

July 27, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Worship July 24

"...He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." Acts 3: 25-26

Last Sunday, Pastor Sean Bland announced, to applause, that he will continue to provide pastoral care and Sunday sermons through the end of the year. His sermon, "Does God Heal Today?" was based on the third chapter of Acts, where Peter heals a lame man.

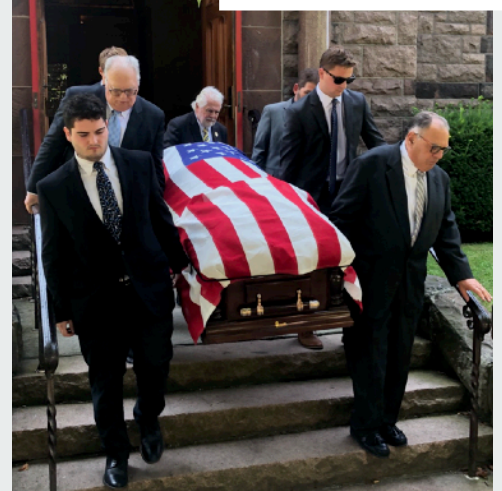
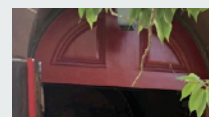
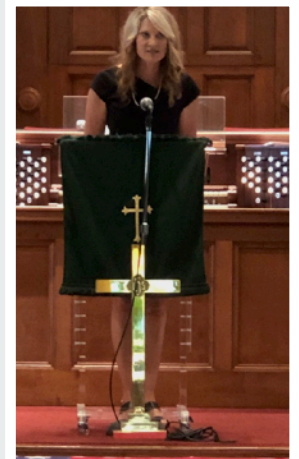
Pastor Bland explained that God heals his people today, but he does so most importantly in healing his people of their sins. He also heals his people of their ignorance of him as we study his word together. And finally, like the lame beggar, when it is his will, He heals his people of their physical illness. We can and should pray for all three kinds of healing, trusting that we'll get the first immediately, the second as we grow in faith together, and the third either miraculously in this life or, more usually, in God's restoring all things on the Last Day.



Celebrating the life of a faithful servant

Family and friends remembered the service-filled and family centered life of Richard Dagrosa, CDR USN Ret., who was a longtime, beloved member of FPC, at a funeral service in our sanctuary Thursday, July 20.

Pastor Sean Bland officiated, music was provided by Angel Conwell, and a tribute was given by Rich's daughter, Elizabeth Dagrosa Harris. The service was followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.



On the Journey

Please pray for the Lord to bring our job
posting to the attention of the pastor
He has planned for us.



Pastor Search—one step closer

The PNC committee has submitted the church information sheet and pastor job description to ECO for posting. We are preparing for the next steps in finding our new pastor, including receiving applications. As always, we welcome questions, comments or thoughts you might want to share, using the PNC email, PNC2FPCNewport.org. Thank you.

Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey



The Vision Framing Team (VFC) leans on your prayers as we seek to discern His will for our church in this time and place, and why people should call FPC their spiritual home. Our efforts have helped finalize a posting for ECO's Job Board and will serve as a foundation for our new pastor to begin working with our leadership and members. *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Kaun, and Daryl Kolator*

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!" or leave a voice message or email pastor@fpcnewport.org.



Reverend Jeff Hutchinson will continue to be at FPC once a month to give a sermon and serve communion. We look forward to seeing him and his wife, Troy, on a regular basis. They are a tremendous blessing to us while we search for a new, permanent pastor!



When you can't be here to worship in person

View our livestream worship service online through Facebook or our web site, fpcnewport.org. The weekly e-Blast offers a direct link to click or copy and paste into your browser. Be sure to subscribe for easier access.



This QR code will take you directly to our church website.

Be Involved

Summer Sunday School



Join us to review a new Psalm each week this summer—studying, praying, and applying it. Come any Sunday at 9:15 in the Hometime Room.

Hosts needed

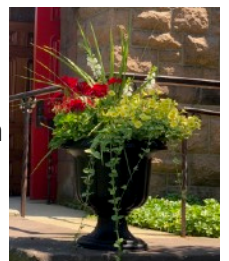
Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship service for coffee, tea, snacks and great conversation as we catch up with old friends and welcome new visitors. You can help host by signing up on the list near the coffee pot. It's very simple—keep the coffee pot filled and bring in a few treats—there's always 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. We will sing July 30, August 13, 20 and 27. Check with Angel for details, music@fpcnewport.org. We invite all who love singing or playing an instrument to participate as we blend traditional, classical and contemporary songs in our Sunday worship.

Sunday flowers

If you would like to contribute flowers to beautify our sanctuary each Sunday, either from your garden or by donating funds, contact Alice Hand at



littleauntalice@yahoo.com. Alice not only arranges flowers for the sanctuary, she also creates beautiful planters to enhance our outdoor landscaping.

