



# FPC This Week



## From the Pastor's Blog

Are you easily offended? What types of things do you find yourself becoming offended at? We can be offended by something as little as someone not saying hello to us. As a person who has struggled over the years with being over-sensitive and reading into things, I have prayed for God to help me become *unoffendable*. It is only natural to have our feelings hurt, and because we are human beings, we will sin against each other. How are we, according to Jesus, to handle it?

One of the most radical concepts Jesus ever spoke about was forgiveness. When Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” Matthew 18:21-22

In other words, Jesus was saying that *every* time a brother or sister sins against us, that we should forgive them. That was a radical departure from the Old Testament law which said an eye for an eye.

Another radical concept that Jesus taught was the idea of resolving conflict in Matthew 5:23-24: “If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.” We need to settle differences before approaching God! And key here is that if we know we have offended someone, *we* are to go to *him or her*.

Let Christ’s humility be your example. Some of the most powerful words in the New Testament can be found in Philippians 2:5-7 and 17: “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men...But even if I (Paul) am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.” The drink offering was the libation...the last part of the Old Testament sacrifice, the fruit of the worker’s labor. Paul, the greatest of the apostles, was saying he would rejoice even if could be that part in service to Christ along with the Philippian workers. Now, that’s humility.

Finally, we are to leave room for the work of God. “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.” Romans 12:17

Forgive those who sin against you, admit when you are wrong, remember Christ’s example of humility, and leave room for God to work in a person’s life and in your own. Let His great love for you make you so secure that you can become *unoffendable*. ~Blessings, Pastor Mike

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

### This Sunday, March 1:

**Sexton:** Mike Ricci

**Coffee Hour:** Ralph and Alice Thomas

**Nursery:** Deidra Ricci and Deb MacDowell

**Young Children's Worship:** Kris Aleicho

**Hospitality:** Tim and Stacie Schultz, Charlotte Ricci, Mike Franco, Robert and Christine Sahms, John Wicks

**Communion:** Bob and Lourdes Kelly

### Last Sunday, February 23:

**Sexton:** Mike Franco

**Coffee Hour:** Inner Life

**Nursery:** Hilary Hartlaub

**Young Children's Worship:** Brian Ross

**Hospitality:** Brain and Darien Petit, Judy Graves, Mike Franco, Tim and Stacie Schultz, Dave Kolator

### SAVE THE DATES!



Daylight Saving Time begins March 8 (Spring forward an hour!)



Collection for college care packages will be March 15-April 12. List of items to donate is coming soon!



Dinner and palm cross folding is April 4. Time TBA.



- Palm Sunday is April 5
- Easter Sunday is April 12



## Sermon Connect

Use Sermon Connect for a morning quiet time to dive deeper into Scripture, discuss the sermon between friends, in a small group, or over coffee. It can be a wonderful tool to engage people who have questions about God!

This past Sunday, Pastor Mike preached on 1 John 2:29-3:1-6 on ***Children of God***. John reminds us that if we are truly believers in Christ that we are part of the family of God and that should act like a family that loves each other in the love of Christ.

1) **Children of God:** God lavished love upon us. We are literally “sunk into” the love of God. Once we are in that family, we cannot be taken out. How should that truth encompass how we treat others in the family of God? John says that love should be our primary trait. How are you exemplifying that in the church?

**LOVE IS THE KEY TRAIT, the STRONGEST and most OBVIOUS resemblance to God the Father.**

2) **Understanding our roots:** Spiritual roots are not of this world. We should stop trying to fit in, because our eternal home is in heaven. Do you try to fit into the world? How or how not? How can we be in the world but not of it?

**BECAUSE of our acceptance of JESUS CHRIST as LORD, our spiritual roots, when we get to heaven, THE SIGHT of HIM in all HIS GLORY will make us PURE LIKE HIM.**

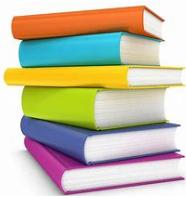
3) **The nature of sin:** Sin - inequity- is breaking the moral code. We are either a child of God or in the world, which belongs to Satan.

