

March 30, 2023



This week at FPC

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

March 26—fifth Sunday in Lent

"Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise."

Galatians 4:28

Pastor Hutchinson's sermon, "Children of Freedom," reflected Galatians 4:21-31. The benediction was offered by Reverend Jodie Sargent. She is a priest in the Anglican Church of Rwanda (a denomination of over 1 million believers), ministering in the capital city of Kigali. Sue Fennessey was the lay leader, Richard Ashmore provided gathering music, and the choir's anthem was "In Christ Alone."



THIS SATURDAY!

HYMN SING, POT LUCK SUPPER, 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 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!



The Lenten series will conclude Sunday with a discussion of "Eternal Life" at 9:15 in the Hometime room.



Holy Week Schedule

- ❖ Palm Sunday, April 2, at 10:30. Join us in worship as the children wave palms and everyone receives a cross made of palm fronds.
- ❖ Maundy Thursday service April 6 at 7 p.m.
- ❖ Good Friday the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ❖ Easter morning worship at 10:30 a.m. Congregation is invited to bring refreshments to coffee hour to celebrate the risen Lord.



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 meetings and collection box for suggestions

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members thank all who attended the first Town Hall March 19, and they are inviting all to attend the next Town Hall meeting **this Sunday, April 2** after the worship service. This is an opportunity to voice your opinions on what you would like to see in our next pastor. The committee members say

they found the suggestions and opinions, offered at the first meeting to be exceptionally helpful and useful and will discuss them at their meeting this week.



Another way to share your thoughts on this matter is by sending an email to pastor@fpcnewport.org (mark PNC on the subject line), or placing 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.

Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey

At the same time, the **Vision Framing Team** is at work, and their findings will add valuable insight and information. 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 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."

Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Haun, and Daryl Kolator.

Looking ahead...

Welcoming our Presbytery

We have a great opportunity to meet pastors and elders from the other 11 churches in ECO's NorthEast Coast Presbytery. 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. and a Praise Service from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday.

We are looking for volunteers to:

- ❖ 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 (text or call 401-339-7625 or email dakolator@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity.



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

The Deacons recently became aware of—and helped to fill—a need at the Newport Hospital Emergency Room. Patients often have to have their clothes cut off to receive medical care. As part of First Presbyterian Church's ongoing service to our community, in March the deacons supplied Newport Hospital Emergency Department with 64 items: sweatpants, tee shirts, and socks for adults and children to be given if needed when they leave the hospital emergency room. Needless to say, the Emergency Room staff was grateful for this creative solution to a need. Please consider giving to our Deacons Fund to help them continue their thoughtful outreach to our local community.



April food pantry needs

This month the Deacons are collecting pasta, rice and potatoes for the St. John's Lodge Food Bank in Portsmouth. You'll find collection baskets in the fellowship hall. If you are unable to shop for these items, please consider a donation to the Deacons' fund. You can mark this on your giving envelope or check.

Soup Kitchen

Our next meal for our friends in need will be Wednesday, April 3. 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.



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, You did it for me.

Pray...



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

*"For the mountains may depart and the hills be moved, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed."
Say the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Isaiah 54:10

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

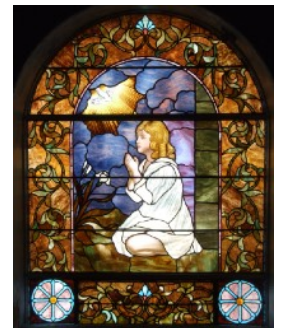
...for **our nation and its leaders**, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...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.

Lynn and Larry Chase
Rich Dagrosa
Bonnie Haun
Ray Janssen
George and Denise Landis
Richard and Cindy Price
Lilia Svizzero Merrill

Marcia Clark
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Glenna Malkemes
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

As we bring our cares and concerns to the Lord, may we remember it is God Himself who answers as we seek Him. Isaiah 41:13 reminds us "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"



A care package from FPC shows our college students that we care!

Exams, goodbyes, moving, all can cause stress. You can help by bringing non-perishable food items (snacks or food that can be prepared in a dorm room) to Fellowship Hall **by April 16**. Please no liquids! Be sure to get your hard working student's school address (or home address for commuters) to judys.ri@gmail.com, 401-225-7577, or Mark Barnes markdbarnes01@gmail.com—or you can call the church office with the information. Thank you for supporting the college students in FPC's family!



A beloved tradition

Fellowship hour after worship

When the last hymn is sung and benediction given, the congregation is invited to enjoy coffee, tea and other treats in the fellowship hall. It's a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Recently, it has also become an opportunity to show gratitude to members who have found their own ways to serve the church and its members.

Last Sunday, Don Fennessey learned how much the things he does for FPC and his church family are appreciated. Don recently completed another term on Session but remained on the Building and Grounds committee. A faithful caretaker of this building, he answers calls at all hours to solve problems such as cleaning up after flood or frozen pipe emergencies. He has organized numerous work days. If he sees someone new attending worship service, he welcomes them and often ends up giving them a historical tour of the building! He visits those who are homebound or in hospitals. leads Promise Keepers and to quote Deidra Ricci, "gives more rides than Uber." Don serves as lay leader regularly and enhanced our Four Chaplain's Day service.

Don has a servant's heart and a love for God's people. One of his favorite phrases is "I love you" and Sunday the people said, "We Love You!"



We also wished "fair winds and following seas" to Navy couple Dan and Mevis Price who have worshipped with us for several months, and are now leaving for duty in Misawa, Japan.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, March 30

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

Saturday, April 1

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast
at Chelsea's restaurant
5:30 p.m. HymnSing/Potluck/palm
cross making

Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday

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)
11:45 a.m. PNC Town Hall Meeting
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, April 3

6:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel

Wednesday, April 4

6:30 Choir practice

* office hours may vary



A friendly place to grow in Christ 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.



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.