

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY

NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

Rotary
Newberg Early Birds
June 15, 2023

Last week President Hostetler shared an acknowledgment from ShelterBox. Our District 5100 donated enough funding for 17 Shelter Boxes. Of those, our Early Bird Exchange Students accounted for 10 of those.



Our inaugural Golf Tournament is coming June 19, with our Presenting Sponsor being A-dec. <https://newbergrotaryearlybirds.org/golf-tournament>

[Newberg Peace Garden](#), a community healing project by [Newberg First Presbyterian Church](#), was presented by Ciarán Hynes and Chris Murphy.

Ciarán, a native Irishman, has lived in Newberg since 2011 and with A-dec, currently as Director of Quality Assurance, since 2007 (WA, England, and Ireland) with the last 12 years here in Newberg. He is also an adjunct professor at GFU.



Rev. Dr. Chris Murphy has been the pastor of Newberg Presbyterian Church for five years. One Good Friday he was walking behind the church wondering and praying about what his church could do with the property behind it.



God's voice reminded Chris of the resources he had and the gifts He'd given him.

Ken Austin Jr. was one of those gifts and resources. In a quiet meeting once Ken had asked Christ, first, what is distinctive about your church? Second, what can your church do to serve Newberg's community?

With a focus on spirituality and prayer a vision took root that the church campus could be a place of peace and reflection. He announced that Easter Sunday that God had given him a vision for a peace garden.

Ciarán was in attendance for that service.

As a master gardener, Ciarán volunteered to get the project off the ground.

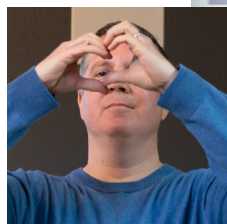
So, with initial funding from a Thriving Congregation grant (from the Lilly Endowment?) and



labor from George Fox University's [Serve Day](#) (thank you, David Brandt) students, the labyrinth was built.

The labyrinth is not a maze and has no tricks, choices or dead ends. It is a walking metaphor for every person's individual journey through the twists and turns of life to the center of self and return to the outside world.

Newberg Presbyterian is a church that seeks unity and peace. From a vision last week, Chris illustrated with outstretched arms that we have opposing opinions and politics. "Are you the type of person that can bring your hands to the



center and form a heart of love?"

Ciarán says the shape of the Peace Garden is to move through it echoing the intent of the labyrinth, just like life's journey.

The approach to design, construction is simple and basic. To keep existing trees, source materials locally, and pay as they go to avoid debt.

There will be a small amphitheater in the top left corner with seating for up to 100 and ambitions for a pergola, wedding arch and

community garden.

While the gravel paths are packed and navigable by wheelchair, the goal is to pave them for even easier mobility.

A hedge of laurel will obscure the neighboring Jaquith pickleball court but still have an access point which is currently always open but may become down to dusk like the main entrance.

Q: When will the amphitheater be complete?

A: We are waiting on budget and volunteers, but the project is already underway.

Q: Will plants all be native?

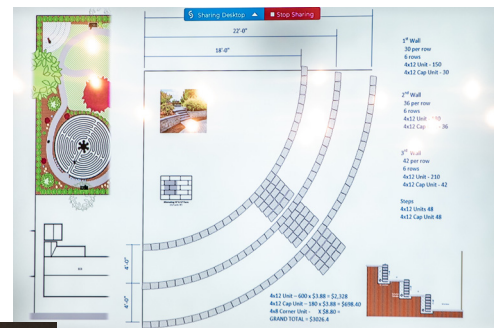
A: Yes. They will be native to our area, sourced locally and be as drought and deer resistant as possible.

Q: Being in the corner, how will the amphitheater be accessed by performers?

A: Down the center steps through the audience.

Q: How is drainage being managed?

A: The low part actually follows the terrain but care is being taken not to create problems for homes below grade.



If you wish to volunteer your time, like the Noon Club did last weekend, contact them on [Facebook](#), via email at firstpresnewberg@frontier.com, or call the church office at 503-538-3313.