Seaside fun for all

Church picnic at Gooseberry Beach August 27—Everyone is invited.



Game Nights

Plan to join us August 18 and November 17. Pizza, games, fellowship, and fun for the whole family!

Reaching out

Helping our neighbors help others

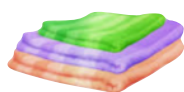
Supporting local programs: As part of July's outreach efforts, FPC Deacons will donate snacks and water for the Newport Police Department summer camp for children ages 10 to 14 during the second week of July and August.

Also this month, we are collecting jars of spaghetti sauce for the local food pantry in Portsmouth. The sauce will go well with the carload of pasta we delivered recently to the same food pantry, thanks to the generosity of many congregation members.



The McKinney Shelter

needs gently used twin sheets and towels. We will be collecting them through August 13.



Please leave them in the box in Fellowship Hall.

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.

Help our missions team as they work with organizations like the local Conexión Latina Newport, the McKinney Shelter, Salvation Army, the Outreach Foundation (and many other local and global projects) to spread God's love by designating a portion of your weekly offering for Missions.

OBNA Broadway Cleanup:

This will take place Saturday, August 5, beginning at 9 a.m. If you are interested in participating, come to Equality Park, across Broadway from the church, with work gloves. Gloves will be provided to those who don't bring their own.



Pray...



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

"For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies."

Psalms 108:4

...for **our church** as we rely on our faith in God's plan for all of us and reach out to those around us.

...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 is serving with the Coast Guard in Guam.

...with **heartfelt sympathy for the family of Rich DaGrosa**, who passed away July 14, that they may be comforted by their memories and time spent with him. Rich was a longtime, faithful servant at FPC.

...with **joy for a new life**, welcoming Maximillian Jack Rexroth, the first grandson of Jamie and Jeff Landsman.

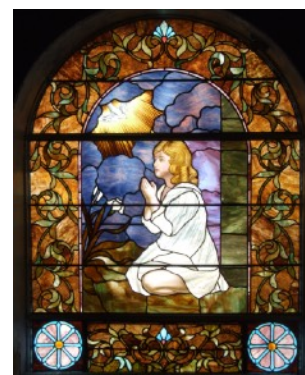
...for **spoken and unspoken needs** in our church family: for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. As you pray, remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Janet Champagne
Marcia Clark
Nadira's daughter Melissa
Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Karen Jenkins
Elaine Ruggiero
Ida (Stacie Schultz's mom)
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Lynn Chase
Nadira Ferreira's father
Julie Finnegan (Jones)
Bonnie's brother Mike
Bruce and Jan Jones
Glenna Malkemes
Lilia Svizzero Merrill

*"I give thanks O Lord,
with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing
your praise."*

Psalms 138:1



Looking back—The Lynch gifts

In the 1980s, the high cost of maintaining a large building nearly 100 years old was quite a challenge. So a separate “building” fund was established to slowly accumulate the capital needed for major refurbishment projects. And providentially, the church received several large gifts that greatly helped in this regard. Sometimes they came from quite unexpected sources; one example of this was a group of bequests received from the estate of John Edward Lynch.



Eddie Lynch was a very quiet and unassuming man, and although he was not closely involved in the life of the church, he left a great impact. Most Sundays, he took the same seat at the rear of the church and then quietly slipped away after the service. He lived alone and most people did not even know that he was the owner of the Cozy Cab Company in Newport.

But he had other relatives in the area, and one of them was Margaret McLean, a dear cousin living in Grand Islander, a local nursing home. She had been an invalid for many years and was on the list of the “shut-ins” regularly visited by First Presbyterian Church deacons. According to Will Marcle, whose wife regularly visited Margaret, “She was a courageous person and a voracious reader of mystery novels, and the deacons made sure she was amply supplied with those books.”

Eddie Lynch was so appreciative of this that he set up a small income fund for the Deacons, one for the Youth Group, and another to provide flowers for the church. And when he died in 1986 he made larger bequests that still benefit the church. A large upstairs meeting room is named in his memory.

The work goes on....

In a beautiful historic building like ours, there is always more to do in terms of upkeep and repairs. Here is Roger Ward, repainting some of our Gilded Age tin ceiling tiles. Tin ceilings were introduced to North America as an affordable alternative to the exquisite plasterwork used in European homes. They gained popularity in the late 1800s as Americans sought sophisticated interior design.



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, July 27

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. office open
9:00 to 4:00 Summer Pastor in office
2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday, July 28

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, July 29

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

Sunday, July 30

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)

Tuesday, July 31

9:00-4:00 Summer Pastor in office

Wednesday, August 1



If you receive an email that seems to be from someone you know at FPC asking for favors, gift cards, money, or offering photos, do not respond.

When you have news to share, send it to secretary@fpcnewport.org. Include dates, times, details, and contact information. This will ensure that it appears in 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.

