



April 20, 2023

# This week at FPC

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

## April 20— He is risen indeed! And the world reflects his glory



As we celebrated the first Sunday after the Resurrection, Elder Deidra Ricci offered a children's message and sermon on "A Complete Prayer" and led us through each verse of the Lord's Prayer and its meaning. Darien Petit was the Lay Leader, and Phil Thow provided an update on Operation Christmas Child and how our 66 shoeboxes joined the millions that brought God's love to children around the world.

If you were unable to attend Sunday's service, you can view it online by going to our website, [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org), and clicking on Livestream or by going directly to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jMdfkviaZg>. Also, the deacons have prepared copies of Deidra's sermon. They will be available in the hometime room this Sunday.



## Looking ahead...

### ECO Presbytery will meet here May 5-6



Here is a great opportunity to meet pastors and elders from the other 11 churches in ECO's NorthEast Coast Presbytery. We will host

the semi-annual Presbytery meeting here Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. All are invited to a Worship Service Friday at 7 p.m. and a Praise Service from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday morning.



### Parade parking alert

Don't be towed! The 38<sup>th</sup> Aquidneck Island National Police Parade will take place Sunday, May 7 at 11:50 a.m., from 317 West Main Road in Middletown, south on Broadway to Washington Square. This year's parade will honor the 245 officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty in 2022.

If you park your car on Broadway that morning, it will be towed. You can park on side streets or the hospital employees' parking lot at Rhode Island Avenue. If you try to park in the mortgage company lot you won't be able to get your car out after church.



Let's have some fun! Our next family pizza and game night will be Friday, May 19.

**Family  
GAME  
Night**

## On the Journey

Please pray that we might have perfect peace  
with our eyes fixed on the Lord.



### Pastor search moves forward with Town Hall meetings, suggestion box and survey

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) thanks all who have filled out and returned surveys or shared concerns, observations and suggestions with members of this team. We ask for prayers as we continue our work. The suggestions and opinions offered so far have been extremely helpful.

To get a copy of the survey or share your thoughts on this matter contact any member of the committee, email [pastor@fpcnewport.org](mailto:pastor@fpcnewport.org) (mark PNC on the subject line). Place the completed survey in the PNC Drop Box in the Fellowship Hall or mail it to the church office. Please fill out the survey by April 23 and continue praying about this vital matter and our church's future. *Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey*



At the same time, the **Vision Framing Team (VFC)** is moving along well and in the upcoming phase they will gather input from the congregation to create a document that will clarify why people should call this church their home, help the PNC in its simultaneous work to identify our new pastor, and provide context for the new pastor to come into our community and work effectively with our leadership. *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Kaun, and Daryl Kolator*

You are invited to join this Sunday evening group as they worship through Zoom with songs and hymns, sharing scripture and enjoying fellowship. Whether you are interested in participating regularly or only occasionally, you are more than welcome to be with us when you can. Email Brian Ross at [mm9616b@gmail.com](mailto:mm9616b@gmail.com) to get the link.



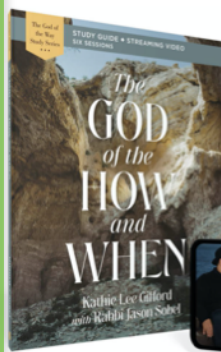
### Showing love to our college students

The Inner Life Committee thanks the congregation for their generous support of the College Care Package Program. This year, we sent 10 packages to students in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York. We hope these packages will be a reminder that their church family is praying for them as they complete their studies and plans for the future. Thank you for your prayers for these young people connected to our church.

### New Bible Study

The Thursday afternoon women's Bible Study, which meets weekly at 2 p.m. on Zoom, will be starting a new video/book study Thursday, May 4. It is *The God of the How and When* by Rabbi Sobel and Kathie Lee Gifford.

Call or text  
Deidra Ricci at  
401-447-3833.



## Reaching out to our neighbors...

Our Board of Deacons works tirelessly to serve the needs of our congregation and our community. Your gift to the Deacons Fund will help them continue their thoughtful outreach.



### Neighborhood cleanup

Deacons have begun attending monthly Off Broadway Neighborhood Association meetings and are planning for FPC to participate in an Earth Day Broadway Clean Up **this Saturday, April 22** beginning at 9:00 a.m. It begins at Equality Park in front of our church. Join us if you can.

### April food pantry needs



This month the Deacons are collecting pasta, rice and potatoes for St. John's Lodge Food Bank in Portsmouth. You'll find collection baskets in 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



We will serve our next Soup Kitchen meal Wednesday, May 3. If you'd like to take part in this important outreach to our neighbors in need, please contact Coleen Spencer (coleenspencer@cox.net). We welcome volunteers to shop, prepare, serve or clean up the dining room.

