



May 11, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



First Presbyterian Church of Newport hosted 31 elders and pastors from churches in ECO's Northeast Coast Presbytery last Friday and Saturday. From the opening Friday evening worship service to the Saturday morning praise service, luncheon and business meeting, FPC members and friends demonstrated the loving hospitality that has been a tradition at our church for 135 years.

Pastor Jeff Hutchinson led the services, and a team of four (Phil Thow, Daryl Kolator, Cheri Dugan and Nancy Burgess) coordinated the registration, meals, sound and other logistics. They thank the many other FPC members and friends who helped to set up, serve and clean up after the meals and snacks, still more who baked and donated food, and much more. Some even offered their homes in case visitors need a place to stay. Angel Conwell prepared the music, assisted by Janice Kinder.

As Pastor Hutchinson remarked during his sermon Sunday morning, “Everyone who was at this meeting would say it was family. It was sisters and brothers gathering and hearing about the work of the Lord, encouraging each other and praying together.”

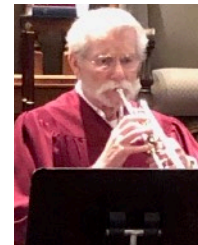


Sunday Worship

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people....”

Galatians 6:9-10

Reverend Hutchinson's sermon topic May 7 was titled “Life in the Spirit.” He described the battle of good and evil forces within us, referring to the Scripture text, Galatians 6:1-10. Phil Haun was lay leader, and a variety of music enhanced the service.



Richard Ashmore played “Ballad for Ceremony” to open the service. Brian Ross and Angel led the first hymn, “10,000



Reasons.” The choir's anthem was “Forever In Your Love” and all joined in the closing hymn, “Just a Closer Walk with thee.



On the Journey

Father God we come with joyful hearts with thanks and praise for your faithfulness to FPC Newport throughout our history.



One step closer!

The Pastor Nominating Committee has completed the Church Information Form (CIF). It has been reviewed and approved by the Session and submitted to ECO's Ministry Partnership Team for their initial approval. Once approved, the CIF will be posted on the ECO online Job Board and become one of the main marketing tools in our search for a new pastor. We are thankful for the information, support and prayers we have received, and as the search moves forward, we pray they will continue. If you have additional thoughts questions, 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) asks for

continued prayers as they continue seeking to discern His will for our local expression of His Church in this time and place. We are creating a document that will clarify why people should call this church their home. Our efforts have helped the PNC finalize the information to be posted on ECO's Job Board. Most importantly, it provides 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*

Fellowship hour after worship is a long tradition at FPC. Be sure to stop in the Fellowship Hall Sunday to enjoy coffee, tea, refreshments and most of all, great conversation.

Better yet, offer to be a host one Sunday. It's simple: keep the coffee pot filled and bring in a few treats, and there's always someone willing to help you.

Sunday Flowers! The bouquets of flowers for our sanctuary each Sunday are lovely. If you would like to contribute toward flowers for our sanctuary, please contact Alice Hand at littleauntalice@yahoo.com.

If you couldn't make it to church Sunday...

Join those who view our worship service online through Youtube. We just passed the 1,000 view mark! You can access it through Facebook or our web site, fpcnewport.org. A direct link is available on our weekly e-blast or you can copy and paste it into your browser.



Time for some more fun!



Friday, May 19

5:30 p.m.

Games and activities for all ages, from 2 to 92! Families, singles, all are invited!

We'll provide pizza, and you may bring a salad or dessert if you'd like to. There's something for everyone, even if you just want to eat the pizza, relax, watch the fun, and enjoy the fellowship. To reserve your pizza slice, call Barbara at 904-742-9626.

Men's Conference

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

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

Learn about our neighborhood

Deacons send two representatives to the monthly Off Broadway Neighborhood Association (OBNA) meetings to strengthen our outreach and service to neighborhood businesses and residents. Members of the congregation are invited to attend—the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at The Parlor Restaurant.

Food pantry serves growing needs

St. John's Lodge Food Bank in Portsmouth supplements the diets of more than 100 households every week. To help fill their shelves, this month we are collecting peanut butter to fill the baskets in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to shop for these items, consider a monetary donation to the Deacons fund.



