

February 23, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Worship February 19

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.' At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked." John 5:8-9



Guest speaker David Meyerend

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, David moved to Massachusetts in the fall of 2016 to pursue his Masters of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He had dreams of returning to New York City to be a youth pastor after graduating in 2019, but God had other plans. David eventually connected with the Boston Project Ministries in the spring of 2021 through some God ordained connections and after an amazing conversation and interview with the executive Director, Paul Malkemes, he joined the BP team in June of 2021. For more about Boston Project, visit tbpm.org.

David is passionate about seeing the lives of those around him transformed wholistically. His message, "The Call of Suffering" stressed the importance of doing what we can to help others who have spiritual, mental, and physical needs in any way we can.

New Sunday School program begins this Sunday!

"John – The Gospel of Light and Life."

In this six-week, intergenerational Lenten Bible study, participants will explore the Gospel of John and share a journey through this uplifting portion of His Word. We will focus on the identity of Jesus and its significance to all of us, summarized in these verses at the beginning and ending of the book of John:

John 1:4-5 "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 20:31 "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

Classes begin at 9:15 in the Hometime Room (adults, moderated by Chip Wilson), the Resource Room (youth, led by Dave Kolator) and the classroom adjacent to the Nursery (younger folks, led by Cindy Wilson) Each age group will read and walk through the Gospel of John using age appropriate materials along the same timeline:

2/26 - The Word Made Flesh (John 1)

3/5 – The Miraculous Signs of Jesus (John 2-5)

3/12 – The "I AM" sayings of Jesus (John 6 – 11)

3/19 – The "Farewell Discourse" (John 12-17)

3/26 – The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion of the King (John 18-19)

4/2 – Eternal Life (John 20-21)

The sessions are not intended to be a verse by verse commentary on the Gospel of John, but rather to provide for open and reflective conversations on its meaning and significance in each of our lives. Although the sessions will build upon each other, they will be independent discussions, so even if you cannot make them all this study is still for you.

It is our hope that the Lord will bless this program by encouraging discussions among families and generations within our congregation, binding us together through His light and His love as expressed in His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. We encourage all who can to participate in this journey!



On the Journey

*May the words of Psalm 9:1-2 be on our lips:
"I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I
will tell of all the marvelous things you have
done. I will be filled with joy because of you. I
will sing praises to your name, O Most High."*

From the PNC

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2. PNC continues to organize and solidify plans for communication with our church family. Details will be shared as we have specifics set in place. As always, please contact committee members with questions, to share thoughts and concerns. We thank you all for your prayers and support. *The Pastor Nominating Committee (Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey)*

"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:2

If you like to sing and love praising God through song, our choir needs you! This is a warm and welcoming group. Just come to rehearsal Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.! Music is an important part of our worship.

A friendly and valued tradition

We are all grateful for those who bring treats and serve as hosts and hostesses for coffee hour after Sunday service. Your time and effort offer a blessing for the congregation to enjoy. It's an easy, much appreciated way to serve! If you've not signed up recently, please consider doing so now. The table and coffee service are all set up so your part is simple—just set out some refreshments and keep the coffee pot filled—and there is always someone around to help.



FPC Nursery—a loving, safe environment

Thanks to the coordination of Cindy Wilson and willingness of volunteers, we have a full slate of caring hearts and hands to look after our littlest ones during Sunday worship service. We thank Deb MacDowell, Karyn Straka, Ben and Charlotte Ricci, Judy Graves, and Kristen Aleicho—and the many others who have



volunteered to help in the Nursery in the past year.

Our committees at work

The 2022 FPC annual report showed us how many members are involved in the work of our church through committees.

One of the busiest is Building and Grounds.

Here is a quick list of their activities last year:

- James House renovation to an income producing rental
- renovation of secretary's and pastor's office in the main church building
- plumbing repairs
- replacement and repainting of sanctuary windowsill and woodwork
- repainting of Resource Room
- stair railing to kitchen reattached
- insulation improvements
- two annual workdays for indoor and outdoor cleanup and enhancements
- improvements to computer and sound systems
- installation of security and temperature alarms
- and much more!

Members include Tom Dugan, Alice Hand, Ken Hoffman, Brian Petit, Mike Ricci, Phil Thow and Roger Ward, along with housekeeper Cheri Dugan and many volunteers.

New Groups!

FPC Dinner Club

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.

Now if the time to join new dinner groups for the coming months. Each group will meet at least twice for dinner or brunch. One person or couple acts as host, providing a main dish. Others, if able, bring an appetizer, salad or dessert.

You don't need to be a gourmet cook—or cook at all, for that matter! And you don't have to be the host. It's flexible, friendly and fun. Contact Nancy Burgess (nancykayaks@cox.net or call/text 401-835-0183). She will answer any questions you may have. Please let her know by March 5 so we can get our new groups organized.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46

Reaching Out...

"Thou preparest a table before me..."

Food for our neighbors

.Our Deacons have a monthly budget to search the stores for sales and purchase foods that are requested by the food bank. Nancy Burgess generally does the shopping. So if you are unable to shop for extra food items, please consider donating to the Deacons. You can mark this on your giving envelope or check.

"Thou preparest a table before me..."

Missions

Take a few minutes to view the Missions bulletin board in fellowship hall to see the latest communications from the many missionaries we support. We are grateful to have Rev. Jeff Hutchinson providing pastoral support to us, and we in turn have provided financial support to his church plant House of Mercy in New Haven, CT. We thank Ralph Thomas and Roland Chase for their continued communication with our missionaries. Contributions to our Missions fund provide the means to continue supporting our local as well as global mission partners.

SIXTEEN DIFFERENT SEMINAR SPECIFIC TO MEN AGE (13+)

8:30 AM - 4:55 PM

IRON SHARPENS IRON
NATIONAL MEN'S EQUIPPING CONFERENCES
2023

Brian Doyle, Johnny Parker, Rex Tignor, Chris Harper, Thomas McMillan, Mike Rivera

CONNECTICUT
Saturday, March 11, 2023
Calvary Life Church
174 East Johnson Rd • Cheshire, CT • 06410

www.ironsharpensiron.net
Register with the men from your church!

Pray...



...for the **Pastor Nominating Committee** as they seek the Lord's guidance in finding our next pastor, remembering these words from Genesis 17:1-2:

"...I am God Almighty, walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make My covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

...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 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 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.

Janet Champagne and family
Graciela Emerick's family
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Cindy and Chip Wilson

Lynn and Larry Chase
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mother)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Jeremiah 30:17 reminds us

"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord."



← For the men of the church

Iron Sharpens Iron, a ministry for equipping Christian men, is presenting an all-day conference in Chester, CT, from 8:30 to 4:55 Saturday, March 11. Travel time is about two hours so it would be an early start from Newport. The format is praise and worship, two featured speakers, and a choice of 16 seminars geared to men's different circumstances in life. Contact Don Fennessey (fenns@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

Fun for all: a 10-pizza game night



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, February 23

9:00 a.m. —1 p.m. Church office open*
2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Deacons meeting

Friday, February 24

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, February 25

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

Sunday, February 26

9:15 a.m. Sunday School all ages
10:00 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Pre-worship prayer time
10:30 a.m. Worship service
(nursery care available)
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, February 27

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

Wednesday, March 1

5:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen
6:30 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
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

