

December 15, 2022



This week at FPC

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

A glorious evening of Music for the Christmas Season

Some 150 people filled our sanctuary with song as they sang popular carols and listened to scripture readings, choral anthems and instrumental offerings. If you were unable to attend, you can view the entire program on our web site.



Third Sunday in Advent—The Joy Candle

(sometimes called the Shepherds' candle)

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” Hebrews 1: 1-3

On Sunday, December 11, Rev. Jeff Hutchinson’s sermon from Hebrews 1: 1-12 “God of Love, Light of Light, Very God of Very God” addressed the feeling of hope and happiness in this time of anticipation for the Savior’s birth. We thank Lay Leader Don Fennessey, Pete and Nancy Browne for lighting the Advent candle, the ushers, choir and all who make our worship service meaningful. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with the Christmas tree and many memorial poinsettias.

On the Journey...

Please pray for our newly elected Deacons, Elders and PNC that they will call on the Lord, seeking His will and listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as they serve the Lord at FPC Newport.

The Vision Framing Process Committee, headed by Chip Wilson and Tim Schultz, is still seeking members who will work to identify our specific role as part of God's greater church at this time, in this place. The committee will work with a representative from ECO who will serve as a guide. The results of this work will be vital to the PNC as they seek a permanent pastor. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact the church office.

Balanced Budget: Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, at the end of November, we showed a budget surplus. Although utilities and other bills will be higher in December, due to the winter heating season, it is still very likely that we will finish 2022 with a small budget surplus!

Our church has been blessed by your continued financial support. As the Finance and Personnel Committee prepares our 2023 Operating Budget, we ask that you submit pledge cards to aid us in our deliberations. Please prayerfully consider your tithing. Your pledge cards can be placed in the Sunday Offering Plate or forwarded to the church office.

Scripture readers and others who made our Christmas in Newport event a meaningful experience for all who attended. We thank the sound crew, all who contributed to the reception afterward, and especially all who attended and brought friends, family and neighbors.



Looking ahead...

Friday, December 16
Potluck/Carol Sing at 5:30, dining room
Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 25
Christmas morning worship 10:30 a.m.



**POTLUCK SUPPER
AND CAROL SINGING**
Friday, December 16
5:30 in the dining room

Don't miss this good old-fashioned caroling party and potluck supper! We'll enjoy dinner with great fellowship, and then joyfully sing your favorite Christmas songs and carols.

What to bring:

- Inner life will provide a ham for the main course. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert.
- Happy voices to sing Christmas carols (or just listen to the rest of us and enjoy!)



~Christmas Morning! Join in the joyful celebration in our sanctuary Christmas morning! Our worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. full of carols, music, and glory given to our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Advent Devotional now online

In addition to the printed copies available at FPC, the Advent Devotional is available on our website (fpcnewport). If you are on our email list, you are also receiving a daily devotion each morning, thanks to Stacie Schultz, our church secretary. If you are not on the list but would like to be, contact secretary@fpcNewport.org.

Reaching Out...

Food for our neighbors

Our December Soup Kitchen volunteers provided meals for 23 guests this month, as well as a bag with socks, hat and gloves. The food was prepared by Deacons Darien Petit, Deb MacDowell, and Daryl Kolator and packed and served by Robert and Christine Sahms, Jerry and Coleen Spencer, and Regina Skudera. Our guests were very thankful for the warm food and clothing bags. We continue to be grateful for these dedicated volunteers, and especially for Coleen Spencer's oversight of the Soup Kitchen's preparations each month for the past several years!

Supporting community programs

We have worked with East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) in their Adopt a Family program for the past six years. They collect toys for families who are less fortunate.

We offer our building as a place for them to collect and sort the donations on Tuesday for distribution on Wednesday. FPC is one of the two distribution locations in Rhode Island. "It's a great program and very well organized. Everyone at EBCAP is easy to work with and we hope to continue to work with them for years to come," says Don Fennessey. This same organization has used our Fellowship Hall as they provided free tax assistance.



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

...for our nation and its leaders, for our first responders 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.

...with happiness for Dan and Peggy Yates-Berg who added three grandchildren to their tribe this fall, including a sister to Hailey, who often visits our nursery.

...with caring concern for Ralph and Alice Thomas as they seek a new caregiver.

...for the spoken and unspoken needs of those in our church family who will have or are recovering from surgery, are ill or enduring hardships or loss and in need of God's healing and grace. And as you pray, please remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Norm and Janet Champagne
Graciela Emerick
Graves' son Daniel
Norm Hanson
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Richard and Cindy Price
Ken Scigulinsky
Judy Sweeney

Lynn and Larry Chase's
son-in-law MarkJudy
Alma and Dick Hanson
Bonnie Haun
Bruce and Jan Jones
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mother)
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Marge Sylvia

—and for other families among us who are grieving the loss of a loved one or facing other challenges.



"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Nancy Burgess brought forth many smiles and much happy laughter with her new Christmas sweater!





Poinsettias—Given with Love

In Memory of:

Charm and Bud MacDowell,—by Deb MacDowell
 Colonel Frank A Clark—by Marcia Clark
 Deborah Zimmerman—by Todd, Bret, Brandi, Austin
 and Anisa Zimmerman
 Gordon Stewart—by Nanci Stewart
 Robert Henry—by Carolyn Henry
 Ruth Barnes—by the Barnes family
 Dennis and Phyllis Tudor, Donald and Louise “Pat” Fennessey —by
 Don and Sue Fennessey
 Our Loved Ones who have gone before us—by Chip and
 Cindy Wilson
 George and Jessie Davis—by William Davis
 Irene and Dorothy and Henry—by Regina and Wayne Skudera
 Case and Mary Hoogendoorn—by Frank and Carolyn Sisson, Sarah
 Manley, and Anna Bulk by Dixon and Judy Hoogendoorn
 My Mother, Betty—by Bonnie Haun
 Beepa, love you and miss you—by Kristen and Andrew Aleicho
 Alex Gair—by Beverly Gair
 Phyllis Bloom—by the Bloom, Wallace, and Williams families
 Loved Ones—by Larry and Lynn Chase
 Peter James Lang and Commander William R. Lang
 —by Sandra Lang
 David and Lynn Tenney— by NancyDee MacFarland
 Roy Smith—by Carol Smith

In Praise of:

God’s love and mercy in Jesus Christ
 Loved Ones—by Roger and Julie Ward
 Our sons, Sam and Nick—by Chip and Cindy Wilson
 Our children—by Kristen and Andrew Aleicho
 To honor our forefathers who raised their families with the body of
 believers at FPC—the Thompsons, Forbes, Hummels, Tisdalls, and
 Tenneys by the Tenney family

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 18

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Pre-worship prayer time
 10:30 a.m. Worship service
 (nursery care available)
 Congregational Meeting
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship time

Monday, December 19

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. office open*
 7:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel
 7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group

Tuesday, December 20

7:00 p.m. Session meeting

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

* office hours may vary



First Presbyterian Church

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[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

