



First Presbyterian Church of Englishtown
50 Main Street, Englishtown, NJ 07726

Rev. Cynthia Ritter Parker
Church Phone: 732-446-9506
Website: <http://www.fpcenglishtown.org/>

THE MESSENGER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLISHTOWN



Winter 2017-2018

Church Calendar

Sun., Dec. 3

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

**12:00 p.m. Greening of the Sanctuary & Luncheon
Homebound Communion**

Tues., Dec. 5 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Dec. 7 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Dec. 10

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship - **Children's Pageant/Tree Dedication in Memory of Lou Scudder**

12:00 p.m. Deacon Bake Sale

Tues., Dec. 12 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Dec. 14 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Dec. 17

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Tues., Dec. 19 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Wed., Dec. 20 **Noon Lunch Bunch & Men's Lunch**

Thurs., Dec. 21 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Dec. 24

11:00 a.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Festival of Lights - Christmas Eve

Tues., Dec. 26 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Dec. 28 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Dec. 31

11:00 a.m. Worship - Lessons & Carols

Tues., Jan. 2 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Jan 4 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Jan. 7 Session Annual Reports Due

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Homebound Communion

Tues., Jan. 9 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours

7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Wed., Jan. 10 **7:00 p.m. Session Meeting - All are Welcome**

Thurs., Jan. 11 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Church Calendar

Sun., Jan. 14

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

12:15 p.m. Deacon Meeting

Tues., Jan. 16 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Wed., Jan. 17 **Noon Lunch Bunch & Men's Lunch**

Thurs., Jan. 18 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Jan. 21

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Tues., Jan. 23 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Jan. 25 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Jan. 28

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting w/Lunch
4:00-6:00 p.m. E-Café

Tues., Jan. 30 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Feb. 1 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Feb. 4

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Homebound Communion

Tues., Feb. 6 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Thurs., Feb. 8 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Sun., Feb. 11 Session Reports Due

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Deacon Meeting
4:00-6:00 p.m. 2nd Sundays Children/Families

Tues., Feb. 13 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
7:00 p.m. A.C.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Wed., Feb. 14 **7:00 p.m. Session Meeting - All are Welcome ~Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent**

Thurs., Feb. 15 7:00 p.m. YOGA

Pastor Cynthia's Contact Info
Call/Text (609) 977-2325
cynthia@FPCenglishtown.org

#pastorecinzia

Worship Calendar



Sun., Dec. 3 1st Sunday of Advent - **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 13/14** *The Character of Evangelism*
Advent Wreath - The Blue/Serrano Family

Sun., Dec. 10 2nd Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. **Children's Christmas Pageant**
Advent Wreath - The Russell/Sanders Family

Sun., Dec. 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 16** *What Must I Do?*
Advent Wreath - The Hoppock Family

Sun., Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. **Luke 1:46b-55** *My Soul Magnifies the Lord, Who Has Done Great Things*
Advent Wreath

Sun., Dec. 24 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. **Festival of Lights**
Advent Wreath - The Cook/McLaughlin Family

Sun., Dec. 31 1st Sunday after Christmas
11:00 a.m. **Lessons and Carols**

(Sat., Jan 6 Epiphany of Our Lord)

- Sun., Jan. 7 Baptism of the Lord - **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 17** *An Unknown God*
- Sun., Jan. 14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 18** *Companions in Ministry*
- Sun., Jan. 21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 19:1-20:12** *In the Name of Jesus*
- Sun., Jan. 28 4th Sunday after Epiphany
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 20:13-38** *Saying Goodbye*
- Sun., Feb. 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany - **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 21:1-22:21** *Facing Opposition*
- Sun., Feb. 11 **Transfiguration of the Lord - Scout Sunday**
11:00 a.m. **Acts of the Apostles 22:22-23:35** *God at Work*

