

February 16, 2023



This week at FPC

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

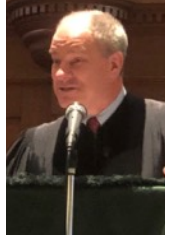
Scenes from Sunday, February 12: Worship, Ordination, Annual Meeting



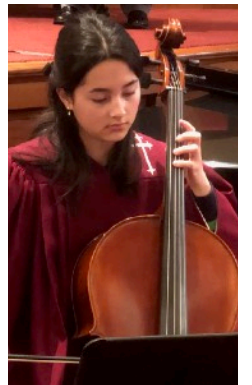
Ordination of Elder Mark Barnes. "I'm thankful to be joining such a wonderful group of fellow believers, and I look forward to working alongside all of you to carry out God's will for the church."

"Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?"

Rev. Jeff Hutchinson's sermon, "The Life of Faith" (Galatians 3:1-4), on God's unconditional love for those who believe.



Joyful choir directing



Gathering Music



Congregational lunch and meeting



On the Journey

*Please pray that we would set our hearts
on seeking the Lord's best for FPC today
and in the future.*

From the PNC

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been actively working to fulfill our duties. One of our initial main objectives is to determine an effective means of communicating with you, our congregation. We will continue to use E-News and the Sunday Bulletin to share updates and we are planning to coordinate in-person discussions in the months ahead. We are also setting up an e-mail address specific to the PNC. We want your input into our search for our new pastor. We promise as this process goes along, that we will share updates and information and include our church community in this search.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey).

"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:2

If you like to sing and love praising God through song, our choir needs you! This is a warm and welcoming group. Just come to 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. Singing anthems can enrich your spiritual life. Extra perks: the choir loft is air conditioned in the summer, and best of all, it provides an inspiring view of the congregation and our beautiful stained glass windows!

A friendly and valued tradition

We are all grateful for those who bring treats and serve as hosts and hostesses for coffee hour after Sunday service. Your time and effort offer a blessing for the congregation to enjoy. It's an easy, much appreciated way to serve! If you've not signed up recently, please consider adding your name to the clipboard near the coffee. The table and coffee service are all set up so your part is simple—just set out some refreshments and keep the coffee pot filled—and there is always someone around to help.



This will be fun!



Friday, February 17

5:30 p.m.

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.
To reserve your pizza slice, call Barbara
at 904-742-9626.

Our committees at work

The FPC annual report showed us how many members are involved in the work of our church through committees.

For example, the Inner Life Committee. Here is a quick list of their activities and interests:

- Coffee hour
- Annual Congregation Meeting/Lunch
- Dinner Club
- Game Night
- Annual Picnic
- Broadway Fair
- Vision Framing Committee
- Advent Devotional
- Hymn Sing
- College Care Package
- Workshop/Retreat

Current member of the Inner Life Committee are Brian Petit, Tim Schultz, Daryl and Dave Kolator, Judy Sweeney, and Nancy Burgess.

Reaching Out...

"Thou preparest a table before me..."

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday Soup Drive!



Thanks to many generous donors, we collected 180 cans of soup to give to the local food bank! At this time there are many who have serious food needs, and this

is one way we can help.

Our Deacons have a monthly budget to search the stores for sales and purchase foods that are requested by the food bank. Nancy Burgess generally does the shopping. So if you are unable to shop for extra food items, please consider donating to the Deacons. You can mark this on your giving envelope or check.

"Thou preparest a table before me..."

Missions

Take a few minutes to view the Missions bulletin board in fellowship hall to see the latest communications from the many missionaries we support. We are grateful to have Rev. Jeff Hutchinson providing pastoral support to us, and we in turn have provided financial support to his church plant House of Mercy in New Haven, CT. We thank Ralph Thomas and Roland Chase for their continued communication with our missionaries.

Contributions to our Missions fund provide the means to continue supporting our local as well as global mission partners.



The Portsmouth middle school boys and girls basketball teams both won state championships last weekend. Linda Conheeny's son Jared is the coach of the boys team. Well done!

Pray...



...for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they seek the Lord's guidance in finding our next pastor, remembering these words from Colossians 1:17-18:

"He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

...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.

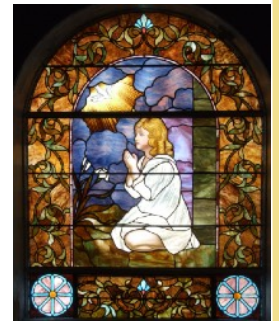
...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...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
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mother)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Lynn and Larry Chase
Rich DaGrosa
Graciela Emerick's family
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Cindy and Chip Wilson

*Jeremiah 30:17 reminds us
"For I will restore health to
you, and your wounds I will
heal, declares the Lord."*



Looking back—A planning committee at work

As our Vision Framing Committee begins its work, we are reminded of another committee that was established in 1973. In that year the Session established a Long Range Planning Committee and charged it with “setting goals for the church to achieve over the next five years.” The report of that committee is noteworthy in that most of the recommendations were actually accomplished, and the results shaped the organization and the work of the church over the next several decades (“Final Report of the Long Range Planning Committee – Submitted to the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Newport, Rhode Island – January 1974”)

Although the report was only 10 pages in length, it dealt with matters of church cohesiveness and unity. The committee recommended returning to a single Sunday worship service, strengthening the Christian Education program, expanding social activities, community outreach, and visitation programs. But the principal recommendation was to adopt a new form of government—the Unicameral Board. The report further recommended that both men and women should serve on the new board, a departure from the prior history of the church.

Although it would take another three years to accomplish, the old Board of Trustees was abolished and its functions were absorbed into the Session. A new committee structure was also established, with the role and responsibilities of each committee carefully defined. And, for the first time, a job description was prepared for the pastor and other church staff members, as the church moved to modernize administrative matters.

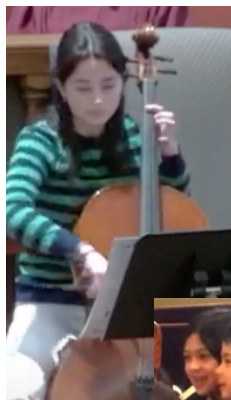
Our youth...our future



Enjoying the children's sermon



Skilled servers handing out ice cream bars after lunch at the congregational meeting.



Appreciating their sister's music



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, February 16

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

Friday, February 17

5:30 p.m. Game Night for all

Saturday, February 18

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

Sunday, February 19

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)
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, February 20

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*

Wednesday, February 22

6:30 Choir practice

* office hours may vary



A friendly place to grow in faith and serve with joy

First Presbyterian Church

4 Everett Street (Broadway and Everett)
Newport, Rhode Island
401-847-1749 • fpcnewport.org
facebook.com/fpcnewport.org
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

