



May 26, 2022

This week at FPC

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

Important News from Session

Many of you are asking when we expect to start looking for a new pastor. It is important to be patient and follow a process. First, we need to understand what sort of church we are and what sort of church we want to be. This requires introspection. During our transition in 2019 we set up a Mission Study Task Force that produced a document which was used by the Pastor Nominating Committee to post the church's "want ad" on line. We will do something similar using one of two programs that the Presbytery recommends. Session is looking at them and will decide which one to use.

From there we will establish the Pastor Nominating Committee which will consist of two Elders, one Deacon, and a number of members of the congregation. This committee will have a good idea of the qualities we are looking for in a pastor, and a prospective pastor will have a good idea what FPC Newport is and wants to be. Selecting a new pastor is extremely important, so every care must be taken to make sure we get it right.

We can expect the process to take between six and eighteen months. We must heal the congregation as we move ahead. Session is working on this, and it will take prayer and commitment from everyone. You can expect to be contacted soon by an Elder or Deacon.

As we do every year, we will also establish a Nominating Committee which will nominate candidates for Elder and Deacon.

So what can you do? First of all, prayerfully consider how you might actively participate in the life of the church and support its growth. Specifically, please pray for those involved in deciding which Presbytery-based evaluation program to use for FPC's pastor search process.

Also, pray for those who will be on the Pastor Nominating Committee and the annual Nominating Committee. Please consider serving on one of those committees as you determine how and where you might join the Lord in His work as together we make a real difference in the future of FPC Newport.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Don Fennessey, fenns@hotmail.com.

Sunday, May 22 Worship

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” Romans 8:17

As part of his sermon series, “God’s Trinitarian Love in All its Glory,” guest preacher Rick Koconis shared a message titled: “By the Spirit We Are Adopted in Christ,” referencing Romans 8:12-17.

Thank you to Ken Hoffman for serving as lay leader, and to our music ministry for sharing their musical talents to enhance our worship service. Thanks to Judy Sweeney for sharing beautiful flowers from her son Raphael's funeral Saturday.





Longtime member and friend Tia Scigulinski went to be with the Lord May 22. May Ken and family be filled with wonderful memories of Tia and the



blessing of their time together. A memorial service will be held at United Congregational Church, 524 Valley Road, Middletown, at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 1 with a reception at the Wyndham Hotel, 240 Aquidneck Avenue afterwards. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Tia to a local organization of your choice.

On the Journey...

For pastoral care contact Deidra Ricci by emailing pastor@fpcnewport.org. For other visitation needs, contact Daryl Kolator at deacons@fpcnewport.org or 401-339-7625.

To view Sunday services, fpcnewport.org, FPC Livestream.

Sunday School Study "What Is the Gospel and How Does It Inform Our Church and Its Mission?" led by Rick Koconis at 9:15 a.m. He also leads a Sunday evening Zoom discussion of the weekly sermon topic at 7 p.m.

Evensong This group meets Sunday evening on Zoom to worship with songs, hymns, scripture and fellowship. Contact Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Choir Come to the choir loft at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. Sundays. Contact Angel Conwell—or just show up at practice. You and your voice will be warmly welcomed!

Coffee Hour and Online Chats

Many members and friends are currently unable to attend church due to health issues. Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship service, grab a cup of coffee, and find the chat in one of the adjoining offices. Please consider hosting one Sunday. It's very rewarding and not hard to do. Just make or buy a few treats, and there's always someone around to help.

Soup Kitchen The church's monthly Soup Kitchen will be Wednesday, June 1. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Burgess at nancykayaks@cox.net or Coleen Spencer at coleenspencer@cox.net. This two-hour commitment will make such a difference in the lives of Newport's homeless and needy people.



Food Pantry Pick up a few extra items when you go grocery shopping and add them to the collection baskets—or make a monetary donation. We deliver the collected items to the food bank the first Sunday of every month.

Meetings and Activities

Thursday, May 26

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

Friday, May 27

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, May 28

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

Sunday, May 29

9:15 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Prayer gathering
10:00 a.m. Choir practice
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Fellowship hour
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Sermon discussion (Zoom)

Monday, May 30

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Church office open*
6:30 p.m. Sarah Circle Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group

Wednesday, May 31

6:30 p.m. Choir practice

* office hours may vary

Stained Glass Window Repairs

Work is progressing on repairs to 27 of our 63 beautiful stained glass windows. The work should be completed by the end of June. If you would like to contribute financially to this important project, please note on your check or offering envelope: "FPC Stained Glass Windows."



There's Joy in Being Involved!

Caring for small children and babies during worship is a much appreciated service for the parents in our congregation. Here, Collie Colon is caring for and enjoying a happy group during the May 22 service. She and the others who take turns providing this labor of love invite more to join them. Our nursery and preschool facilities are excellent. If you are willing to help on a Sunday, please contact Daryl Kolator, 401-339-7625.



Family Game Night lived up to its billing as a lively group of youngsters had a great time playing games and eating pizza. We hear that the grownups also had a very good time. Twister was a special hit—lots of love and laughter for all! Thanks to Barbara and Brian Ross for organizing this fun night for families.



Pray...

...for our church, as we renew our faith in God's plan for all of us and reach out to those around us. Join Deidra Ricci in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. Sundays to pray together before worship.

...for our nation and its leaders, and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world, and for our first responders.

...for the spoken and unspoken needs of members of our church family who will have or are recovering from surgery, who are ill or enduring hardships or loss. Pray especially for these brothers and sisters in Christ: Jan and Bruce Jones, Norm and Janet Champagne, Ralph and Alice Thomas, Dick and Cindy Price, the families of Raphael Sweeney and John Beese.



Food, Fellowship, Fun!



