



September 28, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship September 24



"Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not panic or be terrified by them. For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."

Deuteronomy 20:3-4

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11

Sean Bland's message, 'Preaching in (and for) Wartime,' emphasized the responsibility of all those who preach God's Word to remind God's people of God's grace. The essence of preaching a Biblical sermon, as seen in Deuteronomy 20, is to equip the body of Christ, his Church, to fight the devil and to fight sin. Alice Hand was lay leader and also responsible for this lovely arrangement highlighting our Bible. Ken and Deb Hoffman were honored at a special coffee hour after worship.



New Opportunities

Sidewalk Prayers

What can we do for our neighbors?"

One answer is

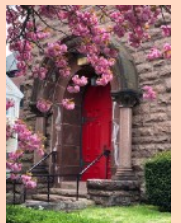
PRAY! Last week we walked along Calvert and Cranston Streets Saturday, praying for the people in each home we passed and left a note on the door telling the people they had been prayed for by First Presbyterian Church. We are excited to see the power of prayer at work and what God is going to do in our neighborhood.



Help welcome

Sunday worshippers

We are looking for a friendly person (or persons) to join Julie Ward in greeting people on Sunday mornings. No experience needed; simply 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

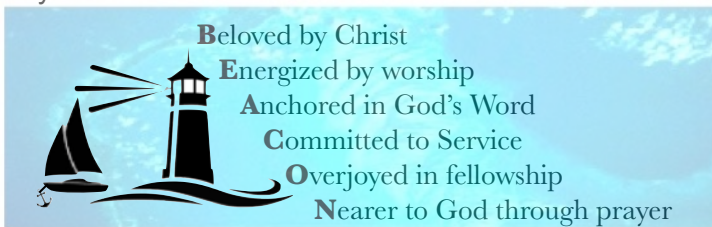


On the Journey

As our prayer, we come to God asking "Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then will I go to the altar of God, to God my joy and my delight."

Psalms 43:3-4

The Vision Framing Team continues to focus on FPC's values and 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 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 Kaun, and Daryl Kolator*

Looking 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 suggestions.

Mark Barnes, Greg Bloom, Pete Browne, Brian Fennessey and Darien Petit.



Pastor Nominating Committee are moving into the formal interviewing phase. 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



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 begin practicing 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!



DYI opportunities abound at FPC.

There are many "self-help" projects around the church. Some are fun, some are messy, but they all give a nice feeling of satisfaction when they are done, and we're making good progress. Next on the list is the flaking ceiling in the bathroom by the Samuel Room, and we'll touch up the ceiling in the Samuel Room itself soon, too. Please let Roger Ward know if you can help.

Learn...

Lay Leader Training

Sean Bland will provide a refresher for current or past lay leaders, 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!

- 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.
- We will continue through the Psalms with sessions led by both Sean and Chip until Advent.

Women's Bible Study

There are two ways to participate in the new Women's Bible Study using the "**Q Place**" study on *Prayer*. The afternoon Zoom study meets Thursday, at 2 p.m. and an in-person study meets Tuesday morning at 10:00 in the Hometime Room.

Reaching out...

To help fill the shelves at the local Food Bank we are collecting canned vegetables and mac and cheese. Donation baskets are in Fellowship Hall.



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.



These boys are in good hands, watched over by our praying angel in the window!

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.

Praying...



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

"God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to 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	Nancy Burgess
Janet Champagne	Lynn Chase
Marcia Clark	Becky Farwick and family
Nadira Ferreira's father	Nadira's daughter Melissa
Julie Finnegan (Jones)	Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Bonnie's brother Mike	Bruce and Jan Jones
Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)	Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Darien Petit	Rob Silvia
Ralph and Alice Thomas	Cindy Wilson

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).

Well Done, Faithful Servants

During last Sunday's coffee hour Ken and Debbie Hoffman were recognized for their many years of service at FPC. Ken has served several terms as an Elder, has headed the Finance and Personnel Committee for six years, and has served on the Building and Grounds committee and Board of Deacons. Debbie currently serves as a Deacon, and has helped in many areas including Vacation Bible School as she and Ken raised their three children here at the church. Much of Ken and Debbie's work is behind the scenes, although recently Ken has been prominent at congregational meetings keeping us posted on the financial health of the church.



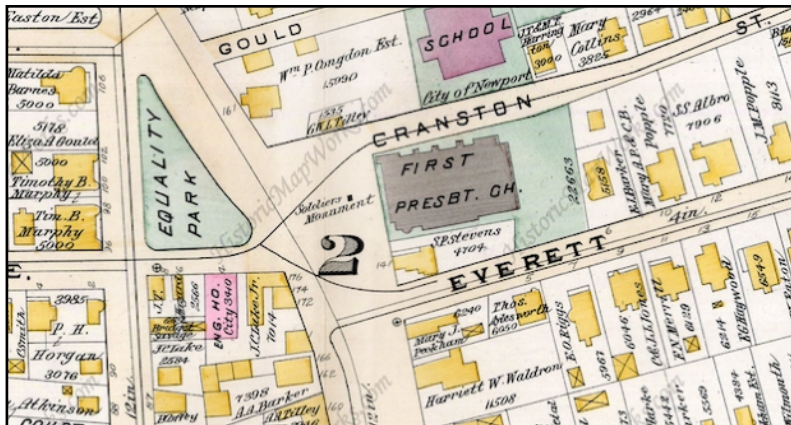
1891—Choosing a site for our church

In 1891 FPC was still meeting in Grace Chapel (now Hibernian Hall). However the congregation was growing rapidly. With the church well established, Rev. MacKay, the first pastor, resigned to take up the practice of law. In June 1890, Rev. James M. Craig was called to be our second pastor.

Almost immediately a committee was appointed to consider the possibility of a new church building. Several sites were considered, most of them in the South Newport area near the homes of some of the members. But another very attractive site was available on the north side of the city, just behind the new Soldiers and Sailors monument on Broadway. Located on a small triangle of land known as Congdon Park, the monument had been dedicated just a year earlier to the memory of those who fought in the Civil War.

In October, 1891, the decision to buy that property was made when Daniel Fitts and his wife offered to purchase the site for the sum of \$12,000. It was given to the church as a memorial to Nathan and Elizabeth Mumford Hammett, the parents of Mrs. Fitts.

This most generous gift came with an unusual condition. In those days it was still common practice to have pews assigned to regularly attending church members, and to set aside other seats (often in the back or the balcony) for "poor" people or servants. The Fitts gift, however, stipulated that "no section of the church shall be set apart for the use of the poor." Much care was taken to honor this request in the subsequent design of the new church.



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, September 28

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)

Friday, September 29

Saturday, September 30

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, October 1

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)

Monday, October 2

10:00 a.m. Worship Committee

Tuesday, October 3

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Hometime Room
7:00 p.m. Inner Life

Wednesday, October 4

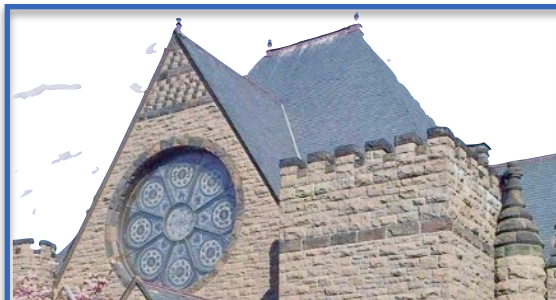
6:30 Choir rehearsal

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



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 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

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

