

February 4, 2021



FPC ENews

Love Is a Verb

**“If I speak in tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. “
1 Corinthians 13:1**

So begins Paul’s beautiful description of the way of love. As Christians we all know how important love is in the Christian faith. We understand how people long for love in every aspect of their lives. Yet, the key to love is clear. Love in the Christian faith is a verb. It is active, it is powerful and it is always necessary. As believers, we must always be willing to “walk the talk” and love like Christ. I invite you to reflect on 1 Corinthians 13 during the weeks that lead up to Easter. We have recommended some resources to bless you and your family along the way and to understand more deeply God’s greatest act of love, the Crucifixion, and His greatest act of power, the Resurrection.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

What Should I Sacrifice for Lent?

from Uncovering the Love of Jesus, A Lent Devotional:

...Sacrificial love is precisely the heart of Lent because Easter is the story of Jesus’ love poured out for us. ...Quite simply, we cannot say that we love Jesus but not actively love our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our enemies. We cannot claim to have experienced Jesus’ love and remain indifferent to those suffering around us, or tolerate ancient grudges, or overlook bickering, backbiting, or even mild indifference. Jesus’ love compels us to a radical outpouring of love, even to the most unloveable person in our lives...”

WE'RE OPEN SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP!

- Sunday School begins at 9:15 am.
- Service begins at 10:30 am.
- All who enter the church must wear a face mask during the service.
- You will need to bring your own Bible.
- We have printed song sheets in the bulletin rather than hymnals.
- We will practice social distancing in sanctuary seating.
- Offering plates will be placed in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your convenience and will be collected during the designated offering time.
- There will be no children's sermon.

Finally, remember there is hand sanitizer placed throughout the church for your use. We encourage you to bring your own as well. Also, if you are sick or running a fever, please remain at home. We can't wait to see you!

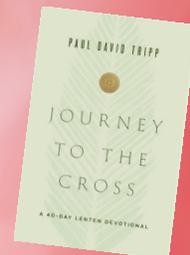


JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Looking for some resources to journey to the Cross as a part of your morning devotional for the 40 days before Easter?

Here are some good devotionals for individuals and families:

Journey to the Cross, A 40 Day Lenten Devotional by Paul David Tripp



Uncovering the Love of Jesus, A Lent Devotional by Asheritah Ciuciu is perfect for either individuals or families. Each week has activities that can be done individually or as a family.

Kids Sunday School

Yes, we are meeting in person! Sundays at 9:15 am, join us if you are able.

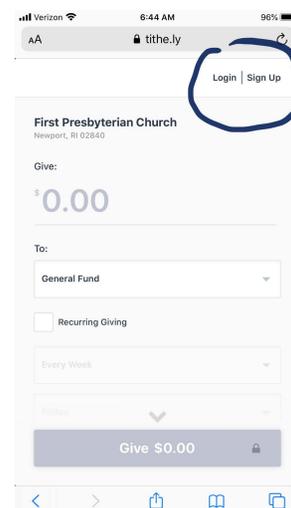
Cindy and Chip Wilson are teaching Kindergarten through third grade in the CE Building Third Floor. David Kolator is teaching fourth through eighth grade in the Samuel Room above the Fellowship Hall. Music at 9:15 AM for all students with Angel Conwell. Please contact Daryl Kolator at dg.kolator@cox.net or at 401-339-7625 for further information or if any questions.

Masks are required for all students. Social distancing is implemented during music and class time.

If you need help finding the rooms, teachers will be happy to assist you!

You can now give online!

Go to the church website fpcnewport.org and click on the far right GIVE tab on the main menu bar. You can then create an account by clicking on "Sign Up" in the top right corner.



But I say to you: Love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.



OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN COMMUNITY AND GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Adult Sunday School Class

The class is studying the book of Revelation in conjunction with Pastor Herring's sermon series on Revelation. The class meets at 9:15 AM in the Lynch Room upstairs from the Fellowship Hall. If interested, you can just come or if you have questions, please contact Sue Fennessey at tudorchick4@gmail.com.