Seasons of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany



- Sun., Dec. 3 1st **Sunday of Advent:**
Isaiah 64:1-9 Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin.
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.
I Corinthians 1:3-9 God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming.
Mark 13:24-37 In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.
- Sun., Dec. 10 2nd **Sunday of Advent:**
Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort my people; a voice cries: prepare the way of the Lord!
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 God will speak peace; faithfulness and righteousness will meet.
2 Peter 3:8-15a God is patient with us, but the day of the Lord is coming.
Mark 1:1-8 In the wilderness, John baptizes and proclaims the one to come.
- Sun., Dec. 17 3rd **Sunday of Advent:**
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I will rejoice in my Savior.
Luke 1:46b-55 My soul magnifies the Lord, who has done great things.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice, pray give thanks; may God keep you until Christ's coming.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 John came to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

Sun., Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 The Lord will build a house for David and his descendants.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 I will sing of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to David.

Romans 16:25-27 Glory to God for the mystery now revealed to all peoples!

Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel appears to Mary; her child will be God's Son.

Sun., Dec. 24 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Eve:

Isaiah 9:2-7 Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us.

Psalm 96 Sing a new song to the Lord, all the earth; declare God's glory.

Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Luke 2:1-14 Jesus is born in Bethlehem; angels tell shepherds the good news.

Mon., Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Morning:

Isaiah 62:6-12 Salvation comes; Jerusalem is restored; the people are redeemed.

Psalm 97 The Lord reigns over all the earth; light dawns for the righteous.

Titus 3:4-7 We are justified by the grace of Christ, reborn in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 2:8-20 To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Mon., Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day:

Isaiah 52:7-10 How beautiful is the messenger who brings good news and peace

Psalm 98 Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God's victory

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) Now God has spoken to us by a Son, the reflection of God's glory

John 1:1-14 The Word of God became flesh and lived among us

Sat., Jan. 6 Epiphany of the Lord:

Isaiah 60:1-6 Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 May the king reign forever and deliver the needy

Ephesians 3:1-12 An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ

Matthew 2:1-12 Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.

**Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 10
11:00 a.m.**



Online Giving



The Session of FPC Englishtown is now offering **online giving** – an easy and convenient way to give your tithes and offerings using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service, which is hosted by the *Presbyterian Foundation*, is easily accessed through the church website.

<http://www.fpcenglishtown.org> You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry

immediately, with no waiting periods.

Online giving offers **benefits** both for you and for the church:

- You can save a trip to the ATM on Sunday morning and avoid forgetting your checkbook or having to quickly fill out a check to make your gift
- You can also **set up recurring donations to continue giving faithfully** even on weeks you are not able to attend services
- **The church benefits** from a more steady and reliable flow of gifts
- Work to process checks and cash gifts is reduced when gifts are made online instead.

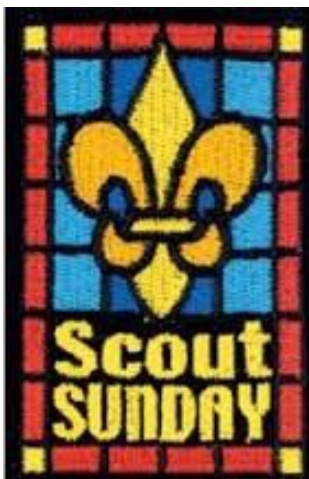
Visit [FPCenglishtown.org](http://www.fpcenglishtown.org) today, click on the offering plate at the bottom of the page, and see for yourself how easy it is to give online. As we continue to grow the **culture of generosity** in our church to include online giving, we ask that you also help us to **spread the word**.

