



October 5, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship October 1

"...Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea..." Acts 8:38-40



On Sunday, Sean Bland preached from Acts chapter 8, verses 26 through 40, in a sermon titled "A Chariot Ride Worth Remembering." In his sermon, Sean reminded us to both read the Scriptures and to follow God's guidance in light of the good news of Jesus. As Philip explained how the prophet Isaiah's words were fulfilled by Christ, and just as the Eunuch who heard this explanation trusted Christ and was baptized, so we should read Scripture as it points us to Christ and then follow what Christ calls us to do, which is to repent and be baptized!

Richard Price was lay leader. Music director Angel Conwell and the choir led the music. The choral anthem was "Come, Let Us Sing and Be Thankful."



We are blessed

As we search for our next pastor, we are blessed to have two caring and uplifting men of God helping to guide us along the way.

Sean Bland, our Pastor in Residence through 2023! is an ECO Ordination Applicant and a Navy Chaplain Candidate. Born to a Navy family, Sean is a Jackson, Mississippi native. He graduated from Yale University and recently earned his Master of Divinity Degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary. Sean Bland is available in the church office Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 4pm and invites everyone to "Please drop by and chat!"

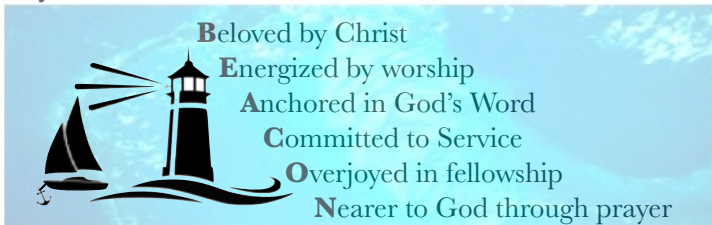
Reverend Jeffrey Hutchinson comes to FPC once a month to celebrate communion and preach a sermon. He is the pastor of a new church plant, House of Mercy in East Greenwich, CT. If you are interested in donating to his church plant, you may write a check payable to FPC, designating House of Mercy on the memo line.



On the Journey

Isaiah 26:4 reminds us to "Trust in the Lord
forever for the Lord, the Lord, is the rock
eternal."

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 beginning to schedule formal 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

Rev Jeff Hutchinson, Pastor of the church plant, House of Mercy, in New Haven, CT 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!

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!



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. 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 our neighborhood

Broadway Street Fair

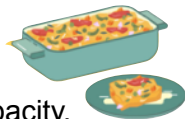
For several years we have opened our sanctuary to our Broadway neighbors and visitors. They are always amazed at the beauty of our sanctuary and ask many questions about the church. This year the Street Fair is **Saturday, October 14.**

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.

And, before the fair, the OBNA (Off Broadway Neighborhood Association) will sponsor a Broadway Clean-up **this Saturday, October 7.** If you'd like to participate, meet us at 9:00 a.m. at Equality Park. Gloves will be provided to those who don't bring their own. And, if you would like to attend the next meeting of the OBNA, it will be October 17 at 6:00 p.m., The Parlor at 200 Broadway.

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 dspeit55@gmail.com for more details. Our goal is to maintain a list of volunteers we could call on to provide such assistance when needed.



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.

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.

"With all wisdom and understanding he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ. "
Ephesians 1:8b and 9.

...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."*



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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).

