

March 9, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Worship March 5 Second Sunday in Lent

"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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29: 11-12

We welcomed David Alvarez, his mother, his wife Becky and three-month old daughter Karis. This was David's third appearance at our pulpit. David, a Boston native, received his Master's of Divinity from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, has overseen a conference on Gospel-based justice, and has run the Boston Marathon. The Alvarez family lives on Boston's North Shore.

He delighted the children with a special message from "Share Bear" about being a good neighbor and followed that with a sermon for the adults, "Can I Be Your Neighbor?" His chosen Scripture was Jeremiah 29:4-14.

As always, we thank the many who help to make Sunday Worship meaningful for all—our music director and choir, the ushers, sexton, coffee hour hosts, and the lay leader (this week Phil Haun).



Those who quietly serve

We also thank our Tech and Livestream Team! To Brian Ross, Mike Ricci, Cindy Wilson, Tim Schultz and all those who lend a hand to making sure our Sunday services are technically sound and appear online for those who wish to worship with us, we say, "Well done!" If you are unable to worship in person, got to fpcnewport.org, Livestream.



"John —The Gospel of Light and Life."

Come share this Lenten Sunday School journey through the Gospel of John. We are exploring the identity of Jesus and what it means to all of us. Classes meet at 9:15:

Adults, Hometime Room, Chip Wilson;
Youth, Resource Room, Dave Kolator;
Younger, classroom near the Nursery,
Cindy Wilson

- 3/12 – The "I AM" sayings of Jesus
- 3/19 – The "Farewell Discourse"
- 3/26 – Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion
- 4/2 – Eternal Life

The sessions build on each other, but they also stand alone, so if you cannot make them all, this study is still for you. We pray the Lord will bless this program and it will bind us together through His light and love as expressed in His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.



On the Journey

Please pray for the Lord to embolden us to invite others to join us in worship on Sunday morning.



Our search for a permanent pastor

The Pastor Nominating Committee welcomes your input as we continue our search. Please prayerfully consider the characteristics you would like to have in our new pastor and share your thoughts by emailing pastor@fpcnewport.org (please put PNC on the subject line). If you prefer, place your suggestions in the new PNC Drop Box found in the Fellowship Hall. PNC members gratefully thank the members of our congregation who have already shared thoughts and suggestions regarding our search for our new pastor. We thank all who are praying for this committee and ask for continued prayers.

All are invited to first PNC Town Hall meeting

The Pastor Nominating Committee's first Town Hall will be in the Hometown Room after Sunday worship service **March 19**. The members of the PNC invite you to attend to share your thoughts and ask questions regarding the search process. The second Town Hall is scheduled for April 2. We thank you all for your prayers and support. *The Pastor Nominating Committee (Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey)*

Make a joyful noise!

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 at 6:30 Wednesday! Music is an important part of our worship, especially at Easter. Contact Angel Conwell, music@fpcnewport.org.



If you have news to share....

Just send your announcements, or other news of interest to Stacie Schultz, secretary@fpcnewport.org. Include dates, times, details, and contact information. Stacie will ensure that these announcements appear in all of our FPC communications platforms—Sunday bulletin announcements, E-News and E-Blast.

More from the Annual report —Missions

Although 2022 was challenging for Missions giving, FPC continued to reach out to our missionary partners. Recent communications from our many missionaries are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Here are some of our 2022 projects.

- Weekly "minute for missions" during October Sunday services as part of Missions Month.
- Connected with with Boston Project with a zoom call during Fellowship hour and inviting Lee Pitts to provide a Sunday morning message.
- Provided financial support to Rev. Jeff Hutchinson's church plant, House of Mercy in New Haven, a major funding source for them.
- Packed and dedicated more than 60 shoe boxes for shipment to children worldwide for Operation Christmas Child.
- Collected 71 winter coats for the Seaman's Church Institute.
- Continued our monthly soup kitchen and food bank collections and reached out to our new Cranston neighbors.
- Provided prayer support to Caleb and Summer Shocklie who are serving in Edinburgh Ireland, and to Bill and Laurie Aseltine in their ministry to the Naval Base Newport community.