Your Vote Counts

**Annual Meeting
of the
First Presbyterian Church of Englishtown**

**Sunday, January 28
after worship**

Lunch Included :0)

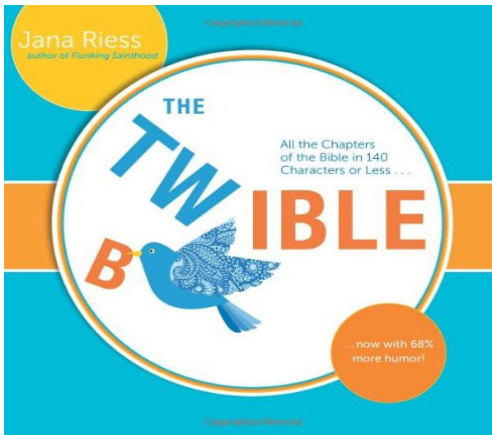


Sunday, February 11
11:00 a.m.



Craig Atwater

Chapter-a-Day



If you're not receiving *Chapter-a-Day* emails, contact
(609) 977-2325

cynthia.ritter.parker@comcast.net

We're reading through the Bible one chapter at a time
with the help of author Jana Riess' tweets.

(Jana Riess, *The Twible: All the Chapters of the Bible in
140 Characters or Less*)

Scriptures: Click on <http://bible.oremus.org> or Google
Oremus Bible

Sun., Nov. 26 **Acts 22**: Speaking as his own defense
counsel, Paul stresses his Jewish street CRED and
recounts his conversion story to the pissed-off crowd.

Mon., Nov. 27 **Acts 23**: Paul makes a shameless
play for Pharisee sympathy, so that only the
Sadducees want to kill him. Divide and conquer;
that's how it's done.

Tues., Nov. 28 **Acts 24**: Paul in court: "I'm just a
good Jew who came to Jerusalem to make offerings
in the temple. Why do they hate me so much? Boo-
hoo."

Wed., Nov. 29 **Acts 25**: It's two years later and Paul's
still arguing his court case. Romans invented
bureaucracy alongside convenient roads and the
aqueduct.

Thurs., Nov. 30 **Acts 26**: And... Again with the
conversion story. This time Paul claims that God
promised to deliver him from the Jewish people. How
convenient.

Fri., Dec. 1 **Acts 27**: Paul's case is returned to Rome, but... Shipwreck! Paul had warned the crew about it, so he has a satisfying "I told you so" moment.

Sat., Dec. 2 **Acts 28**: Paul stops earning Frequent Sailor Miles after a last stop in Rome. Acts beheading finale was too sad, so it was cut. No pun intended.

Sun., Dec. 3 **1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9 Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.

I Corinthians 1:3-9 God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming.

Mark 13:24-37 In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.

Romans Overview: Paul's magnum opus covers grace, law, faith, sin, and salvation. Clearly, people don't write letters like they used to.

Mon., Dec. 4 **Romans 1**: Paul's opening comments to the church make one thing clear: when in Rome, do not do as the Romans do. Idols equal bad.

Tues., Dec. 5 **Romans 2**: It turns out that merely being circumcised isn't enough to assure salvation. Really sorry for that inconvenience, Jewish male readers.

Wed., Dec. 6 **Romans 3**: "No one is righteous. Nobody understands God. Works and knowledge won't save you." Well, then. I guess I'll just play Nintendo.

Thurs., Dec. 7 **Romans 4**: "Abraham's an exemplar of faith!" Here Paul ignores Genesis 12:13, 17:17, and 20:11. But it's kinda nice when our worst moments are forgotten. (Genesis 12:13 Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account.; Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'; Genesis 20:11 Abraham said, 'I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.)

Fri., Dec. 8 **Romans 5**: "Suffering builds endurance, which creates character, which brings hope!" Suffering also brings whining and angst; see *Book of Job*.

Sat., Dec. 9 **Romans 6**: "We used to be slaves to sin, but now we get to be slaves to righteousness." The new slavery's much better. Trust Uncle Paul on this.

Sun., Dec. 10 **2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort my people; a voice cries: prepare the way of the Lord!

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 God will speak peace; faithfulness and righteousness will meet.

2 Peter 3:8-15a God is patient with us, but the day of the Lord is coming.

Mark 1:1-8 In the wilderness, John baptizes and proclaims the one to come.

