

March 23 2023



This week at FPC

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

Scenes from worship service March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

"...But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?" Galatians 4: 8-9



LENT



Rev. Jeff Hutchinson's sermon, "No Turning Back," Galatians 4:8-20



Joining to sing and play "As the Deer," "Great is the Lord," and "And Can It Be."



Special guests from the Navy Chaplain School



Don Fennessey Lay Leader



Family fun at Fellowship Hour



*As we break the bread, as we drink the wine,
All our strength will be supplied, Lord Jesus will provide.
And may it ever be... We remember Him.*

Looking ahead...

Welcoming our Presbytery

We have an opportunity to meet pastors and elders from the other churches in ECO's NorthEast Coast Presbytery, which reaches from Maine to New Jersey. FPC will host the semi-annual Presbytery meeting May 5 and 6. All are invited to the Worship Service Friday, May 5, at 7 p.m. (Rev. Hutchinson will give the sermon, and Angel Conwell will provide music), and a Praise Service from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday.



How you can help make this a memorable time for all

- ❖ Serve snacks Friday, May 5 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Serve continental breakfast Saturday, May 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Serve lunch Saturday, May 6, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., dining room.
- ❖ Please contact Daryl Kolator by text/call at 401-339-7625 or email dakolator@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity.

Two more classes in our Lenten journey through the Gospel of John (at 9:15, Hometime Room)
3/26 – Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion
4/2 – Eternal Life



On the Journey

Please pray that in the busyness of life as we prepare for Easter, we may focus on our Savior Jesus Christ, who laid down His life for our sins.



Pastor search moves forward with Town Hall meeting and requests for congregation's input

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members thank all who attended the first Town Hall March 19, sharing thoughts about the characteristics they would like to see in our next pastor. The meeting was very productive. Many expressed valuable suggestions and opinions, and we found the shared information to be exceptionally helpful and useful. We will keep all of it foremost in our minds as we continue our search.

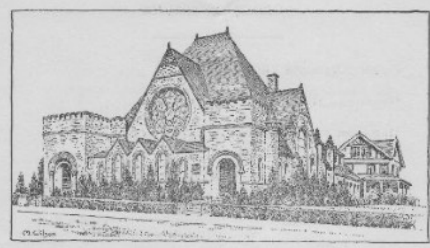
Please prayerfully consider this process and share your thoughts by emailing pastor@fpcnewport.org (mark PNC on the subject line), or place your suggestions in the new PNC Drop Box in the Fellowship Hall. We sincerely thank the members of our congregation who have already shared observations and suggestions. We are thankful for your prayers and ask you to continue praying about this vital matter.



We are committed to being transparent and will continue to share information regularly. We invite you to the next Town Hall meeting April 2 after worship service in the Hometime Room. *Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey*

The Vision Framing Team is also at work, and their findings will add valuable insight and information. The members are: *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Haun, and Daryl Kolator*. They explain their mission this way: "We seek to discern what the Lord desires for this church—how it can uniquely serve Him and bring glory to His name in this time and place. The vision framework for FPC will clarify why people should call this church their home. It will also help inform the Pastor Nominating Committee in its simultaneous work for identifying the

new pastor, and provide a framework and context for the new pastor to come into our community and work effectively with our leadership to Glorify God and magnify His light in Newport."



HYMN SING, POT LUCK SUPPER, AND PALM CROSS MAKING!



Back by popular demand—a good old-fashioned Saturday night hymn sing and potluck supper. We'll enjoy good food and great fellowship, and then join together to joyfully request and sing a few of our favorite hymns!

And, we'll make the special palm crosses given to all worshippers on Palm Sunday! You can take part in any or all of the fun!

WHEN: **Saturday, April 1, 5 pm**

WHERE: *Church dining room*

WHAT TO BRING:

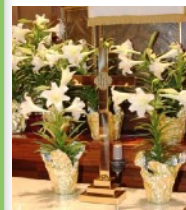
Your favorite salad, side dish, main dish or dessert, readiness to have fun! Joyful voices!



