



October 13, 2022

This week at FPC

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

Sunday Worship, October 9

"... To you, Lord, I call, for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness and flames have burned up all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness." Joel 1:19-20

"When the Locust Swarm Destroys" was the theme of the sermon delivered by Reverend Jeff Hutchinson, from the first chapter of the Book of Joel. We are fortunate that Rev. Hutchinson will be with us most Sundays between now and Christmas. He is also busy as Associate Pastor at Living Hope Community Church in Old Greenwich, CT, and called to plant a church in New Haven.



God's love delivered in a simple shoebox

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Every year, we participate in this meaningful project. We fill shoeboxes with small gifts to bless children and families around the world.

Please pick up one of the boxes you'll find in several spots around the church. Inside each box is a flyer with suggestions for suitable items. Please note that toothpaste, candy and some other items are not allowed due to customs regulations. Return the filled shoe box (unsealed) by **Sunday, November 14**, when they will be dedicated and prepared for shipment.

To find out more about Operation Christmas Child or if you'd like to donate online, visit samaritanspurse.org.



On the Journey...

Please pray for our Mission funds to be multiplied as we pray and give to support the work of the body of Christ through the world.

Positive progress on budget concerns! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our September operating deficit (YTD) was -\$20,578.96. In August it was -\$33,312.99 and in July -\$56,102.11. We are continuing to make progress and with everyone's support, it will be possible to finish calendar year 2022 without a deficit. Our ability to call a new Pastor is dependent on our ability to have a balanced budget. Please continue to support our church as we navigate these difficult times. Thank you.

A timeline for the Pastor Search Committee:

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will consist of two Elders, one Deacon, and two members-at-large from our congregation. This committee will serve to find our next permanent pastor. The Session (Elders) have been and continue to be in prayer over who will serve on the PNC. Here are some milestones as we journey toward finding our next pastor.

- **October 18:** Session meeting to determine the Elders and Deacon who will serve on the PNC and finalize the list of nominees from the congregation. These nominees will then be called by Session and asked to pray about serving on the PNC.
- **Sunday, November 20:** The names of all members of the PNC will be announced as well as nominees for next year's class of Elders and Deacons—and the date of a congregational meeting to formally elect the PNC members and 2023 Elders and Deacons.
- **Sunday, December 4:** The tentative date for the congregational meeting following the service which will include formal election of the PNC members, new Elders and new Deacons by the congregation.

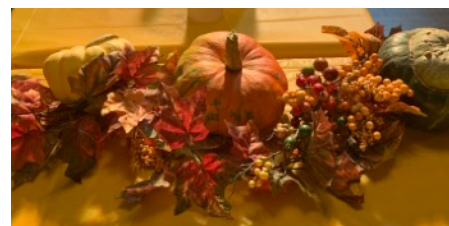
Also happening soon: Formation of a Vision Framing Process Committee (VFPC), whose purpose will be to identify and characterize our specific role as part of God's greater church at this time. The information gathered by this committee will also be used to assist the PNC in its role in finding a new permanent pastor. Watch for more information on this new committee.

Volunteers needed, benefits assured

Have you considered volunteering and becoming more involved in the life of FPC? There is a great need right now in our church and the mutual benefits of sharing your time, talent and treasure are more than you might expect. Volunteering leads to discovering a greater purpose in your life and a gaining a broader perspective. It opens up lifelong friendships while helping others, and you will find yourself growing closer to God. There are so many opportunities and needs, there is sure to be an area that needs your skill and enthusiasm.

New study begins today

The Thursday Afternoon Women's Bible Study Group begins a new study, *The Real Heaven, What the Bible Actually Says*, by Chip Ingram today, October 13, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to participate please contact Deidra Ricci at pamperedee@cox.net. If you missed today's session, you can still join the next one



Coffee/Fellowship hour needs hosts.

After Sunday worship service, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a beautifully arranged table of refreshments and plenty of friendly conversation. If you are able to help host one Sunday, please sign up on the clipboard near the coffee urn. It only takes about an hour of your time, but it means a lot to all who relish the opportunity to socialize before returning home.

Using your online Directory

If you are listed in our church directory, you can access it on your phone or other device at www.instantchurchdirectory.com. Click on Member Login at the top of the page. Type in the email you provided for the directory and create a password to create a personal account. You will now be able to view the entire directory. And, you can make changes and updates to your own information. If you'd like to be added to the directory or have questions, your own account, please email secretary@fpcnewport.org.

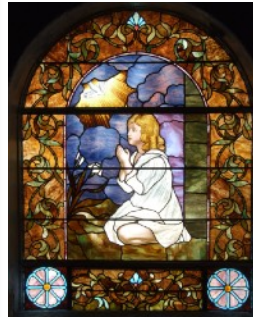


Reaching Out...