Mon., Dec. 11 **Romans 7**: "I do the thing I don't want to do and don't do the thing I want to do." That pretty much encapsulates all of life. And dieting.

Tues., Dec. 12 **Romans 8**: All things work together for good for those who love God. Except, of course, when they don't. But it's a great theory in the abstract.

Wed., Dec. 13 **Romans 9**: Paul teaches that we are predestined to have free will. After writing this, his brain detonates from Irony Overload.

Thurs., Dec. 14 **Romans 10**: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Even people I don't like? What kind of religion is this? Grace for all?

Fri., Dec. 15 **Romans 11**: God starts handing our backstage salvation passes to *hoi polloi*. So much for being the few, the proud, the chosen people. (Note: *hoi polloi* = the masses, the common people)

Sat., Dec. 16 **Romans 12**: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they thirst, give them drink." Is it OK to spit in the drink first? Just asking.

Sun., Dec. 17 **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I will rejoice in my Savior.

Luke 1:46b-55 My soul magnifies the Lord, who has done great things.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice, pray give thanks; may God keep you until Christ's coming.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 John came to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

Mon., Dec. 18 **Romans 13**: Paul says we should submit to government leaders in authority, for they are God's chosen servants. Tyrants throughout history rejoice.

Tues., Dec. 19 **Romans 14**: Do not judge one another. Even when someone really, really deserves it. Maybe especially then. Be like a duck. (water off a duck's back)

Wed., Dec. 20 **Romans 15**: You know how at the end of a long letter, someone might drop a hint that they'd like to come visit? Paul does that here. Subtle.

Paul on Amazing Grace

If a single word could sum up Paul's theology, it would be Grace. Grace as in, "I didn't earn my salvation, and am in fact a scumbag, but God rescued me." Throughout his letters, and perhaps especially here in Romans, Paul lays out a variety of things that cannot save us:

- o Keeping the law can't save us. (Are you listening to this, Galatians?)
- o Being born into a particular tribe of Israel can't save us.
- o Having proper knowledge of God or doctrine can't save us.
- o Being circumcised can't save us.
- o Our good deeds can't save us.
- o Thor can't save us

The one thing that can save us is the one thing we cannot engineer for ourselves: God's grace. Paul says this grace is freely given everyone apart from the law.

Does that mean that since Grace abounds, we have a get-out-of-jail-free card and can do whatever we want? "By no means!" thunders Uncle Paul. "How can we who died to sin go on living in it?" If you read Paul's letters you'll find he's no softy on sin. In fact, he spends a good deal of time calling out sins in the diverse churches under his care and expressing keen disappointment that the people don't seem to be any better behaved than their pagan counterparts. In I Corinthian's 5, Paul even says the church in Corinth is actually worse than pagan, because at least the pagans have sense enough to know that having sex with one's stepmother is rarely a good idea.

So the fine line in reading Paul is always in grasping on the one hand that godly behavior is paramount (something the Corinthians never understood) even while knowing that such behavior won't save you (something the Galatians never understood). Complicating matters still further is the fact the Paul's radical views on Grace weren't always accepted by other prominent leaders in the first-century church, especially James.

Thurs., Dec. 21 **Romans 16**: "Hi, Junia, you totally awesome woman apostle. Hi, Phoebe and Mary and Prisca. Chicks rule. Thanks for your help. Love ya! — Paul."

I Corinthians Overview: Don't fight. Don't have sex. Don't worship idols. Don't have sex. And did you catch the "no sex" part? Just checking

Fri., Dec. 22 **I Corinthians 1**: Paul's Jewish mom skills: "I loved you and taught you, so how could you shame me like this? Where'd I go wrong? Here, eat some soup."

Sat., Dec. 23 **I Corinthians 2**: Paul preaches not with wise words, but by demonstrating the Holy Spirit's power. This may or may not involve magic tricks.

