



August 24, 2023

# This week at FPC

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

## Worship August 20

*"Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."* Acts 6:3-4



Our pastor in residence, Sean Bland, offered a sermon titled "So What Exactly is a Deacon? What Do They Do?" This week he preached from Acts 6. In this episode of church history, the Apostles commissioned the first seven deacons in order to help care for those in need.

Sean encouraged us all, whether we are deacons or not, to serve those in need

and to pray for our deacons who do this so well at First Presbyterian.

Tim Schultz, lay leader, and welcomed back Angel Conwell, music director from a well-deserved vacation with her family.



"May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day.  
By his love and power controlling all I do and say."

**Sunday's Flowers** were given in memory of Norm Champagne, George and Victoria Martin, and Melvin and Millicent Hewitt by the Champagne family. We thank Alice Hand for arranging them, as she does every Sunday.



## Church picnic

Bring the family—enjoy the sand, rocks, ocean, great view, comfortable indoor shelter and facilities, fabulous food, fun and fellowship!

**This Sunday, August 27!**

**Gooseberry Beach**

**4 to 7 pm**

We'll supply hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings, and water. If you wish, bring a picnic side dish, salad, snacks to share, and juice or soda if you prefer it. (Put your name on the bottom of your dish so we can return those left behind.)



## 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 information has been posted!



Our church information sheet and pastor job description is posted on the ECO Job Board. We are receiving and reviewing applications as we move closer to finding our new pastor. As always, we welcome your questions, comments or thoughts—email [PNC2FPCNewport.org](mailto:PNC2FPCNewport.org). Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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



**The Vision Framing Team** (Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Haun, and Daryl Kolator) deserves our heartfelt thanks for the many prayerful hours spent fine tuning our mission statement to reflect His will for our church in this time and place and why people should call FPC their spiritual home. Their efforts helped finalize the ECP Job Board posting and will serve as a foundation for our new pastor to begin working with our leadership and members.

### Beginning the search for FPC's 2024 leaders

Please be in prayer as the FPC Nominating Committee develops a slate of nominees for Elders and Deacons who will lead us as we continue to grow and thrive in 2024. Contact Mark Barnes, Greg Bloom, Pete Browne, Brian Fennessey or Darien Petit with questions or suggestions.

**Pastor office hours** — Sean Bland is in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and invites everyone to "Please drop by and chat!" He also welcomes voice messages (847-1749) or emails ([pastor@fpcnewport.org](mailto:pastor@fpcnewport.org)).



### Handicapped Parking

Our parking lot is reserved for handicapped parking only on Sunday mornings to make our church as accessible as possible for those with temporary or permanent disabilities.

## Be Involved



### Music Notes

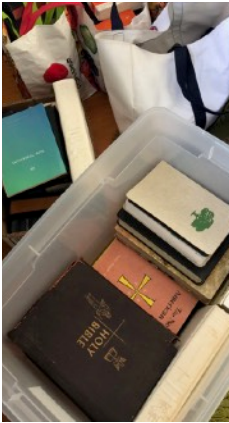
Thanks to everyone who joined our pick-up choir, for enriching our summer worship services. We hope all of you, and more, will join us as we return to a regular schedule, meeting at 6:30 Wednesday evenings, then gathering at 10 a.m. Sunday morning to quickly refresh the anthem. Our last day as a pickup choir will be Sunday, September 3. Our first evening rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6. If you have questions, contact Angel Conwell at [music@fpcnewport.org](mailto:music@fpcnewport.org). Usually found at the keyboard, Angel was recently seen riding horseback at Yellowstone National Park!





# Reaching out...

## Project Bible Runners



We collected more than 100 Bibles from the congregation and the church! We thank Jean Conwell for letting us know that Bible Runners were coming to Newport. This organization hand delivers Bibles to faithful followers of Jesus in areas where believers outnumber Bibles 300 to 1. Read more about this worthwhile group and their mission at [www.ProjectBibleRunners.com](http://www.ProjectBibleRunners.com).

## Rev. Hutchinson's church plant

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

# Learning...

## New Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join the Women's Bible Study group as they begin a new 12-week study using the "**Q Place**" study on Prayer. If you are interested, please contact Deidra Ricci at [PampereDee@cox.net](mailto:PampereDee@cox.net), as she will be ordering the books for the study. There will be a Thursday afternoon Zoom study beginning Thursday, September 7 at 2 pm. Also, an in-person study will start meeting Tuesday morning, September 12, at 9:30 in the Hometime Room.



