



September 21, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship September 17

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that He may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. Acts 8: 20-22

We welcomed Reverend Jeff Hutchinson and his wife Troy. Rev. Hutchinson preached from Acts 8:9-25, "Keeping Our Hearts Right Before God," explaining that we can't buy God's grace, but we can keep ourselves in the love of God by changing our hearts and keeping them fresh and new every day, ready to accept His grace.



New Opportunities

Sidewalk Prayers

What can we do for our neighbors?"



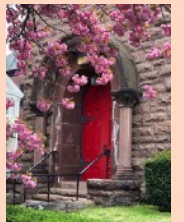
One answer is PRAY! So, we will walk along Calvert and Cranston Streets this **Saturday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m.**, praying for the people in each home we pass and leaving a note on the door telling the people they have been prayed for by First Presbyterian Church.

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 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 Sunday morning.



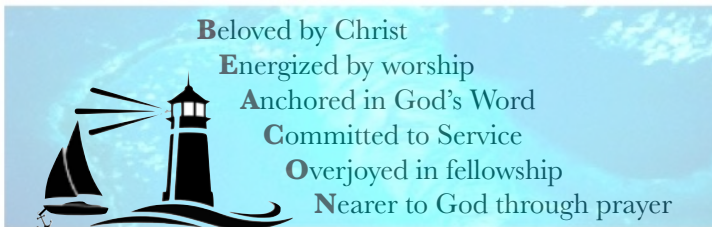
On the Journey

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*

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 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*

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.

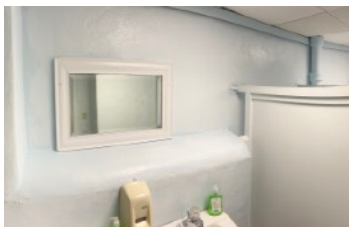
Sunday School!

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 Sunday 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

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.



DIY 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. Here, Roger Ward has applied the last coats of paint to the Blue Room walls after Wayne and Regina Skudera did the scraping and prep work on a Church Work Day earlier this year. 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.

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.



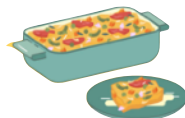
Help greet our neighbors at the Broadway Street Fair Saturday, October 14

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	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 Schultz's mom)
Lilia Svizzero Merrill	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).



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. Please let Nancy Burgess know now if you are interested so she can form the new groups, by text or phone at 401-835-0183

Sunday Flowers! Sunday morning's flowers were in honor of Mark Barnes' mom, Ruth Barnes, who passed just a year ago. 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.



A note of thanks...

God blessed me and my husband 23 years ago when we were new to the area. A friendly elderly man named George Davis struck up a conversation in a hospital waiting room and invited us to come to his church. We did, and we were so warmly welcomed and so impressed with the service, building, and the friendliness that we became part of FPC and became more involved in church life than we ever had during our Navy and retirement lives. In this environment we both grew in spirit and the desire to serve. The church supported me when Bill died, too soon, in 2008. They were a comfort in other losses as well. Participation in choir, dinner club, library, Deacons, Inner Life and desktop publishing allowed me to serve in the ways I could. This church offers a path for everyone to find their niche in serving. It is indeed "A friendly place to grow in Christ and serve with joy."

Our congregation recently experienced a few rough years, but thanks to many loyal, dedicated members and leaders, and now our great fortune to have Rev. Jeff Hutchinson and Sean Bland at the pulpit, we are reviving and reaching out.

As I looked out from the choir loft on my last Sunday, hearing the organ and singing the beautiful words of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," I saw new faces, felt the joy, and gave thanks for all the blessings that come with being part of First Presbyterian Church where true friendships are born and sustained. I will remember you all with love, and of course, if you are traveling to Florida, dear friends, you have an invitation to visit.

Sandra Lang

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, September 21

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 22

7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, September 23

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, September 24

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, September 25

7:00 p.m. 20s and 30s Small Group

Tuesday, September 26

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

Wednesday, September 27

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
facebook.com/fpcnewport.org
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