If you love to eat and enjoy lively conversation with Christian friends, this is the best deal in town. It's informal, always fun, and open to all adults, young or old, single or attached, new to FPC or lifetime members.

It's time to set up new dinner groups for the next two months. Each group will try to meet at least twice. One person or couple acts as host, providing a main dish. Others, if able, bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Each group makes its own rules—some may decide to go to a restaurant for dinner or brunch, or enjoy a cookout or lunch. Text Nancy Burgess at 401-835-0183 or email nancykayaks@cox.net.



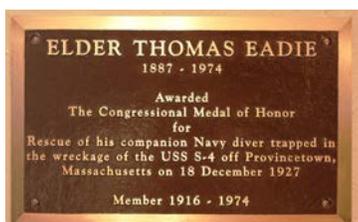
If you have a key to the James house, please return it to the office, as the James House has been rented and is no longer used for church business.

First Presbyterian Church's Long Relationship with the Military

As we observe Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day each year, we remember not only the many members of our congregation who have served and are serving today, but also we remember an earlier time in our church's history when we first opened our doors and hearts to those who served God and our country.

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, the Navy in Newport mobilized and expanded its facilities. Thousands were employed at the Goat Island Torpedo Station, and more than 75,000 recruits passed through. Many young men from our congregation left to serve in the Army or Navy. Newport residents were encouraged to open their homes and "adopt a sailor." First Presbyterian Church responded generously—not only welcoming those who came for church services, but also opening the facilities of the church to them. Pastor Sproul and his wife were recognized as "towers of strength in keeping up the Christian morale" of the young people who came to the church. A special bond was formed between FPC and members of the Armed Forces—a bond that still exists today.

During World War II, Newport again became central to the operations of the USUS Navy, homeport for more than 100 ships of the Atlantic Fleet. First Presbyterian Church again extended a warm welcome and became the spiritual home for many of the young men and women who passed through Newport. Many members of the congregation left to enter the service. Their names were faithfully listed in the church bulletin each Sunday, and the list became very long—more than 90 names. Three Van Hof brothers were listed: Robert was a Corporal in the Army Air Force, Everett was an Electrician's Mate in the Navy Seabees, and Klaas was a Sergeant in the Army. (Other familiar names are listed on the board on the stairs down to the dining room.)

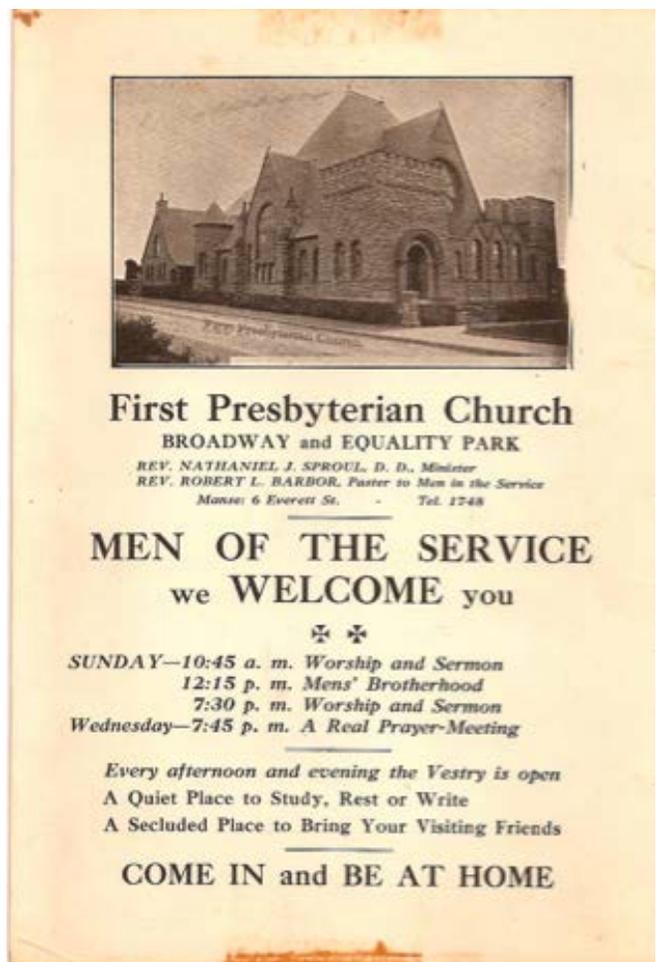


A brass plaque at the Calvert Street entrance honors Thomas Eadie. He joined the Navy in 1905, served in World War I, and retired as a Chief Gunner's Mate in 1939. He was a

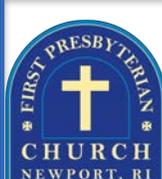
deep-sea diver and received the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing a fellow diver who had become trapped underwater. When World War II broke out he promptly went back into the service and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He later served as an elder at First Presbyterian.

FPC was an exciting and dynamic place during the post-war

years. Although many warships left Newport, and torpedoes were no longer made on Goat Island, Navy schools offset this loss. Families from the Naval War College, Officers Candidate School, Naval Justice School, and Naval Chaplains School were among the many who chose worship and fellowship at First Presbyterian. During those years many lasting bonds of friendship were forged with military families. The Navy Chaplains School became especially important to our church Presbyterian. The school trained chaplains of all faiths, but most years there would be at least one Presbyterian chaplain who attended First Presbyterian Church with his family. The chaplains enriched the Sunday school classes and were more than willing to preach when the pastor was on holiday. This month we honor all of our members who have served our country.



FPC's standing invitation to those stationed in Newport during World War I



First Presbyterian Church
 4 Everett Street (Broadway and Everett)
 Newport, Rhode Island 02840
 401-847-1749 • fpcnewport.org
 facebook.com/fpcnewport.org
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30.