It's time to order Easter lilies

If you would like to provide lilies in praise or loving memory to decorate the sanctuary, send your information to the church office with a check or money order payable to First Presbyterian Church by Sunday, April 2. If you have questions please contact secretary@fpcnewport.org.

Please let us know your name, phone or email, how many plants at \$14 each, and the exact wording to be listed in the bulletin: "In memory of...." or "in praise of" You can also find order forms in the fellowship hall.



Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter!

Reaching Out...

To our neighbors...



March food pantry needs

This month the Deacons are collecting 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. Next month we will collect pasta, rice, and potatoes. If you are unable to shop for these extra food items, please consider giving to the Deacons. You can mark this on your giving envelope or check.



Soup Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen crew serves a meal to our friends in need the first Wednesday of every month. We welcome volunteers to shop, prepare, serve or clean up the dining room. If you would like to join this team, contact Coleen Spencer at coleenspencer@cox.net.

To each other...

If you need a ride to a doctor appointment, shopping, or church, or if you are willing to be on a list of people to call when a need arises, contact Daryl Kolator at 401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com.



Beyond our walls

The bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall shows our mission outreach.



Pray...



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

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3

...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.

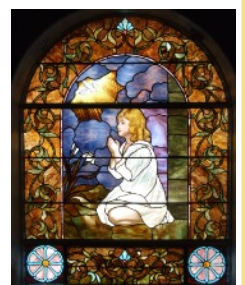
...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...for the **spoken and unspoken needs** of those in our church family—for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praises for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. And as you pray, please remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lynn and Larry Chase | Marcia Clark |
| Rich Dagrosa | Nadira Ferreira's father |
| Bonnie Haun | Bonnie Haun's brother Mike |
| Ray Janssen | Bruce and Jan Jones |
| George and Denise Landis | Glenna Malkemes |
| Richard and Cindy Price | Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom) |
| Lilia Svizzero Merrill | Ralph and Alice Thomas |

We ask God's comfort and peace to be with the Henry family in the loss of Carol's brother, Ted Brown, and for Lilia Svizzero Merrill, whose brother died recently in Italy.

Comforting is God's specialty, as he tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble."*



Saint Patrick more than the name of a parade



Newport celebrates March with the St. Patrick's day parade and other Irish festivities. Our beautiful Ireland stained glass window in the sanctuary depicts Ireland's contribution to the growth of Presbyterianism. Take a closer look at it next time you are in the sanctuary.

The seal of the Church of Ireland shows the burning bush with the inscription, "Burning, but Flourishing." The golden shamrocks represent Irish luck as well as the concept of the Trinity.

The name Patrick AD 372 refers to the famous saint—a devout, humble lad who was kidnapped as a teenager and sold into slavery in Ireland. He escaped and was educated in Roman-occupied Gaul.

He became a Christian and returned to Ireland as a missionary. He soon became a man of influential power, establishing churches with a bishop and eight elders, after the Presbyterian order, and noted on the banner as "Ireland's Primitive Presbyters."

St. Columba (AD 563) had killed a man but repented and became a Christian, helping to win over the Irish to the Christian way of life through his preaching, prayers and example.

"Ulster Plantation AD 1605" commemorates the settlement of northern Ireland by the Scottish during the reign of James I. Blair and Cunningham were significant names in the changing landscape of the early 1600s in Northern Island.

The black oath: in 1639 Charles I compelled the Irish people to take an oath denying all covenants except his own commands. Many refused and were mercilessly persecuted. Then the terrible uprising of the Roman Catholic population threatened the extinction of Protestantism: this is commemorated in the reference to "First Presbytery AD, 1642.

The Act of Toleration in 1723 gave the Irish religious freedom. However, between 1705 and 1775 almost a half million "Scotch-Irish" people came to America because of the famines in Ireland, and they played a strong role in the American Presbyterian movement.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, March 23

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

Saturday, March 24

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

Sunday, March 25

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 26

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*
6:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 Choir practice

* office hours may vary

Remember the Hymn-sing, Potluck/
Palm cross making evening Saturday,
April 1!



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.



Caution: An email scam has targeted some of us. 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, do not respond. Please pray that the Lord turn their hearts toward Him.