



FPC This Week



PEACE WITH GOD

When I was growing up, I was often told “tough times don’t last, but tough people do.” This seems to be one of the major mantras of our family. Yet even the strongest person knows there are events that can challenge one’s toughness.

Today I would like us to look a bit deeper, to go beyond this idea of toughness, beyond our dependence on our own abilities. It’s time to address one of life’s most fundamental questions: How do we find peace? I am not talking about world peace; I am speaking of inner peace, the peace Scripture says “surpasses all human understanding.” Peace with God.

As believers, we know we are not citizens of this world. We belong to the family of God and should live as such. We should stand above fear, worry, even death. However, as we are daily reminded of these by COVID-19, it is understandable we will feel the stress the world is feeling right now.

So let us refocus our attention on the source of our peace and hope. In Romans 5:1-2, Paul provides these words of encouragement: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Paul reminds us that by our faith in Christ we have been made right with God and have peace with him. We have access to his grace and celebrate in hope. We stand on those beliefs, but there is more.

In Romans 5:3-5, Paul continues, “Not only that but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

There are times in this life when we all will be confronted with difficulties, stress and pain. How we respond says a great deal about who we are and what we believe. Paul reminds us that even in suffering, God is at work in our lives. He produces endurance, builds up our character, gives us hope, and pours out his love for us through his Holy Spirit.

As Christians, we may struggle with the world, but we are not of the world. Because, as the old hymn reminds us, “On Christ the solid rock I stand....” God is still God.

More to follow!
Blessings, Pastor Mike

CHURCH COMMUNITY IS ALIVE AND WELL!

**Would you like to know how to keep community alive while social distancing?
Ben and Charlotte Ricci share how they've kept their small group meeting virtually.**

After a week off from Small Group, Ben and I decided that in our digital age there was no reason we couldn't still meet with our church community. So we coordinated a Skype Small Group meeting! Here's how we did it:

1. We started with my pre-existing Skype account. If you don't have one of your own, it's free to download!
2. We emailed all our group members with the time of our meeting, as well as my Skype name and email address so they could "friend" me. I also asked them to send me their Skype name and email so I could find them.
3. I logged into Skype, clicked the button that said "New Chat", clicked "New Group Chat", and gave the group a name.
4. Once the group was created, I clicked on it, and then clicked "Invite More People". From there I was able to add people to the group as they "friended" me on Skype, or sent me their Skype names to search.
5. I got everyone added to the group before the meeting started, and then once it was time I clicked the camera icon to start the call, and everyone else hopped on in response.
6. We all had to make some camera and mic adjustments, but eventually we smoothed out the kinks and were able to talk and pray together. It was great to catch up and stay connected!

Depending on how long we have to social distance, we may try actually picking up our scripture study on Daniel again. We're considering using other platforms like Google Hangout or Zoom. But either way, video group chats are a wonderful way to stay connected and encouraged in these isolating times. We think everyone should give it a try!

Charlotte (and Ben!)



**A computer screenshot of Ben and Charlotte's
Small Group.**

How are you keeping community with Christ and with each other? How have you stayed encouraged?
If you have a story to share, send it to irene@fpcnewport.org

For encouragement and/or the latest church news, you can check out the following sites:

The church website: fpcnewport.org

Facebook: facebook.com/fpcnewport

Instagram: fpcnewport
Pastor Mike has posted videos on IGTV!

YouTube: FPC Newport Pastor Mike Herring

Please remember that the health and safety of all of our FPC family and friends, including our staff, is a top priority, along with the safety and health of our community. This is truly how we love one another, by putting others above ourselves and understanding that by social distancing, we are showing love.

There will be no worship service at FPC this Sunday, March 29. We will continue to re-evaluate as we listen to the federal, state and civil authorities.

The staff and leadership will keep you updated on when we will meet again for Sunday morning worship as a congregation.

But this is not a time to shrink back in fear and timidity because we do not know what lies ahead. As believers in the risen Savior, Jesus, who gives people salvation, hope and peace, now, more than ever, we should share the message of salvation found in Christ!



Please remember that the following events have been cancelled:

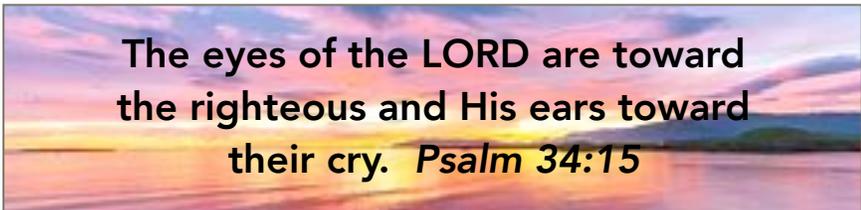
- The potluck and palm folding on April 5.
- The care package collection for college students.
- The Pray New England Conference.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

- For those ill with the coronavirus, pray for healing. Pray for the stop of the spread of the coronavirus. Pray for our world, our country, our state, and our community. Pray that hearts would turn to Jesus Christ in this global storm.
- For all of those serving on the frontlines: healthcare workers, first responders, hourly workers, military personnel, including the National Guard.
- Pray for wisdom for our civic leaders, from the President on down. Pray for the governors of the states.
- 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. Dick is doing much better and would love to hear from you. To find out how you can let the Prices know you are thinking of them, contact Deidra Ricci at 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. Your prayer care and needs are of the highest importance!



The eyes of the LORD are toward
the righteous and His ears toward
their cry. *Psalm 34:15*



We serve a RISEN SAVIOR!



HALLELUJAH!