



# This week at FPC

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

## May 29 Worship

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18*

Guest pastor Rick Koconis continued his sermon series from Romans 8, “God’s Trinitarian Love in All Its Glory.” Sunday’s sermon was titled, “Our Hope Is Not In This World,” and the scripture reference was Romans 8:18-27. If you were unable to worship with us in person, go to our web site, [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org), and click on Livestream.

A longtime FPC member, Rick graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida with a Master of Divinity degree.

Thank you to Darien Petit for serving as lay leader, to our ushers, to the Conwell family for hosting coffee hour, and to our music ministry for sharing their musical talents to enhance our worship service.

This Sunday’s sermon will be based on Romans 8:28-30 and titled, “For His Glory Alone, Only the Fingerprints of God.”

**New**

**A New Member Class** for those wishing to join FPC or glean more information about doing so will be held before service at 9:15am for a total of two sessions on Sunday, June 19 and 26.

## Restoring historic window sills with pride and skill

When the founding members planned our wonderful building, they had one consistent objective: there would be no compromise in the quality of what was built—including the 63 beautiful stained glass windows. In *Rhode Island Stained Glass: An Historical Guide*, the author observes, referring to FPC, “The exterior rough stonework of the church produces a marvelous setting for superior stained glass windows.” This is the beauty we marvel at each time we enter the church.

Since 1892, our windows have suffered from weathering and age. These concerns led to the restoration of the sanctuary and fellowship hall windows from 2002 to 2006. Now 27 of the windows require repair and/or replacement of the window sills.

Don Fennessey took these photos showing Erik Reynolds, one of Jack Mancini’s carpenters, working on the window sills on the Everett Street side of the building. He cuts out the old rotten sills using a plunge saw and replaces them with mahogany pieces he has made on his table saw and shaped with his router. He then attaches them with screws and seals them with Bondo and primes them. They should last many years. When complete, New England Stained Glass will reinstall the windows, that have been removed for safekeeping, and work will shift to another part of the building. Progress is slow and steady.

If you would like to contribute financially to this important project, please note on your check or offering envelope: “FPC Stained Glass Windows.”



## On the Journey

As we move forward as the body of Christ, we want to seek God's leading and have His wisdom and discernment. To this end we need your prayers.

We ask that this week you pray for the decision as to which program should be used to develop the church's "want ad" for a new pastor.

**For pastoral care** contact Deidra Ricci by emailing [pastor@fpcnewport.org](mailto:pastor@fpcnewport.org). For other visitation needs, contact Daryl Kolator at [deacons@fpcnewport.org](mailto:deacons@fpcnewport.org) or 401-339-7625.

**To view Sunday services**, [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org), FPC Livestream.

**Sunday School study and sermon discussion** "What Is the Gospel and How Does It Inform Our Church and Its Mission?" led by Rick Koconis at 9:15 a.m. The Sermon Review class originally scheduled for 7pm Sunday evening is now going to be held 10 or 15 minutes after the morning worship service. Anyone who might have questions or concerns, or simply would like additional clarification on the sermon message is encouraged to attend. This is an informal discussion group, so grab a coffee and some munchies and join us in the Hometime openRoom.

**Coffee Hour and Online Chats** Many members and friends are currently unable to attend church due to health issues. Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship service, grab a cup of coffee, and find the chat in one of the adjoining offices. Please consider hosting one Sunday. It's very rewarding and not hard to do. Just make or buy a few treats, and there's always someone around to help.

 **Women's Bible Study Opportunity!** You are invited to join to join us Thursday afternoon's at 2 p.m. on Zoom for a new study on Psalms beginning June 23. If anyone is interested they can contact Deidra Ricci, [pamperedee@cox.net](mailto:pamperedee@cox.net) or 401-447-3833.

**Coffee-Fellowship Time** Thanks to the Henry family for the Sunday array of goodies. And thanks to all who continue to bring our Sunday morning treats. Fancy or simple, all are appreciated and enjoyed! Please sign-up on the clipboard near the coffee.

**Soup Kitchen** Our Soup Kitchen, the first Wednesday of every month, is an important outreach to our neighbors in need. If you would like to help purchase the food, please contact Nancy Burgess at [nancykayaks@cox.net](mailto:nancykayaks@cox.net). To help prepare and serve the food, email Coleen Spencer at [coleenspencer@cox.net](mailto:coleenspencer@cox.net).

## Meetings and Activities

### Thursday, June 2

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

### Saturday, June 4

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast at Chelsea's restaurant

### Sunday, June 5

9:15 a.m. Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. Prayer gathering  
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, June 6

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, June 7

Naomi Circle

### Wednesday, June 8

5:00 p.m. Soup kitchen  
6:30 p.m. Last evening choir practice

\* office hours may vary

\*\* Summer worship services will remain 10:30



Praise the Lord!  
Elizabeth Kinder, (Janice's daughter) had a baby boy on Sunday and Elizabeth, Zura and baby David are all doing well.

## Join our summer "pick-up" choir

This is a good time to try out being a choir member. For the next few months we will not have Wednesday evening choir rehearsals. On the

Sundays listed here, we will meet in the choir loft at 9:45 to "pick up" a piece of music that we will quickly learn and sing that morning. No robes, no rehearsals, no auditions, just an opportunity to enjoy singing from the choir loft and enriching our worship service. After June 8 (last Wednesday rehearsal) the choir will sing June 12 and 26; July 3, 17, and 31; August 7, 21, and 31. Check with Angel Conwell for more information.