Sun., Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 The Lord will build a house for David and his descendants.

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26 I will sing of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to David.

Romans 16:25-27 Glory to God for the mystery now revealed to all peoples!

Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel appears to Mary; her child will be God's Son.

Mon., Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12 Salvation comes; Jerusalem is restored; the people are redeemed.

Psalms 97 The Lord reigns over all the earth; light dawns for the righteous.

Titus 3:4-7 We are justified by the grace of Christ, reborn in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 2:1-20 To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Tues., Dec. 26 **I Corinthians 3**: "Don't say 'I'm with Paul' or 'I'm with Apollos.' You're with Jesus now, people. Those t-shirts were meant to be ironic."

Wed., Dec. 27 **I Corinthians 4**: Wanted: Apostles. Unpaid jobs require travel with no T & E budget. You may be assaulted, spat upon, or killed in action. Apply within. (Note: T & E = Travel & Expense)

Thurs., Dec. 28 **I Corinthians 5**: "Stop having 50 shades of sex. Also, forget all I said about not judging. Go right ahead and condemn your oversexed neighbor."

Fri., Dec. 29 **I Corinthians 6**: Paul rails against so-called Christians who sue each other in court. The Bible sure can feel awfully relevant two thousand years later.

Sat., Dec. 30 **I Corinthians 7**: Paul reserves the domain name YouShouldStaySingle.com to show that marriage is overrated, but folks still prefer it.

Sun., Dec. 31 **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 The Lord will give you a new name; you will be a crown of beauty.

Psalms 148 Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Galatians 4:4-7 Through the Son and the Spirit, we may call God Abba, Father.

Luke 2:22-40 Jesus is presented in the temple; Simeon and Anna rejoice.

Mon., Jan. 1 **I Corinthians 8**: Paul's fine with eating meat that's been offered to idols. But if YOU have a problem with it, he'll go veggie. Guilt trip much?

Tues., Jan. 2 **I Corinthians 9**: Paul: "And speaking of meat, did I mention the church forgot to pay or feed me? I have to grab whatever I can, unlike PETER ..."

Wed., Jan. 3 **I Corinthians 10**: "Your ancestors loved idols, sex, and nonstop complaining. Do you really want to be like them? P.S. God smote them."

Thurs., Jan. 4 **I Corinthians 11**: Paul says we should judge for ourselves whether it's proper for a woman to pray without a veil. Hmm. I judge yes. Next question?

Fri., Jan. 5 **I Corinthians 12**: In the body of Christ, every part is vital to the whole. Except our metaphorical appendix. There's really just no point to that.

Sat., Jan. 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah 60:1-6 Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears.

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 May the king reign forever and deliver the needy.

Ephesians 3:1-12 An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12 Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.

Sun., Jan. 7 **Baptism of the Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5 Over the deep and formless waters, God speaks: Let there be light.

Psalms 29 Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters.

Acts 19:1-7 Paul baptizes new believers in Jesus' name; they receive the Spirit.

Mark 1:4-11 Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: You are my Son.

The Love Chapter

So, you're at another wedding, and you can pretty much predict how the ceremony will unfold. To be reflective and cultured, the bride and groom will have chosen a reading from Shakespeare's 116th sonnet. To be inclusive and culturally relevant, there will then be a passage from *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran. And then, no matter how nontraditional the wedding may be in other ways, someone will read I Corinthians 13.

That's because I Corinthians 13 is one of the Bible's most beautiful ruminations on love. Not gushy romantic love, which is about having a Jerry Maguire-esque "You complete me" fulfillment of the self, but an in-the-trenches love that places other people's interests before our own. Paul says that such love is not puffed up with pride — which is what he's accused the Corinthians of being all throughout this letter — but humble and gracious.

