

September 07, 2023



This week at FPC

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

Worship September 10

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.

Acts 8: 4-6

Sean Bland delivered a sermon "Lamenting and Staying Strong," he cited Acts 8, 1-8, recounting the events that occurred after Steven's death—the mass persecutions, much grieving, then the impetus to go out and continue preaching about Jesus.

We are blessed to have Sean Bland as Pastor in Residence for the remainder of 2023. Sean is an ECO Ordination Applicant and a Navy Chaplain Candidate. Born to a Navy family in Jackson, Mississippi. he graduated from Yale University and recently earned his Master of Divinity Degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary.



Thanks to Lay Leader Mark Barnes, and Nancy Burgess for her dinner club announcement.



New Opportunities

Sidewalk Prayers

What can we do for our neighbors?" One answer is PRAY! So, we will walk along Calvert and Cranston Streets  Saturday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m., praying for the people in each home we pass and leaving a note on the door telling the people they have been prayed for by First Presbyterian Church.

We will gather at the church at 9:15 to pray as a group, then divide into pairs to cover the streets. If walking is difficult, anyone who would still like to participate can pray at the church while the others are out walking. We are excited to see the power of prayer at work and what God is going to do in our neighborhood.

Help make FPC a welcoming church

We are looking for a friendly person (or persons) to join Julie Ward in greeting people on Sunday mornings. No experience needed. The only requirement is to arrive 15 minutes before the worship service, ready to make newcomers and old-timers feel welcomed. If you are interested, contact the church office (401-847-1749) or talk to Julie on Sunday morning. 

Reverend Jeff Hutchinson will preach this Sunday from Acts 8:9-25, "Keeping Our Hearts Right Before God."

On the Journey

Please pray that we would live out Proverbs 16:3

*“Commit to the Lord, whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.”*

—May we be truly committed to the Lord.

The Vision Framing Team continues to define FPC's values and identify how to fulfill them. Their draft vision statement says, "A beacon on the Rock of Christ, shining God's love into our Newport community and beyond." The aligning values we've identified 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 Davien Petit.*

Pastor Nominating Committee is sorting through resumes and conducting online interviews. We welcome your questions or comments. Email PNC2@FPCNewport.org.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support. *Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey*

Budget Update—the good news

Thanks to the generous giving of our congregation, our year-to-date operating surplus is \$24,606. We had forecasted a budget surplus of \$59,517 for all of 2023 and at this point in the calendar year our income and expenses should be 67% of goals. We are at 41% of our annual surplus goal and our expenses are about 60% of our budgeted goal. However, the good news is that since our utility expenses are historically greater during the first quarter of the year and our income is usually higher during the fourth quarter, we are in good shape. Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support.

Be Involved...

Evensong meets at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, via Zoom, to worship with songs, Scripture, and fellowship. If you are interested Email Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com for the link.

Music Notes

Join us in the choir loft as we begin the fall season (and even begin some Christmas in Newport music) at 6:30 Wednesday evenings, then gather at 10 a.m. Sunday morning for a quick warmup. Contact Angel, music@fpcnewport.org. We need altos!



Learn...

Lay Leader Training

Sean Bland will provide a refresher for those who have or are currently serving, and an opportunity for others to learn how to serve at FPC in this way, Sunday, October 1, at 9:15. If you would like to join the Lay Leader team, Email Deidra Ricci at pamperdee@aol.com.

Sunday School resumes this Sunday!

Elementary School students meet in the Sanctuary to sing, then have a lesson with Cindy Wilson room off the nursery.

- Middle Schoolers meet with Dave Kolator in the Resource Room for a small group study on the Gospel of John.
- This week, adults will have a group discussion on Psalm 15 led by Chip Wilson. Next week Sean Bland will continue our study and discussion of the Psalms, focusing on Psalm 16. We will continue through the Psalms with sessions led by both Sean and Chip until Advent.



Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a new Women's Bible Study using the "Q Place" study on *Prayer*. If you are interested, please contact Deidra Ricci at PampereDee@cox.net. The afternoon Zoom study is Thursday, September 7, at 2 p.m. An in-person study meets Tuesday morning at 10:00 in the Hometime Room.

Reaching out...

To help fill the shelves at St. John's Lodge Food Bank we are collecting canned vegetables and mac and cheese. Donation baskets are in Fellowship Hall.



Back in the kitchen! Wednesday, September 6, our intrepid kitchen crew prepared and served Sloppy Joes, 3-bean salad, potato salad, brownies and ice cream for 27 guests. Alice Hand planned the meal, and Linda Conheeny, Regina Skudera, Julie Ward and Julie Lairsey helped with preparation. Paul Cabral, Robert and Christine Sahms, Judy Graves, Julie Ward, and Coleen Spencer served. Jerry Spencer, John Hand and Roger Ward greeted our guests.



Help greet our neighbors at the Broadway Street Fair Saturday, October 14

For several years we have opened our sanctuary to our Broadway neighbors and visitors. They are always amazed at the beauty of our sanctuary and ask many questions about the church.

This is an exciting outreach opportunity. The Inner Life Committee plans to open the doors to the sanctuary for people to take a look and/or pray during the Street Fair. Would you like to help greet our neighbors and/or act as a guide to show them our sanctuary for an hour or two? Please contact Daryl Kolator at 401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com. We will provide you with information to be shared with the visitors.

Food to Help

When people in our church are experiencing a family illness, incapacity, new baby, or other event, a prepared dish can be the best gift. If you are willing to prepare a main dish on occasion to be brought to their home, please contact Darien Petit at dspetit55@gmail.com for more details. Our goal is to maintain a list of volunteers we could call on to provide such assistance when needed.



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.

...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
Becky Farwick and family
Nadira's daughter Melissa
Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Bruce and Jan Jones
(Stacie Schultz's mom)
Rob Silvia
Cindy Wilson

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

May we pour out our hearts to the Lord and remember what Psalm 3:8 says:

*"From the Lord comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people."*



Rev Jeff Hutchinson, Pastor of the church plant, House of Mercy, in New Haven, will be at FPC once a month to bring 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 as while we search for a new, permanent pastor!

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).

You are invited!

What: New FPC Dinner club groupings

When: September-January

Where: At FPC members' homes—
or wherever you'd like!

Purpose: Fun, Food, Fellowship

**Please let Nancy Burgess know
if you are interested
by text or phone at 401-835-0183**

If you love to eat and enjoy lively conversation with Christian friends, this is the best deal in town! It's informal, always fun, and open to all adults, young or old, single or attached, new to FPC or lifetime members.

It's time to join new dinner groups of six or eight people for the coming six months. Each group will meet at least twice for dinner or brunch. One person or couple acts as host, providing a main dish. Others, if able, bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Each group makes its own rules—some may even decide to go to a restaurant.

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.



Always working to maintain our building and keep us safe, Mark Barnes installs a new security light on the back of the Christian Education building.

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, September 14

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

Saturday, September 16

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, September 17

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

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 to 4:00 Resident Pastor in office
10:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Session

Wednesday, September 20

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.



When you can't be at church,

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