Soup Kitchen



Last Wednesday, May 3, we served 26 meals plus some seconds. Darien and Brian Petit prepared the meal, helped by Robert and Christine Sahms, Linda Conheeny, Julie Ward, Paul Cabral, Coleen and Jerry Spencer. Dave Kolator helped clean up the kitchen, and others cleaned up the dining room. We also took three small trays of pulled pork, mac & cheese, and coleslaw to Lucy's Hearth shelter for families and children.

It was heartwarming when our guests expressed their appreciation as we demonstrated Christian love in action.



Last Sunday—a beautiful day for the National Police Parade.



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.

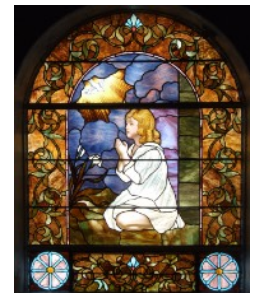
...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, including Jacob Ricci, Mark Incze, and others related to our church members.

...for the spoken and unspoken needs of those in our church family; for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise 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 |
| ChaseMarcia Clark | Rich Dagrosa |
| Nadira Ferreira's father | Bonnie Haun brother |
| Bonnie Haun's brother Mike | Sadie Haun |
| Ray Janssen | Karen Jenkins |
| Bruce and Jan Jones | George Denise Landis |
| Glenna Malkemes | Richard and Cindy Price |
| Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom) | Lilia Svizzero Merrill |
| Ralph and Alice Thomas | |

May we all be reminded during the challenging times of life that Philippians 4:13 tells us:

"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."



“As it was...” in May 1960

Dedicating the new education building



By 1960 there were nearly 500 active members. Two worship services were held each Sunday morning, and the Sunday school classes were overflowing. Clearly, more rooms were needed for Sunday school.

Several options were discussed. When the pastor doubted the church’s ability to pay for erecting a new building, one of the military members challenged him about his lack of enthusiasm. The member quoted the words of Malachi 3:10. “I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing.” Soon after that, the congregation approved the proposal.

It started with a very intense fundraising campaign during which every member was personally contacted. The initial goal was to obtain pledges for \$75,000 over a three-year period. Members were reminded that, “We have been privileged to worship in a church built through the generous sacrifices of our fathers before us. Now it is our turn.” And the congregation responded. After all, this was the “can-do” generation that had fought and won World War II.

And when still more money was required Rev. Clark sent out grant requests to every charitable and philanthropic foundation he could think of with no results. He remembered the help the church had received in the past from the very wealthy but now deceased Arthur Curtiss James. He personally visited the offices of the Arthur Curtiss James Foundation in New York City. The trustees were favorably impressed by Rev Clark’s presentation and responded with the very generous amount of \$25,000.

The building was substantially complete by the following spring. A service of dedication on May 29, 1960, began with worship in the sanctuary followed by a dramatic procession out through the vestry and into the new building through the



connecting entryway that had been created by moving one of the original stained-glass windows to a new location over the Calvert Street entrance to the Education Building. The total cost of the new facility was \$96,000, and within five years of the completion date it was totally paid for.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, May 11

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

Friday, May 12

Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, May 13

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

Sunday, May 14

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, May 15

7:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel

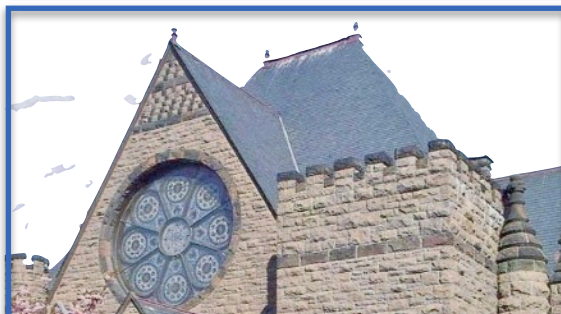
Tuesday, May 16

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, May 17

6:30 p.m. 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](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 someone from FPC 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 communication platforms.