Worthwhile Movie Viewing

Check out the new film, *Jesus Revolution*, now showing at Island Cinemas in Middletown several other local theaters. Members who have seen it say it is very much worth seeing.

It's a story set in the 1970s, described by the Lionsgate film company as "Rock and Roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith that leads to a JESUS REVOLUTION and turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world."



Reaching Out...

March food pantry needs

This month the Deacons are asking for cans of tuna and/or chicken, to meet a need expressed by St. John's Lodge Food Bank in Portsmouth. You'll find collection baskets in the fellowship hall. 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



Soup Kitchen

On March 1, we served 19 meals. Daryl and Dave Kolator prepared the meal (baked penne with meatballs, salad, rolls and ice cream). There was plenty for all, plus a large tray that went to The Lucy's Hearth in Middletown, a shelter for homeless mothers and children. (Other times we have taken the extra to McKinney Shelter, the homeless shelter for men and women.) Jerry and Coleen Spencer, Linda Conheeny, Julie Ward, Regina Skudera, Robert and Christine Sahms, Darien Petit, helped prepare and serve the meals. Judy Graves was the kitchen cleaner upper with other volunteers cleaning up the dining room. If you would like to join this team, contact Coleen at coleenspencer@cox.net.

Wheels of love

Many in our congregation find themselves needing a ride to medical appointments, shopping, or even to church on Sunday. The Deacons are compiling a list of those who are willing and able to give a ride to someone who needs transportation (only occasionally and only when it is convenient to do so). We will contact you when a need arises and you can accept or decline, then finalize arrangements with that person. If you are the one who needs a ride, please let us know and we will connect you with someone who will be happy to do that. Contact Daryl Kolator at dakolator@gmail.com or 491-339-7625 to volunteer or to request a ride.



Pray...



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

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Philippians 2:1-2

...for **our church** as we rely on 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 especially those who continue to grieve the loss of a loved one. And as you pray, please remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Lynn and Larry Chase

Marcia Clark

Nadira Ferreira's father

Bonnie Haun

Bruce and Jan Jones

Glenna Malkemes

Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom)

Ralph and Alice Thomas

Burgess family, Autumn and Noel

Rich Dagrosa

Bonnie Haun's brother Mike

Ray Janssen

George and Denise Landis

Richard and Cindy Price

Lilia Svizzero Merrill

As it says in Psalm 34:1-4 *"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears."*



“Sorry I’m late, couldn’t find a parking place.”

When our church was built, parking was not a problem. However, since the advent of the automobile age, it seems there never have been enough parking spaces



close to FPC, and this has been a continuing problem—one that has sometimes even limited the size of the congregation.

There was an opportunity to do something about this in 1965, when the property on the other corner of Broadway and Everett Street (now occupied by a mortgage company) became available. At the time, the pastor and some elders were in favor of purchasing the property for parking, but the Board of Trustees took no action. In 1977 a “Special Property Committee” was formed to address the problem but a solution was not found.

In 1984, the house next to the James House became available and the session purchased it. For a number of years the house’s three apartments were rented, with preference given to church families and it provided a few more parking spaces until the Session sold the property in 1998.

The good news

The parking problem has been eased over the years by converting the side yard to a parking lot and continuing good relations with the nearby post office and hospital employees parking lot. Last year, the mortgage company across Everett granted us permission to park in their lot on Sunday mornings. This has made a good number of convenient parking spaces available to our congregation.



FYI

Last Call for James House Items! When we renovated the James House we had extra household and furniture items to spare. They are in the basement dining room and will go to charity unless claimed. Have a look! You might see something you can use!

SCAM ALERT

Caution: An email scam has targeted some FPC Members. Please be aware that if you receive an email that seems to be from another FPC member or church staff member asking for favors, gift cards, or money transfers of any kind that these emails are false and are sent by scammers. Please do not respond. Please pray that the Lord turn their hearts toward Him.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12

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, March 13

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*
6:00 p.m. Building and Grounds
7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group

Wednesday, March 16

6:30 Choir practice

* office hours may vary



It’s back! Potluck Dinner/
Hymnsing/Palm Cross
making at 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 1



A friendly place to grow in

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.

