



September 01, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship August 27

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5: 1-3



As we begin thinking about who will serve as Deacons and Elders in 2024, Sean Bland, our Pastor in Residence, followed last week's timely

sermon about Deacons with a message about Elders: "FPCN Already Has the Greatest Pastor of All, He's the Chief Pastor Who Will Reveal Himself in All Glory." Citing 1 Peter 5: 1-5, he challenged us to consider how thinking about Jesus as our good and chief pastor might affect the way we view the church and the role of our Elders. In addition to the scripture quoted above, he also cited Paul's words in verse 5: "So too, you who are young, be subject to the elders. *"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility to one another, because 'God opposes the proud, but to the humble he gives grace.'*" He ended with a simple reminder:

Elders, lead without greed,
And feed the sheep in need,
So that we may each of us heed
the Good Pastor in every humble deed.

Church picnic

It was all there—sand, sun, rocks, ocean, dining area, fabulous food, fun and fellowship! The picnic was a resounding success. There are many to thank for this most enjoyable occasion: Linda Conheeny for arranging for us to use the Gooseberry Beach facilities, Master Chef Mark Barnes, Inner Life Committee, and all who came contributing food and friendliness!

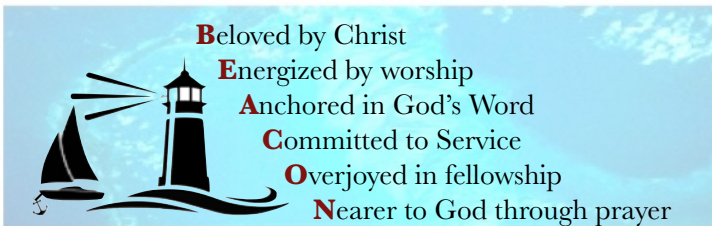


On the Journey

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

The work of the Vision Framing Team is ongoing, and they are sharing what they have developed so far through many dedicated, prayerful meetings.

"We're focusing on how to articulate FPC's values and identify various ways and means to fulfill them. A draft vision statement so far is, "A beacon on the Rock of Christ, shining God's love into our Newport community and beyond." The values we've identified align with that. They are:



The purpose of FPC's "beacon" is to guide all through the turbulence of the world and into the safe harbor of Christ's love. *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Haun, and Daryl Kolator*

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 for 2024. We welcome questions or suggestion. *Mark Barnes, Greg Bloom, Pete Browne, Brian Fennessey and Darien Petit.*

Pastor Search We are posting the description in two other places, and we already have several good applicants from our ECO posting. We are scheduling informal online interviews to determine those we will follow up with for more formal interviews. As always, we welcome your questions, comments or thoughts—email PNC2FPCNewport.org. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



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

Be Involved

Evensong This group meets 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, via Zoom, to worship with songs and hymns, Scripture, and fellowship. If you are interested in joining regularly or occasionally, you will be warmly welcomed. Email Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com for the link.

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.

New Member Class! If you are new to FPC and want to join in all of the wonderful things the Lord is doing here, consider participating in our new member class this Fall! The class will meet at 9:15 Sundays. Please let Sean Bland know if you are interested in this class by email at s.arthurbland@gmail.com

Lay Leader Training Our worship services would not be the same without our wonderful lay leaders. This training will be a refresher for those who have served and are currently serving, and an opportunity for new volunteers to learn how to serve at FPC in this way. The date for this training is TBD. Reach out to Deidra Ricci at pamperdee@aol.com if you would like to join the Lay Leader team.

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 email (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.



Reaching out...



Bibles! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, Jean Conwell turned over 139 Bibles to Jesse and Owen Swietzer from Bible Runners. This organization will ensure that our Bibles reach those

who greatly need them in areas where there is currently only one Bible for every 300 people.

For local schools—The Deacons have donated \$250 worth of school supplies to the Newport County Prevention Coalition: 16 binders, 1,000 pencils, 24 boxes of markers, 1,000 index cards, a 5-pound box of pens and 60 glue sticks. The Newport County Prevention Coalition provides effective substance abuse prevention strategies, mental health advocacy, and treatment options to Newport County.

Learning...

Sunday School classes are ready to begin!

Fall Sunday School classes will resume Sunday, September 17, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

- Elementary School students will meet in the Sanctuary to sing, then will go with Cindy Wilson for a lesson in the room off of the nursery.
- Middle School Students will meet with Dave Kolator in the Resource Room (to the left of the Pastor's office) for a small group study on the Gospel of John.
- There will be two adult offerings this fall, including a New Member class. Watch for more details.



Praying...



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

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.." John 15:16

...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.

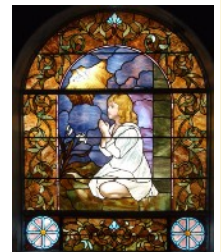
...for spoken and unspoken needs in our church family: for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. As you pray, remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Mark Bland, Sean's father
Lynn Chase
Margaret and Dick Falb
Nadira's daughter Melissa
Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Karen Jenkins
Elaine Ruggiero
Ida Lash (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
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Ralph and Alice Thomas

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

Jeremiah 3:17



New Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a new 12-week Women's Bible Study using the "**Q Place**" study on *Prayer*. If you are interested, please contact Deidra Ricci at PampereDee@cox.net, as she is ordering the books. The afternoon Zoom study begins Thursday, September 7, at 2 p.m. An in-person study will start meeting Tuesday morning, September 12, at 9:30 in the Hometime Room.

An Elder's aspiration— to be a good shepherd



In last Sunday's sermon about the role of Elders in the church, Pastor Sean Bland referred to the role of a shepherd and pointed out our beautiful and inspiring Shepherd Window.

We do not know exactly how the vision of creating our beautiful church originated, but we do know that the founders wanted to achieve an elegant building worthy of the city and of the denomination. The architectural style has been described as

"Romanesque," with a large

circular rose window in the front, and equally large stained-glass windows on either side. The interior was designed to seat more than 450 people with good seating for all and no provision for a balcony.

The 60 stained glass windows and the organ are signature features of First Presbyterian Church. To a large degree, the church was designed around them. As you approach, coming up Broadway from Newport, the windows dominate the view of the church. And, as you enter the sanctuary, the gleaming tier of organ pipes and the glow from the windows dominate the scene. There are several windows in the sanctuary and other areas of the church that depict historic events of the Protestant Reformation worldwide. They were inspired by 20-foot canvas banner decorations used in 1880 at the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia.

A beautiful opening for Sunday's worship service



Angel, Juno and Eden Conwell played Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, as the gathering music, setting the tone for last Sunday's morning worship service



When you can't be at church to worship

View our livestream worship service online through Facebook or our web site, fpcnewport.org. Be sure to subscribe for easier access.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, September 1

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. office open
9:00 to 4:00 Resident Pastor in office

Friday, September 2

Saturday, September 3

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, September 4

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

Monday, September 5

10:00 a.m. Worship Committee

Tuesday, September 6

9:00 to 4:00 Resident Pastor in office
7:00 p.m. Inner Life Committee

Wednesday, September 7

6:30 Choir rehearsal

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.



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

facebook.com/fpcnewport.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

