



April 27, 2023

This week at FPC

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

April 27 Worship Service—Love One Another

“...Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 7:13-14

We continue to be thankful for Reverend Jeff Hutchinson, who will be staying on through the month of May as our “pastor in residence.” His sermons and pastoral care as we seek a new pastor have been a blessing to this congregation. We are also deeply thankful for his personal kindness in caring for our church family—and for his ready smile that brightens all around him. He also serves as Associate Pastor at Living Hope Community Church in Old Greenwich, CT, and has been called to plant a church in New Haven.



Reverend Hutchinson’s sermon last Sunday was “Freedom to Love,” based on Galatians 5:7-15. Tim Schultz served as lay leader, and the choir’s anthem was “How Beautiful,” by Twila Perry.



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 38th 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 may park on side streets or in the Newport 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) met last Monday, April 25, to review and organize the information shared in surveys, emails and letters from our church members. The PNC is thankful for the effort and thoughtful consideration put into the survey responses and other correspondence. The members of the PNC continue to ask for your prayers as they use this input move forward in the search for our new pastor. If you have additional thoughts to share, please contact any member of the committee or email pastor@fpcnewport.org (mark PNC on the subject line).

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

The Vision Framing Team (VFC) reports that the meeting last Sunday afternoon was very productive. The team asks for continued prayers as they continue seeking to discern His will for our local expression of His Church in this time and place. They are working 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, Scripture and fellowship. If you are interested in participating regularly or only occasionally, please be with us when you can. Email Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com for the link.

A thank-you note...

I am very pleased to report that the College Care Package Program was resumed this year, with many thanks to Mark Barnes and his wife, Lynda. We sent 10 packages to URI, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York.



Thanks, also, to the many other members of the congregation who helped to make this happen, including Daryl Kolator, Sandra Lang, Brian Petit, Brian Ross, Stacie Schultz, and, of course, those who contributed so many snacks to fill the boxes.

I'm grateful that we were able to continue this program to share God's love and support with our students and their friends.

Thank you, Judy Sweeney

Calling all FPC men!

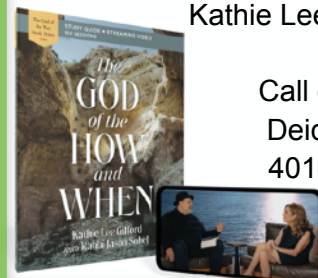
Here's another opportunity to join a men's fellowship conference: Saturday, June 3, about an hour from Newport up Route 146. The half-day gathering includes



featured speakers and seminars for men of all ages. Cost is only \$39. If you are interested, contact Don Fennessey at fenns@hotmail.com.

New Women's Bible Study

The Thursday afternoon women's Bible Study, which meets weekly at 2 p.m. on Zoom, will begin 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.

Join a new neighborhood outreach

Deacons have begun sending two representatives to the monthly Off Broadway Neighborhood Association (OBNA) meetings to strengthen our outreach and service to our neighborhood businesses and residents. The OBNA meets the last Thursday of the month at 6:p.m. at The Parlor Restaurant, and anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend along with the two Deacons.

Food pantry serves growing needs



St. John's Lodge Food Bank was started in Portsmouth during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, and nearly three years later, food insecurity in the area has continued to rise. The food bank now supplements the diets of more than 100 households every week. During the month of May we will focus on collecting peanut butter, and in June the target will be baked beans. You'll find collection baskets in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to shop for these items, consider a donation to the Deacons' fund, marking this on your giving envelope or check.

Soup Kitchen

We will serve our next 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.



Pray...



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

"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me." John 17:20-21

...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	

May the Lord continue to have his hand upon us, giving us reassurance of His presence and to strengthen us for each day! As it says in Hebrews 4:16

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."



Overcoming obstacles—

From conception to corner stone

There have always been challenges in our church's history. The original cost target for the proposed First Presbyterian Church building was \$50,000—an underestimate even in 1891 dollars. As the congregation set out to raise the money, the plan was to obtain at least half the money from the gifts and pledges of congregation members. The balance would be borrowed by selling 20-year bonds to gain the broader participation of the Newport community. After all, it was still the *Gilded Age* in Newport.

Early on, the fundraising effort appeared promising, but it soon slowed and fell far short of the goal. Worse still, the whole country was sliding into a deep economic recession that would last for the next five years. And when formal bids came back from the contractors, they were far higher than expected!

At this point, the whole venture might have been delayed or even ended. And except for the Scottish grit and determination of the small congregation, that probably would have happened. Instead, they decided to save money by not hiring a general contractor, but proceeding on a “do-it-yourself” basis. The man behind this daring decision was George Mackie. He had come to America from Aberdeen, Scotland as a young man 10 years earlier. He and his wife were among the first to worship at our start-up Grace Chapel, and he was one of the first Trustees. Providentially, he was also a contracting mason who had worked on some of the Newport mansions. At least two other members of the congregation, Alexander Miller and Alexander Nicol, were fine carpenters, and there were others who felt equal to the task of building a church.

In January 1892 a contract was placed for the foundation work, and the red granite stone for the exterior walls was ordered from a quarry in Braintree, Massachusetts. The stone was brought to the site during the winter; temporary sheds were erected at the rear of the property so stone cutters could work during the inclement weather. By spring, enough stone had been cut to allow actual construction to start.

And so the church was built—stone by stone, largely in the evenings with the volunteer labor of church members. They were mostly young people—artisans and day workers trying to establish businesses and get ahead themselves. Few could contribute money, but they were selflessly devoted to the vision of the new church.

Work had begun in the beginning of 1892, but the formal cornerstone laying did not take place until October 15 when three walls had been erected to a height of about one story, and sub-flooring had been laid in the sanctuary so a large audience could be seated for the ceremony, which the local newspaper described as taken place “in much the same manner as in the old Roman forum, the roof being the heavens above.”

Rev. James Craig presided at the ceremony, and there were hymns, prayers and speakers before the formal laying of the cornerstone. The Reverend Henry N. Jeter, pastor of the black Shiloh Baptist Church of Newport and close friend of Elder Fitts, gave the benediction. It must have been an emotional and glorious moment for those attending.



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, April 27

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. office open
2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturday, April 28

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

Sunday, April 29

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)

Tuesday, May 1

Naomi Circle
7:00 p.m. Inner Life

Wednesday, May 2

5:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen
6:30 p.m. Choir practice

* office hours may vary



A friendly place to grow in Christ and serve with joy

First Presbyterian Church

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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.



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

If you have news to share....

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