**Bottom line: If we claim to be children of God, then our claim to this relationship should be supported by our spiritual likeness to our heavenly Father, and LOVE should be our greatest trait.**

The **Pray New England 2020 Conference** will be March 26-28 in Newport. The 3 day conference is designed to equip you with the tools and vision of transformation within your life and the body of Christ. This is an exciting opportunity, given that it's happening right here on the island! For more info, go to <https://www.praynewengland.com/>



## FAMILY AND KIDS MINISTRIES



The reading challenge wrapped up on February 21 with great fun by all kids who participated! All the students who completed it received \$10 gift certificates from Barnes and Noble.

Family Fun and Game Night on Friday, February 21 was enjoyed by all who attended! Mark your calendars for the next one, planned for May 15 at 5:30pm.



We are thankful for Barbara Ross, who organized both of these events!



All kids Sunday School classes meet on the 2nd floor of the CE building at 9:15 am. For more details, see the FPC website at <https://fpcnewport.org/sunday-school/>

Just a few of the Bible truths that the students are studying in the Westminster Catechism class!



Rosanne Franco with some of the girls from her Sunday School class. They are now studying the Westminster Short Catechism, along with other students, in preparation for church membership and profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Copies of the Westminster Short Catechism are available in the Fellowship Hall for all adults and students.

## Join us for Sunday School at 9:15am!

A discussion-based Bible study of 1 John, paralleling Pastor Mike's sermon series, is facilitated by John Wicks.

Where: The Lynch Room, 2nd floor above the Fellowship Hall (look for the sign on the stairs)

A Bible study on the book of Philippians, to be followed by a study of Ephesians, is led by Don Estes.

Where: The Hometime Room, main level off of the Fellowship Hall



### Adult Bible Studies

#### For FPC Men:

**Calling all Men Prayer Warriors.** On February 19, the men's Bible Study begins a study of the book ***The Battle Plan for Prayer*** by the Kendrick brothers. The men's Bible Study meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm in the Hometime Room.

**Promise Keepers** meet for optional breakfast at Chelsea's, 1015 Aquidneck Ave at 7:00 Saturday mornings, followed by a time of Bible study, discussion and prayer in the Hometime room at 8:00am. Contact Don Fennessey at [fenns@hotmail.com](mailto:fenns@hotmail.com)

#### For Women:

#### Darkness and Light: A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Mondays 6pm at the Kolator home. Contact Alice Thomas at [thomasesar@aol.com](mailto:thomasesar@aol.com) for more info.

**For All:** The Friday night group meets the second and fourth Friday of the month, rotating at members' homes. We are studying Genesis. Contact Tim Schultz @ 919-699-7576.

**Looking for a way  
to serve but perhaps you  
have limited time?  
Volunteer for Coffee Hour!**

- Many people like to pair up with a friend to host Coffee Hour!
- You can sign up in the Fellowship Hall near the information table, where there are more detailed instructions on how to serve during this important time on Sunday morning after Worship.
- You can be a part by staying after Worship to connect with new faces and visitors!
- Questions? Contact Tim Schultz at 919-699-7576.



Do you receive the **Enews** to your email? If you have access to the internet, you can also read it on the FPC website at

<https://fpcnewport.org/e-news/>

The print is clear, and you can enlarge the size to make it more legible. A page turner on the bottom left corner allows you to turn to each **Enews** page as though you are reading a magazine. It's eye-catching, as well as a practical format for everyone.



## Social Media

Our Facebook page ([facebook.com/fpcnewport](https://facebook.com/fpcnewport)) is updated several times a week with current information and spiritual encouragement.



Find us through Instagram at [fpcnewport](https://fpcnewport).