New Testament scholar N.T. Wright says it's important to position the famous love passage in the context of the chapters immediately before and after it, making chapters 12 to 14 a literary unit that is concerned with how people are meant to live together as the body of Christ. Paul claims that none of the great things we can do for Christ — giving away all our money, martyring our bodies to the cause, preaching the coolest sermons — amount to a hill of beans if we don't have love. Wright says, "Love is God's river, flowing on into the future, across the border into the country where there is no pride, no jostling for position, no contention among God's people. We are invited to step into the river here and now, and let it take us where it's going."

So the next time you hear this at a wedding, remember the larger message: all spiritual gifts will someday cease; knowledge will end; the things of this world are a drop in the bucket. All that will remain is love.

Mon., Jan. 8 **I Corinthians 13**: Love is patient and kind. It does not get annoyed or impatient that this chapter is read at Every. Single. Wedding. Love bears all.

Tues., Jan. 9 **I Corinthians 14**: Paul wants us all to learn to prophesy. I prophesy that this likely will not happen. See, I'm already getting good at it.

Wed., Jan. 10 **I Corinthians 15**: As Christ was resurrected from the dead, so we will one day be. Just keep an ear out for that triple blast, dead people.

Thurs., Jan. 11 **I Corinthians 16**: Paul's final good-byes: "Be good. Send me some money. I'll come visit soon. SWAHK!" (Sealed With A Holy Kiss.)

II Corinthians Overview: The fact that this is called the "severe" letter shows how well Corinth took Paul's advice the first time. Fasten your seat belts.

Fri., Jan. 12 **II Corinthians 1**: Paul's recent visit to Corinth didn't go well. He says he'll wait a while before trying again. But no hard feelings, right? RIGHT?

Sat., Jan. 13 **II Corinthians 2**: Paul: "When I write those sad, angry letters it's for your own good. Making you feel awful about yourselves is how I show my love. Xoxo."

Sun., Jan. 14 **II Corinthians 3**: Paul says the Torah was a "ministry of death" chiseled on stone tablets. You can see why he wasn't always Mr. Popularity with Jews.

Mon., Jan. 15 **II Corinthians 4**: "We are afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing; stricken but not destroyed. Thank God for Wellbutrin." (Note: Wellbutrin is a smoking cessation aid and antidepressant)

Tues., Jan. 16 **II Corinthians 5**: "Your body is the tent you live in for now, but after death you'll get keys to your permanent home in heaven. I know tent camping sucks."

Wed., Jan. 17 **II Corinthians 6**: Paul's life has been full of beatings, jail time, and hunger. It's not all fun and games, being an apostle. You could put an eye out.

Thurs., Jan. 18 **II Corinthians 7**: "So glad you repent of how badly you treated me! All my passive-aggressive letters sure did work. Oh, how I love you."

Fri., Jan. 19 **II Corinthians 8**: Stewardship Sunday. Paul's new guilt tactic: "If penniless Macedonia can cough it up, so can you, rich Corinth." Score.

Sat., Jan. 20 **II Corinthians 9**: "So... I'm sending some guys to collect your entirely voluntary, mind-blowingly generous donations. All major credit cards accepted."

Sun., Jan. 21 **II Corinthians 10**: Paul raises the bar on the miseries listed in chapter 6: "Shipwrecked three times. Beaten five times. I was even stoned once. Top that!"

Mon., Jan. 22 **II Corinthians 11**: Paul calls his rivals "super-apostles," which sounds like a compliment but is actually an exemplary case of biblical sarcasm.

Tues., Jan. 23 **II Corinthians 12**: "Oh, this thorn in my side! I'm in such pain. How I suffer. But, enough about me. Have you noticed how much I suffer?"

Wed., Jan. 24 **II Corinthians 13**: "P.S. Corinthians, I rejoice when I'm weak and you're strong. Your perfection is all I ever lived for! But no pressure."

Galatians Overview: You know those angry letters you sometimes write but never actually put in the mail? Well, Paul sent his. Oh boy howdy.