## Sunday School for all ages

Classes for everyone will resume Sunday, September 10, at 9:15. Watch for more details about classrooms and teachers, and make plans to attend!

# Pray...



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

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

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

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

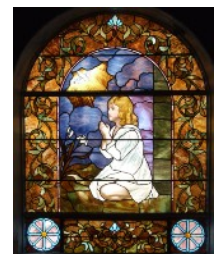
...for **spoken and unspoken needs** in our church family: for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. As you pray, remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Mark Bland, Sean's father  
Lynn Chase  
Margaret and Dick Falb  
Nadira's daughter Melissa  
Bonnie Haun and Sadie  
Karen Jenkins  
Elaine Ruggiero  
(Stacie Schultz's mom)  
Rob Silvia

Janet Champagne  
Marcia Clark  
Nadira Ferreira's father  
Julie Finnegan (Jones)  
Bonnie's brother Mike  
Bruce and Jan Jones  
Glenna Malkemes  
Ida Lash  
Lilia Svizzero Merrill  
Ralph and Alice Thomas

*"Jeremiah 30:17a says  
"But I will restore you to  
health and heal your  
wounds," declares the Lord".*

*Jeremiah 3:17*



## When you can't be at church to worship



View our livestream worship service online through Facebook or our web site, [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org). Be sure to subscribe for easier access.

## Changing pastors—a familiar experience

As Rev. Tyler Johnson reached the 30th anniversary of his ministry at First Presbyterian, he was honored at a luncheon on March 6, 1994. He had suffered health problems and was considering, but not necessarily looking forward to, retirement. Four years earlier, with their family now grown, the Johnsons had moved out of the church manse and purchased a home in Middletown.



Rev. Johnson

When he announced his retirement the following year, he told the congregation that approaching retirement had been a “very emotionally draining experience” for him. And many in the congregation were similarly emotional as they attended the large retirement party for the Johnsons on November 12, 1995. He had been the longest serving of any of the pastors of First Presbyterian.

The congregation was without a regular pastor for the next 18 months and experienced a noticeable “let-down” period. Then, a wonderful interim pastor arrived by the name of Rev. Robert Lantz. He was a retired minister who had also served as a chaplain in the Air Force during his long career.

Rev. Lantz did a fine job over the next year, shaking off the lethargy of the congregation and preparing the way for a new pastor. Under his guidance a search committee was formed and a job description was prepared for a new minister. Due to their diligence and the leading of the Holy Spirit, the next pastor of First Presbyterian was chosen about a year later.

In July of 1997, Rev. Dr. William J. Maxwell and his family were warmly welcomed to First Presbyterian.

Bill Maxwell grew up in southwestern Ohio, and he had served two congregations in Ohio before coming to Newport with his wife and three children. Although there may have been some initial adjustments between the Midwestern and New England cultures, this change in leadership was a very good thing for the church.

The spirit of the congregation was rejuvenated, and it was soon reflected in increased attendance at the Sunday worship services. Rev. Maxwell’s confident preaching style and biblically based teaching was what the congregation wanted, and needed, to hear.



Rev. Dr. William J. Maxwell

## Weekly Meetings and Activities

### Thursday, August 24

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. office open  
9:00 to 4:00 Summer Pastor in office  
6:30 p.m. Deacons

### Friday, August 25

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

### Saturday, August 26

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

### Sunday, August 27

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 a.m. Fellowship time  
6:00 p.m. Evensong (Zoom)

### Monday, August 28

7:00 a.m. 20s & 30s Small Group  
9:00-4:00 Summer Pastor in office

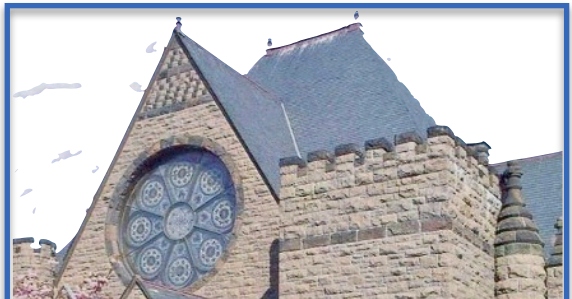
### Tuesday, August 29

9:00 to 4:00 Summer Pastor in office

**When you have news to share**, send it to [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org). Include dates, times, details, and contact information. This will ensure that it appears in FPC communications platforms.



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



*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](http://fpcnewport.org)

[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

