



# FPC This Week

## Pastor's Letter

Hello, everyone,

In Romans 12:12 the Apostle Paul writes these words to the believers in Rome, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. These words are just as powerful today as they were in Paul's day. In many ways life has not changed. As Christians, we all need hope, we all need to find hope in Christ alone, and we all need to believe our hope is not in vain. We understand that the grace we have received by faith in Jesus Christ is irrevocable. So we can and must rejoice, even in times of tribulation. God is still God.

We must strive to be patient. Tribulation is a natural process in a fallen world. There will be always difficult and even dangerous times, for our world will continue to struggle until Christ returns in glory. Yet in all of this, Paul reminds us to be patient and live by faith (Romans 1:17). Finally, we are reminded to be constant in our prayers. We are to pray for our needs, both physical and spiritual, we are to pray for the needs of others, and pray with the understanding that the Spirit of God continually intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27).

We will be gathering together once again as congregation. I do not have an exact date to share with you but we hope to have one soon. I can tell you our gatherings will look different but our focus will not; we will gather for the glory of God.

I hope to be able to share more specific information next week, but, until then, I encourage you to continue to follow my Sunday sermon online, to meet in your small groups virtually, and to continue to support FPC financially.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and more to follow...

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike

## Sarah Beck Hill Scholarships

In memory of his mother Sarah Beck Hill, Ralph Hill left \$250,000 in trust to the First Presbyterian Church to be used for scholarships for students attending the University of Rhode Island. Thanks to Mr. Hill's generous gift, since its establishment in 1991 the trust has provided over \$435,000 in grants, largely to children of FPC families to assist with the cost of their education.



The Board of Trustees for the Sarah Beck Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund is now receiving applications for scholarships to be awarded in June 2020. These scholarships provide a grant each semester for eight consecutive semesters. Applications may be submitted by anyone planning to begin, or who is currently enrolled in, a full-time course of study in a degree program at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. Interested students should notify Ralph Thomas, 848-2718 or [thomasesar@aol.com](mailto:thomasesar@aol.com), of their intention to apply no later than May 15. Application forms, which list the supporting documents required, are available online ([www.fpcnewport.org](http://www.fpcnewport.org), then Be Involved then Special Programs) and must be completed and returned by May 30.



## Rebuilding Together Greater Newport Update

FPC's participation in the last two years has been at private residences in Newport and Middletown. This year we were to work with one of our mission partners, the Salvation Army. As in previous years, on two or more Saturdays in April we would have been at the Salvation Army to begin the repainting of interior walls, sanding and painting of doors, and priming and painting of exterior trim. Then on April 25, Rebuilding Together's National Day of Service, we would return to the Salvation Army to complete our work. The COVID 19 crisis ended those plans. But the work will go on! At a date when it is determined the work can be done safely, FPC's help will still be needed. No special skills are required: willing hands wielding a paintbrush are just as important as the skilled carpenter. Watch FPC This Week for further announcements.

There are several resources for you and your family to stay spiritually plugged in during the pandemic. Here are just a couple:

### RightNow Media

If you don't know about RightNow Media, think Netflix for Bible Studies, kids' shows, and movies. Need some time to get work done without the kids climbing all over you? Or are you looking for something the kids can watch without worrying about inappropriate language or content? For kids specifically, there are sing-along shows like the classic *VeggieTales*, cartoon shows categorized by age level, and full-length movies. You can watch on your computer or download the app on your phone, tablet, or streaming device like Apple TV and Roku.

**STAY  
PLUGGED  
IN**



### The Bible App for Adults and The Bible App for Kids

Take the Bible and thousands of studies and devotionals with you wherever you go (which isn't very many places right now). Like to read? There are thousands of studies you can read on your own and at your own pace. Prefer video content? They have thousands of devotionals and encouraging messages you can watch. Struggle staying consistent in your reading? Set a reminder within the app to alert you when it's time to read. Just click the notification and it will take you right to where you left off the last time. Looking for ways to stay active? Go for a walk and let the Bible App read the Bible to you. What a gift that we can carry it around in our pockets every day because of this app. Check it out here: <https://my.bible.com>

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

The church website: [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fpcnewport](https://facebook.com/fpcnewport)

Instagram: [fpcnewport](https://www.instagram.com/fpcnewport)

YouTube: [FPC Newport Pastor Mike Herring](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFPCNewport)

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.