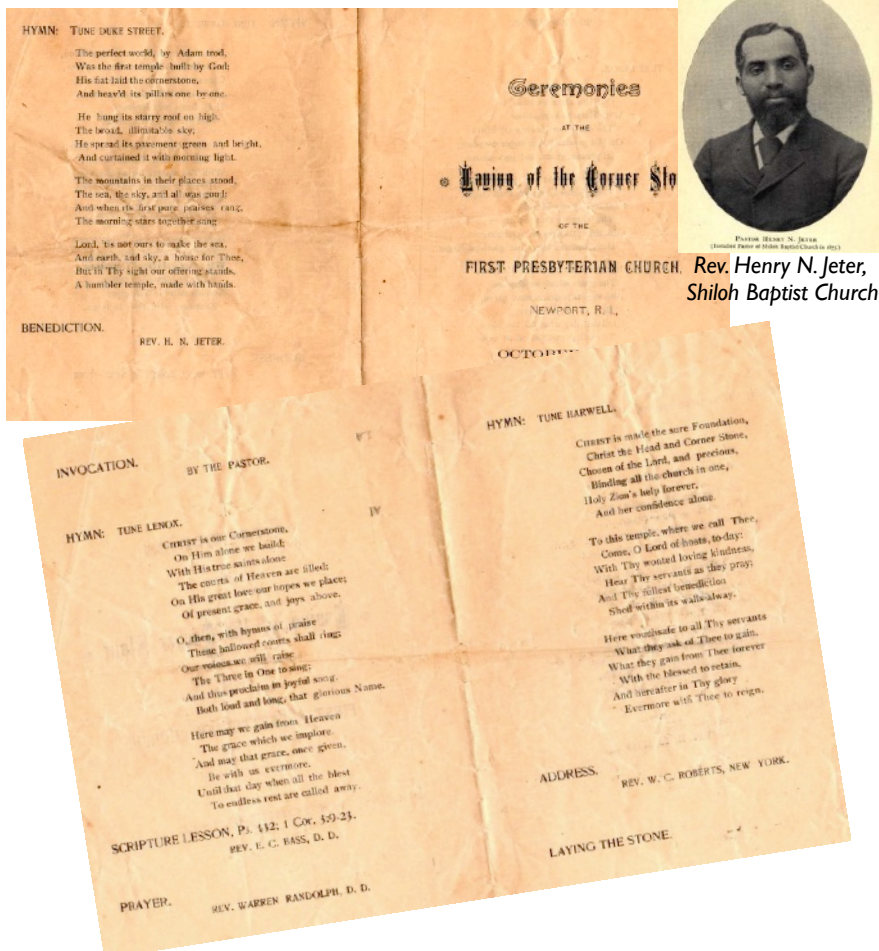
Laying the Cornerstone

By October 15, 1892, three walls of the church had already been erected to a height of about one story, and sub-flooring had been laid in the sanctuary so a large audience could be seated for the formal cornerstone laying ceremony. (The local newspaper later described the ceremony as having taken place "in much the same manner as in the old Roman forum, the roof being the heavens above.")



The pastor, Rev. James Craig, presided at the ceremony and there were hymns, prayers and other speakers before the formal laying of the cornerstone. It was an emotional and glorious moment for those attending, because just getting to this point had been a substantial achievement.

The benediction that day was delivered by the Rev. Henry N. Jeter, who was pastor of the black Shiloh Baptist Church, located at the corner of School Street and Mary Street in Newport (the building is still there). Rev. Jeter had been invited to the ceremony by Elder Daniel B. Fitts and his wife Susan, who were close personal friends. As a result, a close and supportive relationship also developed between First Presbyterian and the Shiloh Baptist Church during those early years.



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, October 5

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

Friday, October 6

Saturday, October 7

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, October 8

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 9

6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
7:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel
7:00 p.m. 20s & 30s Small Group

Tuesday, October 10

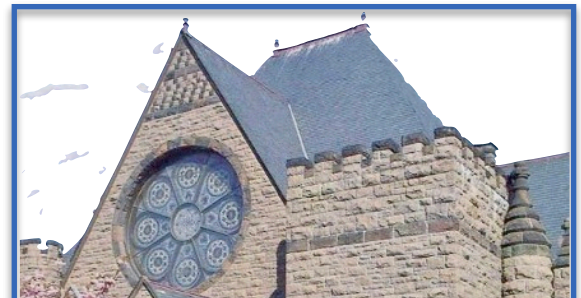
Wednesday, October 11

5:00 EFC Soup Kitchen
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.

