



April 24, 2022

This week at FPC

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:19



We thank Rev Jeff Hutchinson for leading our worship these past four weeks, and we look forward to seeing him again this summer. His latest sermon, “You Will Be My Witnesses,” referencing Luke 24:36-53 and Acts 1:1-11, was meaningful to all.

Reverend Dale Green will preach this Sunday, May 1. He is a hospital Clinical Chaplain in New London, Connecticut. He was in the US Navy submarine service for more than 30 years, and he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church after retiring in 2015. He has two adult sons who live in the Northeast. He resides in Waterford, Connecticut with his wife Debby.



God’s beauty and bounty were on full display last Sunday. Beautiful blooms outdoors and amazing refreshments and fellowship indoors after an inspiring worship service.

Upcoming meetings and activities

Sunday, May 1

- 10:00 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship hour
- 6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, May 2

- 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Church office open
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Sarah Circle Bible Study (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group

Tuesday, May 3

- Naomi Circle
- 7:00 p.m. Inner Life Committee

Wednesday, May 3

- 5:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- 6:30 p.m. Choir practice

Thursday, May 4

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Church office open*
- 2:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturday, May 6

- 7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers

* office hours may vary



There's Joy in Being Involved!

Help us restock the local food pantry

There is much need, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please consider picking up a few extra items next time you go grocery shopping and adding them to the collection baskets in the Fellowship Hall and in the back of the church. We will deliver the collected items to the food bank the first Sunday of every month.



Frequently requested items include non-perishable items such as tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, beans, rice, canned vegetables, soup, baby food, shampoo, toothbrushes, diapers and personal care items.

If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation, place your offering in the pew envelope or offering plate, designating it for Deacons.

Soup Kitchen

The next Soup Kitchen will be May 4. Linda Conheeny will plan the menu and purchase the food. More volunteers are always welcome. If you would like more information, or feel called to join this labor of love sponsored by our Deacons, contact Coleen Spencer, Soup Kitchen Coordinator, coleenspencer@cox.net.

Dinners to Help

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25

Nine volunteers gathered Saturday, April 23, to prepare meals to have on hand to bring to those in our church who might be experiencing an event where they could use a little occasional assistance, such as illness, incapacity, new baby, etc.

Many thanks go to Head Chef Jen Bloom; Sous Chefs Ali Small, Barbara Ross, Laurie Aseltine, Lillian Ross, and "Lidder" Frank Ross, Steward Darien Petit; and Pantry Organizers Coleen Spencer and Daryl Kolator. They prepared 40 entrees and accompanying side dishes to fill the freezer, all within three hours, and all prepared with love and laughter.

Please let the Deacons know if you or someone you know might need this extra assistance. E-mail deacons@fpcnewport.org or talk to any of our amazing Deacons.



On the Journey...

We continue to seek God's guidance as we look to what the future hold for this body of believers. Until a pastoral search committee is established, we need to pray and work together for the good of the church and the Kingdom.

For pastoral care, contact Deidra Ricci by emailing pastor@fpcnewport.org. For other visitation needs, contact Daryl Kolator at deacons@fpcnewport.org or 401-339-7625.

If you are unable to attend services in person, join the livestream broadcast by going to fpcnewport.org and clicking on "FPC Livestream." You can also watch the service later via YouTube.

Evensong This group meets Sunday evening on Zoom to worship by singing songs and hymns, sharing scripture and enjoying fellowship. If you are interested in participating, contact Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Pray!



Sunday Online Chats

Many of our members and friends are currently unable to attend church due to health issues. On recent Sundays Mike Ricci set up online chats with Richard and Cindy Price, and Bruce and Jan Jones, during coffee hour and many were able to connect with them. This Sunday, May 1, we will be able to chat with **Alice and John Hand**. Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship service, grab your cup of coffee, and find the chat in one of the adjoining offices. It will bring much joy to Alice and John, and to you!

What you can do to help along the way

Missionaries. If you would like to help us keep in contact with the missionaries we support, contact Deidra Ricci pamperedee@cox.net or secretary@fpcnewport.org if you would like to be in contact with the missionaries we support.

Participate in a committee: Find your interest: Worship, Inner Life, Christian Education, Buildings and Grounds, Finance and Personnel, or Missions. Join one of our small group studies.

