

June 15, 2023



This week at FPC

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

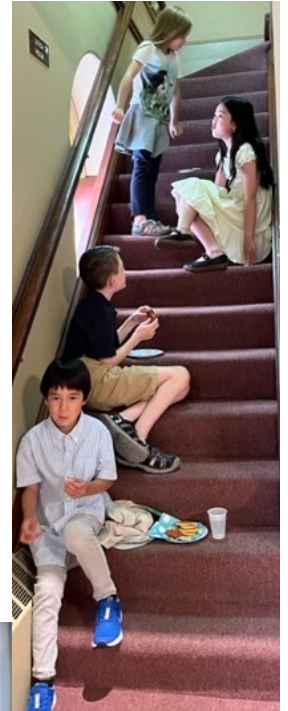
Worship June 11—

"...This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:11

Sean Bland, ECO Ordination Applicant and Navy Chaplain Candidate preached from Acts 1:1-11, calling all of us to "Witness to Christ" in our lives. His message to us: "Christ, who is risen from the grave, Lord of his Church, and returning again, calls his followers to proclaim him to the very ends of the Earth. And we are to do so not in our own strength but in the power of His Spirit, Amen! "

Our thanks to Angel Conwell, Juno and Eden Conwell, Brian Ross, and Jacob Ricci, for accompanying the praise song, "What a Beautiful Name." Don Fennessey was lay leader, and the choir sang "Shine on Us."



Post-worship discussion during fellowship hour.



**SOMETHING
NEW!**

Pastor Office Hours

Sean Bland will be in the church office on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Monday afternoons. He invites everyone to "Please drop by and chat sometime this summer!"

On the Journey

Please pray for the neighbors to be blessed by FPC's presence in the neighborhood.



Moving forward! Thank you all for your continued prayers for us as we work towards finding our new pastor. We continue our upgrade of the FPC Website; we are reviewing the content and will discuss possible changes to at our next meeting, June 22. We have finalized the pastor's job description and it will be reviewed by Session June 20. We ask for prayers for the Session as they review the job description and for us as we continue working to find our new pastor. *Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey*



The Vision Framing Team (VFC) asks for continued prayers as we seek to discern His will for our church in this time and place. We are working to clarify why people should call this church their spiritual home. Our efforts are helping the PNC finalize information to be posted on ECO's Job Board. Our results will also provide context when the new pastor comes into our community and begins working with our leadership and members. *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Kaun, and Daryl Kolator*

When you can't be here to worship in person—

Join those who view our worship service online through Youtube. You can access it through Facebook or our web site, fpcnewport.org. Watch the weekly e-Blast for a direct link that you can click on or copy and paste into your browser. When you are at the site, be sure to subscribe, making it easier the next time.



If you receive an email that seems to be from someone you know at 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 FPC communications platforms.

Be Involved



Come to spring clean-up day

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Wear your comfy work clothes, bring gloves and sunscreen, and enjoy more than "work." There will be plenty of fellowship and fun as we "shine up" the church and make it more welcoming for summer—lots of indoor and outdoor tasks. No experience needed, just willing hands. Coffee and snacks will be served!

Fellowship Hour after worship is a happy tradition at FPC. Come to 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.

Sing with us this summer!

This is a good time to try singing with the choir. We meet in the choir loft at 9:45 to "pick up" a piece of music that we will quickly learn and sing that morning. No robes, no rehearsals, just an opportunity to enjoy singing from the choir loft and enriching our worship service. The music is available to take home for practice, and Angel prepares sound recordings for each part. We plan to sing June 18 and 25; July 9, 16, 23 and 30; August 13, 20 and 27. Check with Angel Conwell for more information (music@fpcnewport.org).



Reaching out

We are helping our neighbors help others

Using money contributed by our congregation, the Deacons donated 15 waterproof mattress covers to The McKinney Cooperative Shelter (in the old YMCA on Washington Square). The shelter has provided services to the homeless of Newport County since 1988, serving a diverse population —individuals who are chronically homeless, suffer from mental illness or substance abuse, also veterans and victims of domestic violence. The recently renovated Shelter is open 24 hours, every day, all year.