### A grateful second grade teacher

Our deacons provided a \$200 donation to a second grade classroom at Pell School through DonorsChoose, an organization that helps public school teachers provide tools and experiences for a great education in every community. The teacher, Mrs. Clark, replied, "Thank you so much for your support and generosity! These materials will help my EL students succeed in learning to read. I am grateful that you believe in my students as much as I do. We can't wait to put these tools to use! Let's get reading!"

## Pray...



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

*"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."* Psalms 25:4-5

...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.

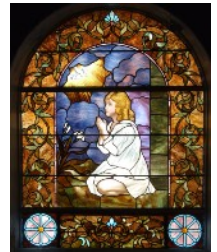
...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...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.

Cheryl Blake	Nancy Burgess
Janet Champagne	Lynn and Larry Chase
Marcia Clark	Rich Dagrosa
Nadira Ferreira's father	Bonnie Haun and her brother Mike
Sadie Haun	Ray Janssen
Karen Jenkins	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

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.'"*



### Calling all FPC men!

We have another opportunity to join a men's fellowship conference Saturday, June 3. It's only about an hour from Newport up Route 146. It's just a half day, but includes featured speakers and plenty of seminars for men of all ages. Cost is only \$39. If you are interested, contact Don Fennessey at fenns@hotmail.com.

35 years ago—

## A centennial celebration



First Presbyterian Church in the 1980s

The theme chosen for FPC's centennial celebration was "100 Years and His Work Goes On," and this thought inspired those who planned and participated in all the events leading up to the actual centennial. The first event was held March 27, 1988, when Frank Converse

presented an organ recital—the date coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Casavant organ.

A month later, an impressive Community Ecumenical Service was held April 24, 1988. Dignitaries and representatives from other community service organizations joined the congregation in the Sunday worship service. In the weeks that followed there was a Choir Concert, a Bell Ringers Concert, and a family Clambake. And then on Sunday, June 19, 1988, exactly 100 years after the founding, the sanctuary was filled to capacity as a solemn service of Communion was observed. People had returned to Newport from all over the country just to be a part of the congregation once again for this event.

Following the worship service there was a luncheon in the ballroom of the Sheraton-Islander Hotel. Elder Ronald Machtley (who was running for Congress that year) was the master of ceremonies, and it was a fitting climax for the Centennial celebration.

Special recognition was given to the 45 people who had been members for 50 or more years—among them Irene Meikle Patterson, who had been a member for an astounding 81 years. A special Centennial photo directory was distributed, and a beautiful new booklet, the *History and Stained-Glass Windows of First Presbyterian Church*, had been prepared. A commemorative banner and a commemorative tile were also made available.

All the events were considered a great success, and the celebration left a positive effect on the purpose and morale of the congregation for many years to come.

### Weekly Meetings and Activities

#### Thursday, April 20

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. office open

#### Saturday, April 21

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast at Chelsea's restaurant  
9:00 a.m. Earth Day Broadway Cleanup

#### Sunday, April 22

9:15 a.m. Sunday School all ages  
10:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. Worship service (nursery care available)  
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

#### Monday, April 23

7:00 p.m. 20s and 30s Small Group

#### Wednesday, April 26

6:30 p.m. Choir practice

\* office hours may vary

*Mark your calendars for the next family game night Friday, May 19!*



*A friendly place to grow in Christ and serve with joy*

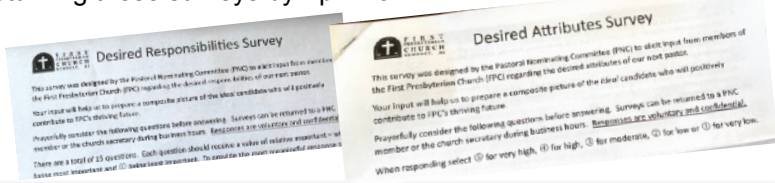
### First Presbyterian Church

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.



### Please fill out your surveys by April 23!

You are an important part of our pastor search process. Our Pastor Nominating Committee is diligently and prayerfully working to find the right person to serve and lead our congregation along God's path. As they explore possibilities they are calling for opinions, concerns and ideas from members of the congregation. Our future as a vibrant spiritual home is at stake. Please help by returning these surveys by April 23.



If you receive an email that seems to be from another FPC member or staff member asking for favors, gift cards, or money transfers of any kind, do not respond.

### If you have news to share....

Send it to [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org). Include dates, times, details, and contact information. Stacie Schultz will ensure that it appears in the appropriate FPC communications platforms.