Thurs., Jan. 25 **Galatians 1**: You can tell Paul's mad because he won't even say hi. No respects, no holy kisses. It's straight to the woodshed, do not pass go.

Fri., Jan. 26 **Galatians 2**: Paul says that when Peter came to Antioch, they had a blowout fight. Theology throwdown, apostle-style! Wish they'd sold tickets.

Sat., Jan. 27 **Galatians 3**: "You idiot Galatians! What part of 'saved-by-grace-and-not-by-works' did you not understand?" Oh, Pretty much all to it.

Sun., Jan. 28 **Galatians 4**: Paul's remedial class takes Galatia back to Genesis for a crash course in law versus freedom: Freedom good. Law not so good.

Mon., Jan. 29 **Galatians 5**: "I wish all those guys who confuse you about the circumcision question would just go castrate themselves already."

Tues., Jan. 30 **Galatians 6**: "Don't be weary; don't lose heart; don't give up!" The letter ends merrily as grumpy Paul tries awkward new gig as motivational speaker.

Ephesians Overview: Ephesians is to Galatians as Audrey Hepburn is to Howard Stern. More elegant restraint; less shrill pugilism (boxing).

Wed., Jan. 31 **Ephesians 1**: Paul has "not ceased in thanksgiving." Apparently no one told him that he can stop eating leftover turkey anytime now.

Thurs., Feb. 1 **Ephesians 2**: The dead are made alive in Christ, which is sure-fire evidence that there are zombies right there in the Bible.

Fri., Feb. 2 **Ephesians 3**: Paul pens a thrilling mystery novel about grace. SPOILER ALERT: The Gentiles get saved at the end. Also, the butler did it.

Sat., Feb. 3 **Ephesians 4**: "Don't let the sun go down on you anger." This advice works most realistically if you live in northern Alaska in the summertime.

Sun., Feb. 4 **Ephesians 5**: Paul takes it for granted that "no one ever hated their own body." Clearly he was not a 21st century North American woman.

Mon., Feb. 5 **Ephesians 6**: "Children, obey your parents." I'd try to be caustic about this, but I have a teenager, so ... listen to Uncle Paul, kids.

Philippians Overview: It's funny how Paul can only write kind, cheerful letters when he's in jail and needs people to bring him food.

Tues., Feb. 6 **Philippians 1**: Paul's got joy, joy, joy, joy: 17 times in this letter. Man, did he ever take a happy pill since writing to the Galatians.

Wed., Feb. 7 **Philippians 2**: Paul insists the church must always have unity in everything. Thousands of different Christian denominations now agree.

Thurs., Feb. 8 **Philippians 3**: Paul says that anything that's not Christ crucified is "bad." Horrified church translates as "dung" to wash Paul's mouth with soap.

Fri., Feb. 9 **Philippians 4**: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Yes, but sometimes this verse is more guilt-inducing than it is inspirational.

Colossians Overview: Lessons for New Christians: Follow the master. Be grateful. Obey. Beware of strangers. In other words, be a good dog.

Sat., Feb. 10 **Colossians 1**: "Dear brother and sister in Christ, once you were God's enemies, but now he's rescued you from the Pit of Despair. That's two wuvvv."

Sun., Feb. 11 **Transfiguration of the Lord**
2 Kings 2:1-12 After crossing the Jordan, Elijah ascends to heaven in a chariot.
Psalm 50:1-6 From the storm and fire, God calls: Gather up my faithful ones.
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 We know the glory of God through the face of Jesus Christ.
Mark 9:2-9 On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