Church Office Hours  
M-Wed, 9am - 1pm  
401-847-1749



## Prayer Updates:

- Praise that Bob Henry's cancer screening online results indicate no cancer. Please continue to be in prayer for Bob.
- Pray for Anna Boshka (Estes' granddaughter) who is going on a mission trip with her college. Pray for traveling mercies and the leading of the Holy Spirit as they share God's Word.
- For our young people, as they participate in the communicant class, and for our new Sunday School classes and small group Bible studies, that God's Word would be understood with clarity and applied in truth.
- For our military and their families, stateside and deployed overseas.
- For our pastor, elders, deacons, staff, musicians and volunteers.
- For Dick and Cindy Price as Dick continues to recover from his 2nd stem cell transplant. For updates, contact Deidra Ricci at [pamperdee@cox.net](mailto:pamperdee@cox.net)

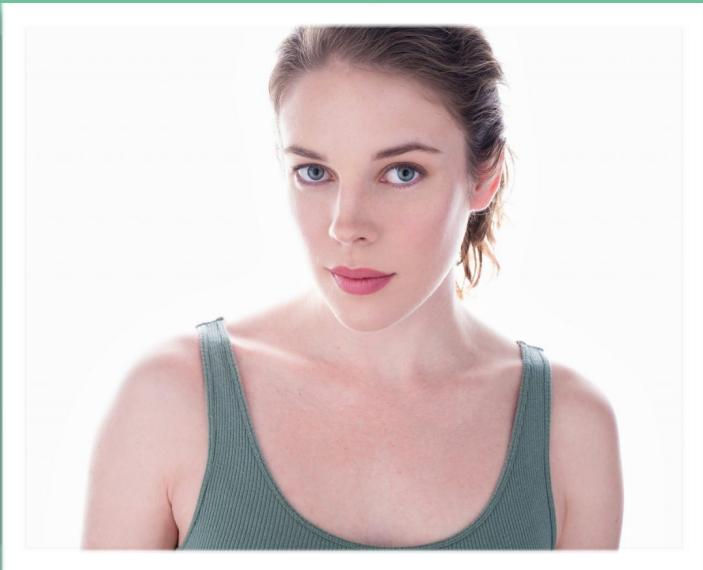
If you have a prayer request that you would like to be added to the ENews, please send it to [irene@fpcnewport.org](mailto:irene@fpcnewport.org). Your prayer care and needs are of the highest importance!

Here are the guidelines to share information in the **ENews** and the **Church Bulletin**. We appreciate your help in keeping our family, friends and the community up to date!

- **ENews Submissions:** Should be submitted to [irene@fpcnewport.org](mailto:irene@fpcnewport.org) by the Thursday prior.
- **Church Bulletin Submissions:** Should be submitted to [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org) no later than the Tuesday prior to when they will appear in the Sunday bulletin.
- **Please include in all submissions:**
  - Name of event/class/announcement
  - Start date/end date
  - Start time/end time
  - Location (room within the church)/Name and street address if outside the church
- **A direct point of contact** to the person(s) in charge via email and/or phone.
- **Any other relevant details** specific to the event/class/announcement

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# FPC in the News



**Charlotte Ricci**, an actor, was featured in an article by the Dove Foundation, highlighting her part in the Academy Award nominated *Little Women* and how she lives out her faith in the acting community. You can find it online at [https://dove.org/little-women-actress-seeks-gods-direction-in-story-and-service/?sfns=mo&fbclid=IwAR2rlWB7Px2SbqmSXQoLMqIMPAl2amuGuvFVQNglWU\\_9Qwp0fMpr04eqEvU](https://dove.org/little-women-actress-seeks-gods-direction-in-story-and-service/?sfns=mo&fbclid=IwAR2rlWB7Px2SbqmSXQoLMqIMPAl2amuGuvFVQNglWU_9Qwp0fMpr04eqEvU)

**Stacie Schultz's work** as a Zumba instructor with all ability adults was highlighted in the Portsmouth, RI newspaper. You can also find it online at  
<https://www.eastbayri.com/stories/taking-center-stage-in-portsmouth,76729?fbclid=IwAR32hqPqvO3IQEMFTdECxXKi3FilJ2koKNRCv72BMuHYBcUe4Rdv5-EuM>



**EASTER is coming to FPC...**

**Sunday, April 12, 2020, 10:30 am**

**Who will you invite to hear  
the life saving message  
of the Resurrection  
of Jesus Christ?**

A scenic landscape image of a hill at sunset or sunrise. Three wooden crosses stand prominently on the peak of the hill against a backdrop of a colorful sky with orange, yellow, and blue hues. The foreground shows some rocky terrain.