

June 29, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Worship June 18

"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it' and, 'May another take his place of leadership.'"

Acts 1: 20



We are blessed to have Sean Bland as our summer Pastor in Residence. An ECO ordination applicant and a Navy Chaplain candidate, he brings enthusiasm and caring to our congregation.

His sermon last Sunday was titled, "Should we choose our next pastor by casting lots? (Hint—Probably not, but God has already chosen whom it will be," citing Acts 1:12-26.

He touched on the many decisions we make throughout our lives and in particular, the one we are facing as a church body. The message reminded us that in important decision-making, it is wise to:

Read what God is saying through His Word.

Think through our decision together

Pray with God's people that His will be done.

Lean on God's plan....and then let go and let God...



Pastor Office Hours — Sean Bland is available in the church office Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He invites everyone to "Please drop by and chat sometime this summer!" At other times, if you need to contact him, simply leave a voice message or email pastor@fpcnewport.org.



Looking ahead..



Congregational Meeting!

We will meet after worship Sunday, July 16, for a Midyear Budget Review led by the Finance and Personnel committee.

Summer Sunday School

We will review a new Psalm each week this summer—studying, praying, and applying them together. Join us any Sunday at 9:15 in the Hometime Room.



Sidewalk Prayers

We are seeking a convenient date to walk and pray at 6:00 p.m. so more may participate. If you have suggestions, email Deidra Ricci (pamperedee@aol.com).

Summer Fun —

Gooseberry Beach picnic!

August 27—Everyone is invited. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Bring a salad, side dish, or whatever you like. Enjoy the sun, sea and sand, or relax in the comfort of the deck umbrellas or indoor shelter!

Game Nights

are planned for August 18 and November 17. Come at 5:30 p.m. for food, fellowship, friends, and fun for the whole family! Pizza is provided and you're welcome to bring a salad or dessert to share.

On the Journey

*Daniel 9:18 tells us that we can come to God
NOT on our merits but because of God's great
compassion. We acknowledge our sin and seek
Your best for FPC Newport.*

Pastor Search At the June 22 meeting of the Pastor Nominating Committee, we used feedback from Session to modify the pastor job description. We are also working to enhance the FPC website, with permission from Session to outsource technical changes.



If you have comments or questions about our progress, please email PNC@FPCNewport.org. *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, and why people should call this church their spiritual home. Our efforts have helped the PNC finalize a posting for ECO's Job Board. It will also be helpful when a 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 Haun, 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.



Parking Challenges



The parking lot across Everett is not available on Sunday mornings. If you cannot find parking on nearby streets, you may use the Newport Hospital parking lot at Broadway and Rhode Island Avenue (free). One more option is a discounted all-day rate (\$10) in the gated parking lot next to the Fifth Element at Broadway and Ayrault. If you are interested in this option, contact Don Fennessey, fenns@hotmail.com for more details.

Be Involved

Hosts needed



Fellowship Hour is a happy tradition at FPC. Come to the Fellowship Hall after our Sunday worship service to enjoy coffee, tea, snacks and most of all, great conversation. It's the time to catch up with friends and welcome new visitors. If you'd like to help, select an available Sunday on the sign up list near the coffee pot. If you have questions about what's involved, you'll find it's very 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!

We meet in the choir loft at 9:45 to "pick up" a piece of music to quickly learn and sing that morning. No robes, no midweek 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. We plan to sing July 9, 16, 23 and 30; August 13, 20 and 27. Check with Angel Conwell for more information (music@fpcnewport.org).

Music is an important part of our services. We invite all who love singing or playing an instrument to participate in our tradition to incorporate traditional, classical and contemporary songs in our Sunday worship. Many of us remember Meg and Dan Smith, who added so much to our music program a few years ago. They will be here this weekend and will provide special music on the choir's week off.

Reaching out

We are helping our neighbors help others

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 neighbors: During our recent Sidewalk Prayers neighborhood walk, we left



door hangers that feature a new QR code to make it easier to access the FPC website. This will soon appear on more of our communications.