Make a joyful noise! Help us fill the choir loft with joyful voices! Come to practice at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. Sundays. Contact Angel Conwell, at —or just show up at practice. Our choir is a loving and friendly group. You will be warmly welcomed!

Childcare during Worship Service

If you love the little ones, we have great facilities for childcare, and we can use more volunteers to care for them during a worship service. If this is an area where you'd like to serve, please contact Daryl Kolator at dg.kolator@cox.net. Scheduling is flexible. Many parents are grateful to these caring nursery helpers: Kristen Aleicho, Collie Colon, Daryl Kolator, Deb MacDowell, Deidra Ricci, and Matt Small.

Commit to help sustain and improve FPC's vital mission to serve God. This year has been a financial struggle for our Church. Our year to date operating deficit, including James House Renovations, is sizeable. Our Mission's budget is also down. And in May, we are beginning much needed repairs to our Stained Glass Windows. FPC is always thankful for your tithes and offerings. When you think about giving, please prayerfully consider giving to our Capital Improvement, Operating and Mission Funds. Thank you.

Sign up to host a coffee/fellowship time on a Sunday. Thanks to Brian and Darien Petit, and others, who made last Sunday's coffee hour a special time for catching up with each old friends and getting to know new ones. Sign-up on the clipboard near the coffee urn. Fancy or simple, all efforts are appreciated! It's easy to do and there's always someone willing to help.



The Pastor Who Washed the Faces of Cherubs

Rev. William J. Clark was pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1948 to 1963. He was unique in that he loved to get his hands on a hammer or paintbrush. In his memoirs he recalls the time when he “washed the faces of angels.”

At the front of the sanctuary there is a proscenium arch that is adorned by the sculptured faces of cherubs. When the church was built in the 1880s, sculptor Henrick Anderson created several cherub faces in plaster and gave them to the church in memory of his mother. By 1950 they had become clouded by many years of accumulated dust. Rev. Clark took great joy in personally mounting a scaffold (assisted by George Davis) to restore their original “glow” by applying a mixture of turpentine and linseed oil with a soft brush.

As he described it: “I am certain that few men of the cloth, while still in the flesh, have ever had the joy of washing the “Faces of Angels.” That marvelous doing became my pleasure in this manner. Through the fifty years of their inspiring warm fleshlike faces, set in sky blue haze and topped with a golden curl cap, they accumulated a covering of dust destroying their beauty. Believing it would be possible to cleanse and brighten them, I asked the church officers if I could undertake the work of washing their faces to help make them shine. I was given the responsibility and I set about borrowing a sectional scaffolding with which I could reach them, their being more than twenty feet above the rostrum floor.

“Realizing that the cleansing would need some detergent quality, and knowing that any soap solution would destroy their natural beauty, I mixed a solution of half turpentine and half boiled linseed oil. This I applied with a soft paint brush, the turpentine removing the dust stain and the linseed oil restoring a glow, just like they were when first placed in their hallowed up-front station. Not all ministers enjoy the blessing of tangible cherubic faces smiling down on him while he conducts worship!”

Rev. Clark’s cherub cleaning lasted 50 years—until 2000, when the congregation approved a major restoration of the sanctuary. As part of that effort, special attention was given to the proscenium arch and the precious ring of cherubs. The were painted with enamel and glazed to bring out the three-dimensional properties; and some parts were highlighted with 23-karat gold leaf.

We still enjoy their blessed smiling faces, always youthful, even after nearly 140 years!



Pray...

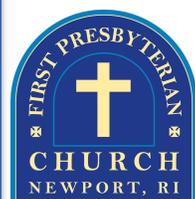
...for the unspoken needs of members of our church family who are recovering from surgery, who will have surgery this week, who are ill or enduring hardships.

...for our nation and its leaders, and for those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world. You may call the church office with specific names that we will list for prayer.

...for our church, as we rejoice in the Resurrection, renew our faith in God’s plan for all of us, and reach out to those around us.

...and give thanks for all the faithful servants who care for our church building and all who worship within it.





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401-847-1749 • fpcnewport.org
[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)
Sunday Worship Service 10:30.



Mailing Address Update! Since we have officially moved the church offices back to the main building, we are using 4 Everett Street as the mailing address instead of 6 Everett Street. Mail addressed to 6 Everett St will still arrive at the church because the James House is still owned by FPC.