FPC opened its doors to the public during the Broadway Street Fair October 8—on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Tim Schultz hung a banner to attract visitors. It worked! About twenty people ventured inside, including a couple from Bulgaria, a family from Paris and a woman from Brazil who works with an anti-plastic pollution organization. All were fascinated by the stained-glass windows and Don Fennessey's hospitality and knowledge of our church's history. The golden glow from the Mary and Martha window as the sun was going down was especially inspirational and two women who came to pray were warmed by its light. We also had a very nice family and another woman, all of whom live close to the church and may come to worship with us.

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 Sunday at 10 a.m. to pray together before worship.

...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...for the spoken and unspoken needs of those in our church family who will have or are recovering from surgery, are ill or enduring hardships or loss and in need of God's healing and grace. And as you pray, please remember these and many others in our church family and beyond:

Norm and Janet Champagne	Rich and Karen Dagrosa
Graciela Emerick	Bruce and Jan Jones
Richard and Cindy Price	Ida (Stacie Schultz's mother)
Lilia Svizzero-Merrill	Ralph and Alice Thomas
Families who are grieving the loss of a loved one.	

This Sunday's coffee hour Zoom chat will be with Paul Malkemes, from the Boston Project.

If you would like to say hello or learn more about this amazing mission, stop in the office just off the Fellowship Hall.

Filling the Food Pantry Shelves



Thanks to our generous congregation, we were able to send a substantial amount of food to help fill the nearly empty shelves at St. John's Lodge Food Bank on Sprague Street in Portsmouth (the

Mason Lodge). This food bank reaches out across Rhode Island and at this time the need is great.

Our donation was truly appreciated. Collection baskets are available all month to receive your items for the December delivery.



Soup Kitchen



We thank Bonnie Haun who purchased the food for this month's Soup Kitchen as

well as helping prepare and serve. Also, many thanks to our very faithful volunteers Linda Conheeny, Robert and Christine Sahms, and Jerry and Coleen Spencer who prepared and served 30 bag meals. This display of God's love is a critical service to many of the homeless To help purchase the food (reimbursed by the church) or any other aspect of this ministry, Coleen will be happy to guide any "newbie" is what is needed. (coleenspencer@cox.net.)



130 years ago —the Cornerstone



The formal laying of the cornerstone did not take place until October 15, 1892, although work had been in progress since the beginning of that year. Three walls had already been erected to a height of about one story, and sub-flooring had been laid in the sanctuary so a large audience could be seated for the

ceremony. The local newspaper described it as having taken place “in much the same manner as in the old Roman forum, the roof being the heavens above.”

The pastor, Rev. James Craig, presided at the ceremony and there were hymns, prayers and other speakers before the formal laying of the cornerstone. It must have been an emotional and glorious moment for those attending, because just getting to this point had been a substantial achievement.

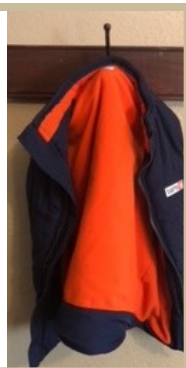
The benediction that day was delivered by the Rev. Henry N. Jeter, who was pastor of the black Shiloh Baptist Church, located at the corner of School Street and Mary Street in Newport (the building is still there). Rev. Jeter had been invited to the ceremony by Elder Daniel B. Fitts and his wife Susan, who were close personal friends. As a result, a close and supportive relationship developed between First Presbyterian and the Shiloh Baptist Church during the early years.



Rev. Henry N. Jeter,
Shiloh Baptist Church

LOST AND FOUND

These items are the latest to join our Lost & Found box near the Cranston Street entrance. If you are missing an item, please check the box or contact the office at (401) 847-1749.



Note: If you have trouble receiving or viewing this newsletter through your email you can find this and previous issues at fpcnewport.org, click on News and Events.

Want to give online?

Go to our web site www.fpcnewport.org and click on the Give tab, then fill in the information on the screen.

The Blessing of Flowers!

All summer we have been blessed with flowers from members' gardens, arranged by Alice Hand to enhance our worship and bring the beauty of God's creation into our sanctuary. If you'd like to purchase flowers for this purpose in the coming cold months, contact Alice Hand at littleauntalice@yahoo.com. And if you'd like these flowers to be in memory of loved ones or in praise for something specific, we will publish that in the bulletin each week.



Sing, Choirs of “Angel’s”

We are already practicing for the Advent and Christmas season, especially for our annual Christmas in Newport evening. Join us in the choir loft at 6:30 Wednesday evenings!



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, October 13

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

Friday, October 14

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, October 15

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

Sunday, October 16

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Pre-worship prayer time
10:30 a.m. Worship service (nursery care available)
11:30 a.m. Fellowship time
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, October 17

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*
10:00 a.m. Worship Committee
6:30 p.m. Sarah Circle (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group
7:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 19

5:00 p.m. EFC Soup Kitchen
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

* office hours may vary



First Presbyterian Church

4 Everett Street (Broadway and Everett) Newport, Rhode Island
401-847-1749 • fpcnewport.org
[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am