Prayer Requests

Judi (health), Morgan's grandmother **Helen** (cancer), Norma's grandson **Connor** (military service - Navy), David Toth's father-in-law **Robert** (health), Wilma's sister-in-law **Adelle** (health), **Thomas A. Zak**, **Moriah**, and her brother **Nathan** (military service - Air Force), the family of **Yadi Atwater** (Puerto Rico), **Bob** Bellevue (health), **Ed & Patrice** (health & insurance struggles), **Barbara Blue** (job situation), Barbara's co-worker **Nancy** and her family (Puerto Rico), Barbara's cousin **Shawna** (cancer), **Ed Burke** (biopsy negative!), Helen Burke's niece **Sandy** (breast cancer) and her husband Ron, **Vilma** (health), **Chris** (addiction), **Helen** Granozio (health), **Nikki** Palmer Hall (expecting twins!), Gladys' son **William** (health), Julia's son **John** (homecoming), **Barbara** Kwaak (health), Barbara's friend **Marsha** (bladder cancer), Barbara & Kathryn's **Suzanne** (health), Hank's daughter **Michelle** and baby **Grace!**, **Jim** McGowan (health), Hope & George's boss **Dennis** (recovering from bypass), **Joe** McLaughlin (military service - Navy), Vera's friend **Judy** (health), Dale Parkin's niece **Linda** (lung cancer), **Lil's family** (health), **Lil** (endurance), Lil's daughter-in-law Karen's dad died, anonymous couple (**marital troubles**), family/friends of Sue's **Prema** (death), **Allan & James** Russell (health), **Sharon** (endurance), Joanne's mom **Mae** (health), **Jennifer** (baby?!), **Judy Soden** (happiness), **Ruth Stiles** (health), those serving in our armed forces and their families, those not in worship today, our elected officers (Barbara B., Barbara K., Don, Ed, Faye, George, Hope, Jen, Joanne, Joe, Judi, Kathleen, Linda, Mary, Mimie, Norma, Sue)

**Join one of the
FPCenglishtown Ministry Teams**

Buildings & Grounds - Barbara Kwaak (732) 536-3127
(grass/weeds/snow, beautification, recyclables, renovations, SPIFF)

Children/Families - Joe Deak
(908) 216-6821
(2nd Sundays, Sunday School, VBS)

Communications - Bob Musser
(732) 780-4896
(newsletter, website)

Christian Education - Judi Thompson
(732) 598-3680
(Bible Study, book group, health curriculum)

Fall Family Festival - Sue Ralph
(732) 547-7948
(joint event w/Old Ship of Zion Missionary Baptist)

Finance - Don Ujhely (732) 462-8691

Generosity - Pastor Cynthia (609) 977-2325
(annual Stewardship campaign, fundraising)

Hospitality - George McLaughlin
(908) 902-3112
(fellowship meals, fundraising meals, special events, E-Café)

Mission - Barbara Blue (732) 598-3868
(Samaritan Center, service projects, E-Café)

Outreach - Linda Houde (908) 770-6053
(welcome visitors, community presence, evangelism, E-Café)

Worship - Mimie Cook (848) 459-5596
(Sunday mornings, special services, worship space)

Youth - Pastor Cynthia (609) 977-2325
(shepherd youth to presbytery events, welcome youth into church life)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!
Deep Blue Kids & Submerge**

SUNDAYS:
9:45 am –
11:15 am

**September
10, 2017 to
Pentecost,
May 20, 2018**



JOIN OUR ADVENTURE!!!

One Room Sunday School (4 – 10yrs.)

Submerge(11+yrs.)

Deep Blue Kids One Room Sunday School: Bible verses, games, music, art, science, worship, prayer and fun! Submerge emphasizes nurturing faithful relationships while engaging students in fun and creative activities. Guatemala + Kenya + Alaska + Armenia – Travel with the Deep Blue Crew all over the world!

**Information: Vera Musser (H:732-780-4896
C:732-685-3125 littleveram@gmail.com)
Elder Joe Deak (732-446-6106
jdeaknj7@gmail.com)**

Important Dates: Dec. 10, 2017 Christmas Pageant. March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday, April 1, 2018 Easter, May 20, 2018 Pentecost

**Our New Ministry
for Neighborhood
Children/Families**

**Sunday, February 11
4:00-6:00 p.m.**