

Seeking a pastor to  
join us as we renew  
and fulfill our  
mission.



# First Presbyterian Church

## Newport, Rhode Island

*A beacon on the rock of Christ, shining God's love into our community and beyond*

### Our Core Beliefs

At FPC Newport we love the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in the authority of scripture and the power of prayer.

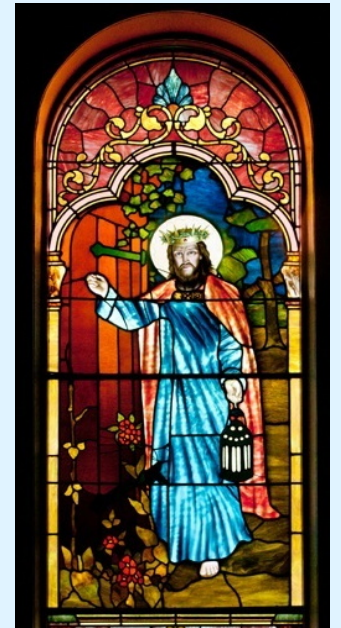
We seek to glorify God, serving him with hearts of love and hands of fellowship, proclaiming the good news to all.

Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the only way to salvation.

Holy scripture is the triune God's revealed Word, the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.

God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life.

*We believe in the reformed faith and the Essential Tenets of ECO.*



### Our Mission

At FPC Newport we glorify God and develop disciples of Christ. We will be compassionate, capable, and committed beacons, shining the light of Christ from a historic, landmark setting. We will help our neighbors find safe harbor and spiritual growth in Christ through authentic prayer, joyful worship, faithful service and biblical devotion.

## Our History

First Presbyterian Church of Newport has a rich history dating back to 1888. The cornerstone was laid in 1892 on land that was given to the congregation with a stipulation that the building be designed with no balcony to provide equal seating for all parishioners. The building was raised, stone by stone, by the original members of the congregation, including stone masons who built Newport's Gilded Age mansions, as a sign of their personal commitment to God and to the mission of the Church in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Over the past 135 years, the church has been led by 12 pastors who preached God's word to our members and friends in a traditional sanctuary with magnificent stained-glass windows and beautiful organ playing traditional hymns of faith. The church entered the Discerning the Way process that ultimately resulted in FPC Newport joining the Northeast Coast Presbytery of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians in 2017. Having recently begun the vision framing process, the church is now ready to embark on a period of renewal.

## Our Community

FPC is located in scenic Newport, RI. Known as "The City on the Sea", Newport is on Aquidneck Island, 80 miles south of Boston. Religious liberty led to its establishment in 1642, and it is now a premier tourist destination. The colonial downtown, Gilded Age mansions, scenic New England shoreline and beaches, yacht-filled harbors, music festivals and sailing races attract visitors from all over the world.



Newport has a long and proud affiliation with the US Navy. The Newport Naval Station is home to the Naval War College, Justice School, Undersea Warfare Center, Chaplains School and many other important commands and training facilities. Of the roughly 25,000 people that live in Newport, and the 80,000 that live in greater Newport County, more than 85% are Caucasian. The median household income is \$68,000 and ranges from the very wealthy to those in great need. Less than 50% of the population professes to be religious with 35% practicing the Catholic faith and roughly 10% affiliated with a Protestant denomination.

*"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*



## Our Congregation

We are dedicated believers from all walks of life who joyfully worship together growing in our faith as a church family. After breaking free from a few difficult years, our congregation has increased this past year and we finished 2022 with a surplus of funds despite not having a pastor on site.

We enjoy many intergenerational activities including game nights and Bible Studies, as well as a variety of small groups and other fellowship programs. Faithfully providing community outreach, our deacons work with local organizations to assist people in need and coordinate recurring events such as a monthly soup kitchen and food pantry drives. Since the inception of FPC, our women's and men's ministries have been an important part of church life and have provided a conduit for spiritual growth and fellowship. Deeply valuing our young families, our church provides a loving, toy-filled nursery staffed with volunteers ready to disciple even our youngest visitors. Music is an important part of our congregation, and our choir is open for all who sing or play an instrument. Every week our children sing during Sunday School and often bless us with special music during our worship service.