## Pray...

...for our church, as we renew our faith in God's plan for all of us and reach out to those around us. Join Deidra Ricci in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. Sundays to pray together before worship.

...for our nation and its leaders, and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, and for our first responders.

...for the spoken and unspoken needs of members of our church family who will have or are recovering from surgery, who are ill or enduring hardships or loss. Pray especially for these brothers and sisters in Christ: Jan and Bruce Jones, Norm and Janet Champagne, Ralph and Alice Thomas, Dick and Cindy Price.

### *A note of thanks*

It has been quite the journey and the end is in sight for Ralph to come home. We want to thank all who prayed so faithfully for us over what will soon be eight months. Your prayers that Ralph be able to eat again have been answered and a 24/7 caregiver has been found. We ask for your continued prayers that all goes smoothly. Ralph has been measured for a manual wheelchair built to his specific needs. We ask for your prayers that it can be made in record time to provide comfort and mobility, and that the therapists will enable more progress as the Lord blesses him with renewed strength and movement.

We are also thankful for your prayers and loving support for Alice following her recent fall resulting in two broken ankles. She is now able to get around with only ankle stabilizers and a cane and drive again. We have truly felt blessed by your many prayers, cards, and kindnesses.

*Ralph and Alice*

Please pray for David and Daryl Kolator. David had a heart attack and is scheduled for a triple bypass surgery. Please pray for the skill and wisdom of the surgeons, and a speedy recovery. Please pray for God to be near to David and Daryl, strengthening them and providing His peace and encouragement.

Please pray for longtime FPC member Carol Smith and family as Roy has gone home to be with the Lord. We rejoice that Roy's suffering has ended and he is in the arms of His Lord, however our hearts are saddened for our loss. May Carol be comforted and feel the Lord holding her up during this difficult time. Roy and Carol were married for 70 years! Carol's address is Royal Assisted Living, 191 Forest Avenue, Middletown.



And we just received word that Dave Tenney went to be with the Lord Wednesday, June 1. His family will gather for burial on Aquidneck Island and a reception at FPC later this summer.



We continue our prayers for the families of Raphael Sweeney and John Beese—and for Ken Scigulinsky he deals with the loss of his wife and our friend, Tia

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."  
Psalm 34:18*



## Welcome to 6 Everett Street!

Ken Hoffman welcomes new tenants to the James House. Ken, Christian, Jack, Max, and Emily, will move in to the James House this week. They are law students at Roger Williams University. Thanks to Don Fennessey and the many dedicated members who worked hard over the past several months to prepare the house for renters. It is now to be occupied and used as a residence.

# A Small Tower That *Was* Built

A couple of weeks ago, looking at “the towers that were never built,” we mentioned the similarity of our church’s original design to Newport’s United Congregational Church. Here’s more about that relationship—and our beginnings.

In the late 1800s, the Congregational denomination was the leading Protestant denomination throughout New England, and the United Congregational Church was one of the larger churches in Newport, Rhode Island. Located at the corner of Pelham and Spring Streets, the red stone church with the beautiful stained glass windows was a most impressive building. The congregation numbered over 300 people at that time.

In 1884, several members of the Congregational church decided to start a separate Sunday school as a mission outreach program. They picked a location in the southern part of Newport. Many members of the group were of Scottish descent, born in Scotland or first generation Americans, and the new Sunday school quickly attracted other people from the area.

As the numbers grew, prayer meetings and occasional preaching services were added, and soon the United Congregational Church agreed to sponsor the construction of a new building for them. They built a small wooden chapel, which still stands at the corner of Wellington Avenue and Thames Street in Newport, and it became known as Grace Chapel. A young minister, the Rev. R. Gordon MacKay was hired to conduct the services of worship and give pastoral attention to this new “mission” congregation.

This all happened at a time when the parent organization, the United Congregational Church, was steadily moving in a more liberal theological direction.

In fact, a Unitarian minister had occupied the pulpit since 1878. Unitarian concepts would have seemed very

foreign to some of those attending Grace Chapel—especially those who might have grown up in the Church of Scotland, or those who were deeply ingrained with the Reformed theology of John Calvin and John Knox.

Meanwhile, the Presbyterian movement in New England was making a steady advance. There were probably some in the congregation, and perhaps a few affluent summer visitors, who were most eager to see a Presbyterian Church established in Newport.

## A new church is born

And so in early 1888, discussions began between the leaders of Grace Chapel and the parent organization. These talks were amicable, and they led to an agreement that concluded, “The chapel had grown to a size and power sufficient to warrant its separate organization and maintenance.”

One of the members, Daniel B. Fitts, provided the funds to purchase the building and property, and this cleared the way to approach the Boston Presbytery for admission to the Presbyterian Church. This legality was accomplished very quickly, and on June 19, 1888, the First Presbyterian Church of Newport was officially organized. Forty-seven members joined on that day.



An early photo of the chapel built by those who would establish the First Presbyterian Church in Rhode Island.

## Food, Fellowship, Fun!

If you love to eat and enjoy lively conversation with Christian friends, this is the best deal in town. Informal, always fun, and open to all adults, young or old, single or attached, new to FPC or lifetime members.

It’s time to set up new dinner groups for the next two months. Each group will try to meet at least twice. One person or couple acts as host, providing a main dish. Others, if able, bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Each group makes its own rules—some may decide to go to a restaurant for dinner or brunch, or enjoy a cookout or lunch. Text Nancy Burgess at 401-835-0183 or email [nancykayaks@cox.net](mailto:nancykayaks@cox.net).



## First Presbyterian Church

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[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30.

