

February 2, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Sunday Worship Service *January 29*

Paul wrote: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Reverend Jeff Hutchinson's sermon, "Christ Lives in Me," reflected on more of Paul's letter to the Galatians (Galatians 1:11-21). If you were unable to attend worship service this week, you can watch the live stream on our website, FPCnewport.org.



Looking ahead...

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD," Jeremiah 29:1

Sunday, February 5
Four Chaplains Sunday.



Sunday, February 12
135th annual meeting of the congregation—plus lunch and Souper Sunday soup drive.

Friday, February 17
Game night and pizza at 5:30 p.m. for all ages.

Graciela Emerick

Family and friends of longtime FPC member Graciela Emerick gathered to remember her with love at a funeral service Saturday, January 18. Graciela was



born in Bogota, Columbia in 1934 and passed away January 19 at home, surrounded by loved ones. She was actively involved at First Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday school, worked in the soup kitchen and served as a deacon. After her burial at Newport Memorial Park the Deacons hosted a reception in Fellowship Hall where many memories were shared.

On the Journey

Please pray that we may have our eyes opened to all the Lord is doing around us. Psalm 146:8

Search for a new pastor—update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey) has begun meeting. The congregation is invited to reach out to any committee member with questions, concerns, or suggestions as this process takes shape. The Vision Framing Committee is also getting underway and their work will add valuable insight and information.

For your records

If you need envelopes for your offering, contact Dave Kolator, with the number of envelopes you would like.



Come sing with us!



If you like to sing and love praising God through song, our choir needs you! This is a warm and welcoming group, and all you need is to show up at rehearsal Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.! Music is an important part of our worship service, especially as we approach the season of Lent and Easter.

Annual meeting February 12— A time to remember our long and inspired history—and our hopes for the future

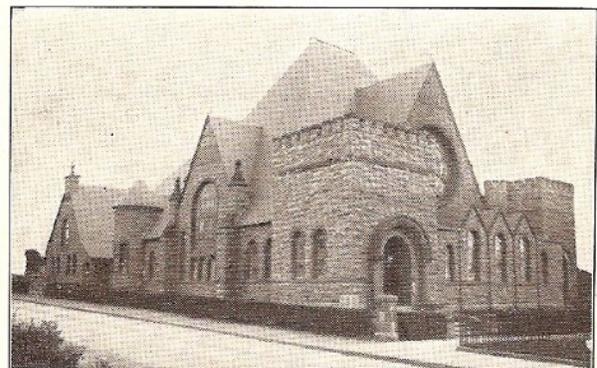
As we prepare to attend the 135th annual meeting of our church we have an opportunity to reflect on how deep the faith of our founders must have been and to pledge to sustain that faith. Our founders were a small group of men and women, largely of Scottish background, who desired to follow the form of worship, model of government, and theological convictions of the heritage of John Calvin and John Knox, in which they had been nurtured.

They risked much to create our beautiful building, saw members go to many wars to defend our country, provided aid and comfort within the community, and provided opportunities for worship and fellowship for thousands of Christians throughout many generations.

We are thankful that a group of earnest people in Newport's United Congregational Church began a movement in 1884 to establish a Sunday School and other Christian work in the southern part of the city—in a building on Thames Street not far above Wellington Ave. This became known as Grace Chapel.

Soon worship services and other activities were added. In time, the United Congregational Church realized that the chapel had grown to a size and power sufficient to warrant separate organization. Because the chapel attendants wanted to make this a Presbyterian body, the Congregational Church decided to withdraw its assistance and support, with the full consent of the chapel congregation.

Let us treasure our history and sustain our sense of family into the future, always giving thanks for God's blessings on this congregation, and finding sanctuary in the solid rock walls so lovingly built many years ago.



Reaching Out...

Four Chaplains Sunday



On Sunday, February 5, we will revive our tradition of celebrating Four Chaplains Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us.

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday Soup Drive!



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, (the day of our annual meeting), we encourage everyone to bring in a few cans of soup to contribute to our "Soup"er Bowl Soup Drive. FPC

donates food each month to St. John's Lodge Food Bank in Portsmouth. At this time the need is great, and we are supplementing our regular donations with this special soup drive donation. Collection baskets are available all month in the fellowship hall to receive your items and we'll have additional collection baskets or boxes downstairs as we gather for our annual luncheon. So please check your food cupboards, and pick up a few extra cans of soup next time you shop for groceries.

Serving food to our neighbors

At the January Soup Kitchen, we served 28 meals to those in need, thanks to our energetic team of volunteers. If you would like to join this vital ministry as a cook, server, or cleaner-upper, contact Coleen Spencer, coleenspencer@cox.net, or text/call Darien Petit at 401-323-0077. This can be just a one or two hour one time service or a monthly commitment.

Pray...



...for the **Pastor Nominating Committee** as they seek the Lord's guidance in finding our next pastor.

This week we offer these words from Psalm 37:5:

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass."

...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.

Janet Champagne and family
Tristan, Linda Conheeny's
grandson
Judy Graves' son Daniel
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Cindy and Chip Wilson

Lynn and Larry Chase
Rich DaGrosa
Graciela Emerick's family
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mother)
Ralph and Alice Thomas



"O Lord, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but You. Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." Psalm 5:1-3

Fellowship Time Volunteers appreciated

We are all grateful for those who have brought treats and served as hosts and hostesses for coffee hour after Sunday service. Your time, efforts, and delicious treats are a blessing for the congregation to enjoy. If you've not signed up recently, please consider adding your name to the clipboard near the coffee. It's a simple, much appreciated way to serve!





First Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting!

Sunday, February 12
in the dining hall, after worship service

Enjoy a lunch of sandwiches and salad as we review the past year and look forward to the challenges, opportunities and blessings God will provide in 2023. As we seek a new pastor, it is important to be present and hear the committee reports, especially the Pastor Nominating Committee and Vision Framing Committee.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11



Learn and grow!

Sunday School classes for all
at 9:15

Adults: Join Rev. Hutchinson and other teachers in the Hometime Room for "Essential Tenets of our ECO denomination."

Junior and Senior High: Join Dave Kolator in the Resource Room (next to the pastor's office) to study "What Scripture Says About Heaven," adapted from Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*.

Elementary students: Join Cindy Wilson in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. to sing and then go to the first floor of the Christian Ed building for a Bible lesson.



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
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.



Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

February 17
May 19
August 18
November 17

Games and activities for all ages, from 2 to 92! Families, singles, all are invited!

We'll provide pizza, and you may bring a salad or dessert if you'd like to. There's something for everyone, even if you just want to eat the pizza, relax and watch the fun, and enjoy the fellowship.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, January 26

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

Friday, January 27

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, January 28

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

Sunday, January 29

9:15 a.m. Sunday School all ages
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, January 30

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 Choir practice

* office hours may vary