### FPC Newport Snapshot

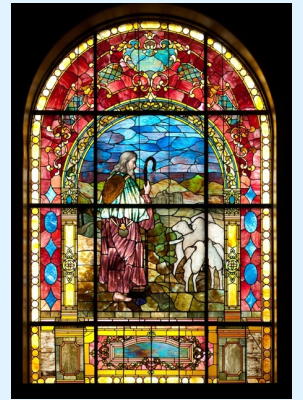
Covenant partners: 220  
Active participation: 100  
Avg service attendance: 75  
Live stream subscribers: 40  
Annual budget: \$330,000  
Missions budget: \$15,000  
Staff: Pastor, Director of Music Ministries,  
Secretary, Housekeeping



*"...You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord." Ephesians 2:19-21*

## Our Pastor

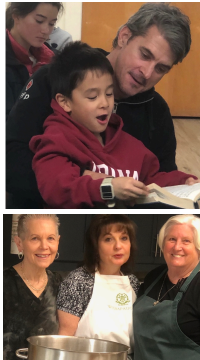
FPC Newport has been blessed with many wonderful pastors. We pray to continue that tradition as we look to fill our current vacancy. We patiently await a pastor who will joyfully *preach the word* and lovingly *shepherd the whole flock*—who will join us in our spiritual growth and discipleship. We are looking for someone who respects our traditions while encouraging positive change.



### Are you this person? Are you ...

- Grounded by a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus?
- Inspiring others as you share the deep truths of faith with your thoughts, words and deeds?
- Passionate about the power of prayer and the strength of the Holy Spirit?
- Committed to adhering to the Essential Tenets of ECO and reformed faith?
- Dedicated to transforming lives through the gospel?
- Eager to mentor church leaders and new believers?
- Excited to help the congregation engage with the community?
- Active in the life of and attentive to the needs of the congregation?
- Enthusiastic and eager about embracing pastoral responsibilities?

*If you feel led to learn more about our church please contact us at [pnc@fpcnewport.org](mailto:pnc@fpcnewport.org)*





## Our Position Description

FPC Newport is seeking a full-time pastor who is ready to be a part of our loving community of believers, to provide spiritual leadership, pastoral care and administrative oversight for our staff and congregation.

**Accountability:** We seek a pastor who is ultimately accountable to Jesus as the head of the church and who will be:

- Ordained or willing to be ordained in ECO, guided by the Essential Tenets of ECO and accountable to the Presbytery.
- Mutually accountable to session members, as they are accountable to the pastor.

**Responsibilities:** We seek a pastor who will be an active, vibrant part of the church who will be aware of the needs of our body and who will:

- Prepare and preach biblically based, inspiring sermons.
- Administer the Sacraments to encourage the spiritual growth of our congregation and community members, while shepherding and mentoring the flock.
- Be present and available during times of need such as officiating ceremonies, and visiting those who are sick and shut in.
- Be directly involved in the planning for and leadership of the church programs and events, including moderating the Session and being an ex officio part of committees, assisting as necessary to ensure goals are met.
- Lead church staff, overseeing their work as they strive to be a united team.
- Work with leadership to determine a vision for the future of our church, carrying out this plan while evangelizing to all who will listen.

**Attributes:** We seek a pastor who is a strong believer in and a lover of our Triune God, who:

- Is upheld by strong Biblical morals and rooted in deep faith.
- Leads by example with the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Is an effective communicator who listens and cares.

**If you feel led to apply to the position please submit the following to [pnc@fpcnewport.org](mailto:pnc@fpcnewport.org):**

- A statement of faith which includes the story of your own personal journey.
- A brief philosophy of ministry.
- A resume outlining your education and professional experiences.
- Links to sample sermons.