Lenten Study will be "The Passion of Christ." The class will meet via Zoom beginning February 17th at 7:00 PM for the six weeks of Lent. The final week of Jesus' life is often called "Passion Week" and people throughout the world still focus on the events of that week as an annual observance. This study will help us understand the significance of the words, actions, and passion of Jesus. Did one week really change the world? Contact the church office for more information on how to join.

Women's Bible Study

On Monday, February 22nd the Monday Night Bible study will begin Priscilla Shirer's "Faith and Fire", a study on Elijah. This is an online lesson taught by Priscilla Shirer which is streamed during the week and then on Mondays at 6:30 PM the group will meet via Zoom to discuss and go over the lesson. If interested, please contact Darien Petit at dspetit55@gmail.com.

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD: Pastor Mike has started an exciting new series on the book of Revelation! Here's how you can access his most recent sermons:

The church website: fpcnewport.org

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

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

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRsZk0Ncjjc&t=8s>



JOIN IN PRAYER:

- Praises that we are able to worship in person! Pray for the church staff, and for the elders and deacons, that all would bring glory to God.
- Pray for the small group studies, Sunday School and Worship, that people would grow deeper in Christ and be encouraged to share His love with others
- Diane, Brian Petit's sister, who has cancer

Those working with Covid patients:

- Karen Hoogendorn Royd (Dick and Judy Hoogendorn's daughter)
- Lori (Alice and Ralph Thomas' daughter) doing Hospice at COVID Specialty Nursing Home
- Heather (Nancy and Ed Burgess' daughter)
- Danielle (Dick and Cindy Price's daughter)
- Kevin Buck (Bunny Miller's son-in-law)
- Savannah (Jan and Bruce Jones' granddaughter)
- That people would turn to Jesus Christ during the pandemic
- For our military, serving at home and overseas
- For our civil, state and federal government leaders

**Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask
in prayer, believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.~ Mark 11:24**

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM:

"For where two or three gather in My name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

Each month we come together as the body of Christ and unite in prayer as we ask for the Holy Spirit to dwell with us and guide us as we seek God's will for FPC Newport. If you'd like to join us, please email Charlotte Ricci at charlottekinder3@gmail.com for more information. Meetings are currently virtual.

**Church Office Hours are flexible. If you can't reach the office by phone, please e-mail @ secretary@fpcnewport.org
6 Everett Street, Newport RI 02840**

LEGEND HAS IT... *The History of Valentine's Day*

Did you know that Valentine's Day has its historical roots in Christianity?

A famous legend about Saint Valentine states Valentine was an early Christian in Rome who was popular among children. During the time when Valentine lived, the Roman regime persecuted Christians to make Rome free of the followers of Christianity. In spite of this strict law, Valentine continued to practice his faith and refused to worship Roman gods. An enraged Emperor Claudius II put Valentine into prison.

Valentine is said to have spent a year in rigorous imprisonment during which he was missed so much by his followers that they began to toss loving notes and flowers between the bars of his cell window. This legend may explain the traditions of cards and flowers on Valentine's Day.

Some scholars believe that during his stay in prison Valentine made friends with the jailer's blind daughter who at times brought him notes and flowers from children. Before his death, Valentine is also said to have written a farewell note to the jailer's daughter and signed it "From Your Valentine."

Other scholars believe that Valentine was killed because he tried to help Christians escape from the Roman prison as they were being tortured and beaten. Yet another legend says Emperor Claudius II was impressed by Valentine's kindness and good behavior. He even stated that Valentine could be freed if he agreed to worship Roman gods. Valentine did not only refuse, he also tried to convert the Emperor to Christianity. This made Claudius so angry that he ordered his execution. Valentine was beheaded on February 14.

Whether or not all of these stories are true, what is true is the love of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Valentine's Day is traditionally known as a day of romance, but what greater romance is there than the Divine One? God's love for us, His agape love transcends all other loves and reminds us that our life is a gift, a privilege, sacred because of the love that was demonstrated on the cross, while we were yet sinners. This week, let someone know you love them! February is the perfect time to exemplify the love of Christ to someone who is lonely or in need of encouragement.