Supporting local programs: As part of July's outreach efforts, FPC Deacons will donate snacks and water for the Newport Police Department summer camp for children ages 10 to 14 during the second week of July and August

Rev. Hutchinson's church plant: If you would like to contribute to Rev. Jeff Hutchinson's new church plant, House of Mercy in East Greenwich, CT, you may write a check payable to FPC, designating House of Mercy on the memo line.

Beyond our borders:

FPC supports a variety of global mission efforts. The Outreach Foundation is one such organization. They answer needs in many parts of the world—most recently addressing the devastation of recent storms and flooding in Haiti. A population already struggling with crime and poverty now is mired in mud, disease crime, and sorrow. Their faith is strong but they need help. Contact Phil Thow, Missions Elder, for more details. You can help our missions team help this and other organizations spread God's love by designating a portion of your weekly offering to Missions.



Pray...



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

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

...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 family of George Landis, who passed away June 24. May they be comforted by their memories and time spent with George.

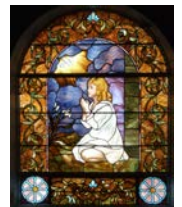
...for the spoken and unspoken needs of those in our church family; for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. As you pray, please remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Andrew and Kristen Aleicho
Marcia Clark
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun, Sadie Haun
Karen Jenkins
Bruce and Jan Jones
Glenna Malkemes
Lilia Svizzero Merrill

Janet Champagne
Rich Dagrosa
Julie Finnegan (Jones)
Bonnie Haun's brother Mike
Ray Janssen
Elaine Ruggiero
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Psalm 147:3 reminds us:

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."



Changing Times and a Pastor Who Made a Difference

During the 1960s and 1970s there were steady changes in the Newport community—changes that inevitably influenced the program and fortunes of the church. The Navy continued to be the largest employer in the State of Rhode Island, but the types of jobs changed significantly.

As early as 1960, there were slow changes in the demographics at First Presbyterian that reflected these trends. While church attendance was up, it was in many respects a divided church. The military folks and some of the newer people tended to go to the first service on Sundays, while most of the original members still attended the second service. Inevitably there were differences in the priorities of the groups, and for a time, there was even talk of starting a second Presbyterian church in Middletown.

Although nothing came of this, a substantial number of people left the congregation during 1962 and 1963, and it was a very stressful time for the minister. For several years Rev. Clark had suffered periods of poor health. In August 1963, he submitted his resignation. He decided to move on to a smaller parish although, as he records in his memoirs, "...It was a traumatic experience to do so."

And so the year 1964 started in some disarray and without a pastor, but by February the Reverend Tyler L. Johnson, Jr. had agreed to become the 10th minister at First Presbyterian. He was also destined to become its longest-serving pastor.

Tyler, his wife, Janet, and their four young children brought a youthful outlook and enthusiasm to the congregation at exactly the right time. His humble and friendly manner appealed to both young and old in a way that tended to heal any divisions that may have existed.

In the late 1960s a large number of destroyer fleet ships were still based in Newport, but that changed in 1973 when all the ships were relocated to more southern ports. Initially it appeared that this would be a severe economic blow to Newport, but those losses were more than offset by the expansion of other Navy facilities and services. And when the Newport Bridge was completed in 1969, replacing the ferry service, it made the commute to Newport much easier from Jamestown and the West Bay area.

The growth of the Naval Education Training Center (NETC) and the Naval Underwater Systems Center (NUSC) brought in more military people as well as civilian contractors with well-paying jobs. Companies like Raytheon built new plants in Portsmouth or Middletown, and many new homes were built all over Aquidneck Island. And many came to worship at FPC.



Rev. Tyler Johnson

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, June 29

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

Friday, June 30

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, July 1

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast
at Chelseas

Sunday, July 2

9:15 a.m. Sunday School (Psalms)
9:45 a.m. Pick-up choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship service
(nursery care available)
11:30 Fellowship time
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

Monday, June 3

7:00 p.m. Twenties and 30s Small Group

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day —Holiday



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.

When you have news to share, send it to Stacie Schultz at secretary@fpcnewport.org. Include dates, times, details, and contact information. She will ensure that it appears in the FPC communications platforms.



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.