Collecting diapers, wipes, and formula for Conexion Latina Newport to help new mothers and their babies. Please add some to the playpen in the Fellowship Hall. Or, pick up some baked beans and other non-perishable items for the local food bank. Donation baskets are in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to shop for these, consider a monetary donation to the Deacons.

Providing a meal: On Wednesday, June 7, 29 grateful guests enjoyed a tasty meal provided by our Soup Kitchen team. Sloppy Joes, French fries, coleslaw, and ice cream were planned and prepared by the Kolators and served by our faithful volunteers—Linda Conheeny, Alice and John Hand, Regina Skudera, Julie Ward, Judy Graves, Coleen and Jerry Spencer.

Keeping current: Deacons attend the monthly Off Broadway Neighborhood Association (OBNA) meetings to strengthen our outreach and service to nearby businesses and residents. Congregation members are invited to attend, the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at The Parlor Restaurant.

Praying for our neighbors:

Sidewalk Prayers off to a good start

“Our first neighborhood prayer walk last Friday was a success, despite the many challenges that seemed to want to keep us from praying for the families in each house on Everett St, we prayed over each one and left a door hanger to tell them we had prayed for them. We also prayed over the park and each door entering the church. We enjoyed our time in prayer together and look forward to what God has planned for our neighborhood.” *Deidra Ricci and the Sidewalk Prayer volunteers.*

Pray...



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

And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' 2 Kings 6:17.

...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, who has returned from a year of overseas duty with the Coast Guard and will soon be heading to Guam.

...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.

Andrew and Kristen Aleicho
Marcia Clark
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun, Sadie Haun
Karen Jenkins
George and Denise Landis
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Janet Champagne
Rich Dagrosa
Julie Finnegan (Jones)
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Glenna Malkemes
Lilia Svizzero Merrill

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.”



“As it was...” 135 years ago and the years since then

Many of us remember the grand celebration 10 years ago when we marked our 125th anniversary with a memorable worship service, a brunch at the Viking hotel, and much more.

Monday, June 19, marks the 135th anniversary of the founding of our church. What does this mean to us a members of First Presbyterian Church? It is an opportunity to reflect on how deep the faith of our founders must have been. They were a small group of men and women, largely of Scottish background, who desired to follow the form of worship, government, and theological convictions of the heritage of John Calvin and John Knox in which they had been nurtured. They risked much to create our beautiful building. In the ensuing years they saw members go to many wars to defend our country, provided aid and comfort within the community, and provided of worship and fellowship opportunities for thousands of Christians.

In 1884, a group from Newport's United Congregational Church established a Sunday School in the southern part of the city—on Thames Street near Wellington Ave. This became known as Grace Chapel. Soon worship services and other activities were added. In time, the Congregational Church realized that the chapel had grown to a size and power sufficient to warrant a separate organization. The chapel attendants wanted to make this a Presbyterian body, so the Congregational Church withdrew its assistance and support, with the full consent of the chapel congregation.

On June 19, 1888, the organization of the First Presbyterian Church was accomplished by a commission from the Boston Presbytery. Forty-seven persons were accepted into membership. Thus the church came into being.

The cornerstone of a new church building was laid in 1892 on land given to the congregation in memory of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Mumford Hammett. This gift carried a stipulation: “In the matter of sittings or renting of sittings, no section of the church or block of sittings shall be set aside for the use of the poor, but they shall be provided for anywhere throughout the church by selecting any unleased sittings.” The building was purposefully designed with no balcony, in order to provide equal seating for all parishioners.

The building was raised, stone by stone, by the original members of the congregation as a sign of their personal commitment to God and to the mission of the Church in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us treasure our history and work to sustain our sense of family into the future.



The congregation of First Presbyterian Church celebrates the church's 125th anniversary Sunday. *Newport Daily News*

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, June 15

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

Saturday, June 17

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast
9:00 a.m. **Church Work Day**

Sunday, June 18

9:45 a.m. Pick-up choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Pre-worship Prayer Time
10:30 a.m. Worship service
(nursery care available)
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, June 19

135th Anniversary of FPC Founding



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.

