains a few bright spots (like Presidents Day and Valentines Day), but for many people this short month isn't short enough. Oregonians in the Willamette Valley understand that our frequent rains are the price we pay for lush vegetation and gorgeous flowering shrubs. But sometimes February feels like the low point of the year. We commonly let November trigger thankfulness, but I want to suggest we also use February to encourage our gratitude. Here's a start:

I'm thankful for...

- The large number of volunteers who have stepped forward to help us do ministry together.
- The wonderful news from our stewards that for the first time in a few years we were able to approve a balanced budget without drawing on reserve funds. Your faithful giving enabled this.
- The large number of you who have made the effort to be involved in our all-church meetings to work at clarifying who we are as a church as we prepare for new leadership.
- The words of scripture that speak to our lives in powerful ways. This month in our morning services we'll be looking at some great texts filled with encouragement.

Be aware in these weeks of what is encouraging you and thank the Lord for it!

Tomorrow Morning!

How might God want to use us to impact our community ... and beyond? Join others through small- and large-group discussions and times of prayer in seeking God's direction and plan for Newberg Friends Church for the next few years. We hope to provide input for our elders as they seek to prepare a vision statement for our church.

Do we really need to do this? If God has a will for us, how would we know that without asking him to reveal it to us? If pastoral candidates have an interest in knowing what we're hearing from God, how should our search committee answer such questions?

Come to the social hall at 9 a.m. and be part of this important visioning effort.



THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, February 3

- Who Do We Want to Become? — a large- and small-group activity to create a document expressing our conviction of what God's vision is for our future • social hall • 9am to noon, followed by a soup luncheon
- Read ahead for Sunday: Haggai 2:1-9

Sunday, February 4

Gathered Prayer • 8am • Room 236

Sunday School • 9am • classroom locations, click [HERE](#)

Coffee and Conversation in the Library • 10am

Gathered Worship • 10:30am

NEXT WEEK

Monday, February 5

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

Intercessory prayer • 9am • Barclay C

Strong For Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

Wednesday, February 7

Strong For Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

Thursday, February 8

REAL: a place for women to study God's word • 8:45am • NFC social hall

Friday, February 9

Strong For Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

AFTER THAT

Saturday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 18

Whole-Life Discipleship • 6-7:30pm • social hall • Spend an interactive evening with Jeff and Christine Stanfield and David Thomas as they illustrate whole-life discipleship and how it relates to their global outreach efforts.

Monday, February 19

NFC office closed for Presidents Day

Sunday, February 25

Young Families Luncheon • following worship in the social hall • lunch and activities for the kids provided • Questions? Contact [Ursa Shaw](#).

Saturday, March 3

Exploring Membership • 8:30a-noon • Barclay C • scroll for details • [RSVP here](#)

Friday-Sunday, March 9-11

NFC Women's Retreat • Twin Rocks Friends Camp • retreat information [HERE](#); registration [HERE](#).

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



Committee Clerk Updates

elders • presiding • stewards • trustees • YM reps • treasurer
Christian education • recording • cemetery • nominating

From Chuck Scott, stewards committee

Give thanks! We do indeed have many reasons to be thankful. First—we thank God for providing our congregation with the talents, skills, resources, and experience sufficient to meet all of our needs and the needs of NFC. Second—we thank all of you who so faithfully give to NFC from the provisions God has given to you. This is how it works, you know. God first gives to us so that we can share with each other what he has provided. Our church can thrive through his provision and our faithfulness to share. So much talent is being shared, so many hours of volunteering, so many hugs and other expressions of caring and helping! Of course, the stewards are especially grateful to you for sharing from your financial resources. Third—if you haven't yet heard, December's giving far exceeded our hopes. It enabled us to present a budget for the second half of our fiscal year that not only meets our current needs but also puts a little back into our needed reserves. So again, thank *you*, thank *God*, and thank *each other*.



Read the newest installment
[HERE](#)



**Did you know we have a
“Compassionate Care
Fund”?**

Newberg Friends Church has a fund that provides emergency assistance to those from our church family who need financial help in some unusual circumstance—for example, an unexpected medical expense. Those with such a need should contact the church pastor. This fund is made possible by the contributions of those in our congregation who generously provide gifts designated “Compassionate Care.” It has a low balance right now. Can you help boost it?

**Exploring Membership
Saturday, March 3
8:30 a.m. to noon
Barclay C
(office conference room)**

Exploring Membership is for anyone interested in finding out more about the NFC community or considering membership. Whether you are new or have been here for years, come and join us!

**Led by Dave and Judy
Woolsey and Dick Sartwell**

Interested? [Please RSVP to the church office.](#)



REFERENCE INFORMATION:

Newberg Friends Church

307 S College (mailing PO Box 487), Newberg, OR 97132

503-538-8381 (office) • 503-538-0637 (fax)

NEW office hours: 9a to 1p Monday-Friday • 2 to 5pm by appointment

website: <http://newbergfriends.org>

Richard Sartwell, interim pastor

Sunday Schedule:

Gathered Prayer – 8am

Sunday School – 9am

Coffee and Conversation in the Library – 10am

Gathered Worship 10:30am

Friday Focus editor: Sherry Macy • [Send submissions to her](#) by Wednesday for Friday publication.