We are not certain when we will be meeting in person yet. The staff and leadership will keep you updated on when we will meet again for Sunday morning worship as a congregation.



## 1 JOHN

This Sunday, May 3, Pastor Mike will preach from 1 John 4: 7-12 on ***The Love of God***.

What a reassurance we have from God's Word of God's love for us, especially during times of heightened stress and uncertainty.

Videos of his preaching are now available directly on the website homepage at [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org)

But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. ~Psalm 66:19



Office Hours are flexible during the pandemic. If you can't reach the office by phone, please e-mail @

[secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org)

4 Everett Street, Newport RI 02840

## PRAYER REQUESTS

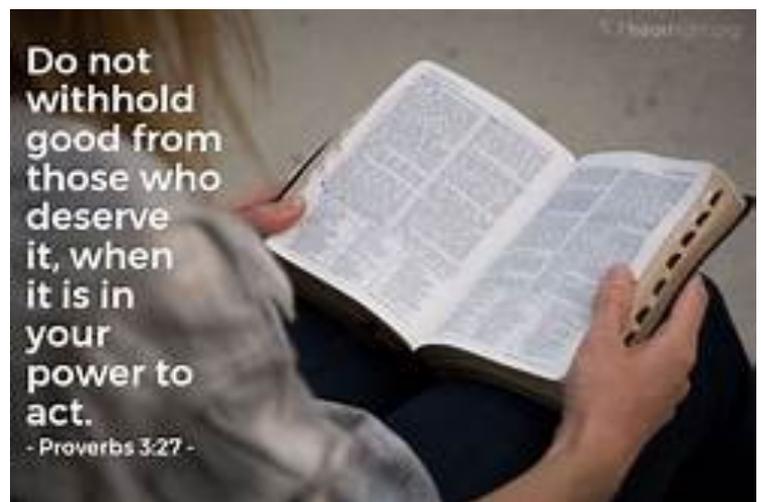
- We offer our love and prayers to the family of Bob Henry, who passed away recently. Please keep his wife Carol, Kris Aleicho and all of the family in your prayers.
- Pray for those who are ill with the COVID-19 including Rafe Sweeney
- Diane, Brian Petit's sister, who has cancer
- Lori (Alice and Ralph Thomas' daughter) doing Hospice at COVID Specialty Nursing Home
- Heather (Nancy and Ed Burgess' daughter) taking care of patients on the COVID Ward at Mass General
- Danielle (Dick and Cindy Price's daughter) working with COVID patients
- Charis and Joshua (daughter and son-in-law of missionaries Larry and Linda Jones) who are still in Bangladesh working in a missions hospital battling COVID
- That people would turn to Jesus Christ in this time of crisis
- 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.
- 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.
- Pray 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.

# WHO DO I WANT TO BE DURING COVID-19?



## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PURPOSE

A local group, SewHope, is making masks for Lifespan and Care New England hospitals (RI Hospital, Miriam, etc) at their request, using a pattern and fabric approved by the hospitals. **THEY DESPERATELY NEED THESE MASKS AND ARE BEGGING FOR MORE.** If you are experienced with a sewing machine, please find the "SewHopeSNE" group on Facebook and join —they need more people who can sew! Materials will be supplied to you. Please help out if you can! (Please note: they cannot take any more requests for masks.) (Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/291487031831768/>)



Are you aware of opportunities to serve the community? And how has God helped you thrive and survive during the pandemic? We'd love to hear from you. You can share your experiences and photos by sending to [irene@fpcnewport.org](mailto:irene@fpcnewport.org).