



October 12, 2023

# This week at FPC

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

## Worship October 8

*"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 9: 17*



On Sunday, Sean Bland preached on the Damascus road story from Acts 9. Just as God spoke to Saul that day, He speaks to us still in His Word. We must listen to His voice, bear His name, and suffer for His sake.

Deidra Ricci was lay leader. Music director

Angel Conwell and the choir led the music, and the choral anthem was, "Lord, Give Us

Grace." Nancy Greene and Phil Thow announced FPC's role in this year's Operation Christmas Child.



## Looking ahead

### Help create this year's Advent Devotional!



As we journey through Advent, it is a blessing to have devotionals created by our fellow worshippers for each day in Advent. They can be about your personal Christmas traditions or experiences, scripture, stories or poetry, to fit on a 5½ x 8½ page.

- Begin with a scripture verse.
- Main story or content (one to three paragraphs)
- End with a short prayer.

We will format and assemble the booklets. To be ready for the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, **we need your contribution no later than November 12**, the earlier the better. Drop it off at the office or send it to Brian Petit, [blpetit56@gmail.com](mailto:blpetit56@gmail.com) or [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org).



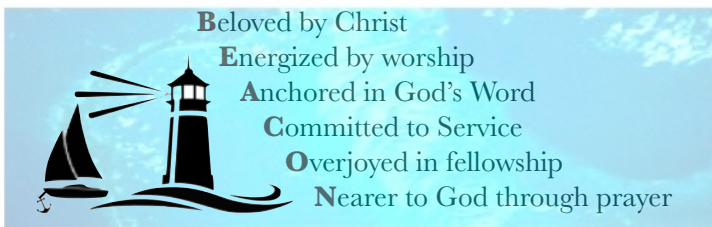
...from Sunday's Scripture reading, Paul's message to the churches

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Galatians 1:3-5*

## 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](mailto: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*

### Sunday Flowers!



Last Sunday these flowers were given by Nancy and Bill Marcley in loving memory of Will and Nancy Marcley. 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](mailto:littleauntalice@yahoo.com).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

If you are interested in serving as a lay leader but missed the October 1 class, please contact Sean Bland ([pastor@fpc.org](mailto:pastor@fpc.org) or Deidra Ricci ([pamperdee@aol.com](mailto:pamperdee@aol.com)) about the next class. Elementary School students meet in the Sanctuary to sing, then have a lesson with Cindy Wilson room off the nursery.

### Sunday School

- 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...

### Operation Christmas Child

Filling shoeboxes for children in need in far off parts of the globe has long been a beloved tradition at our church.



This year, in addition to filling our boxes, we have been selected as the Drop Off site for the area's Operation Christmas Child boxes.

This requires people to be available to collect these boxes during the week of November 13-20. Several two-hour time slots are available each day and evening. Please contact Daryl Kolator (401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com) if you can help.

We are also looking for volunteers Saturday, November 18 from 1:00 to 2:30 when we will pack 75 boxes with items supplied by the Rhode Island Area Coordinator along with 25 boxes with items purchased by FPC Deacons. Again, contact Daryl Kolator (401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com) if you can help pack. Many hands make light work!

### 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.



**Soup Kitchen** We served 33 guests Wednesday, October 4, and we also gave out 14 takeout meals. The menu

was pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, tossed salad, rolls and butter, and ice cream—all prepared by the Ross family. Our volunteers: Linda Conheeny, Regina Skudera, Julie Ward, Robert and Christine Sahms, Susan Thow and Coleen Spencer helped prepare and serve the meals. Also, Jerry Spencer, Roger Ward and Phil Thow greeted and welcomed our guests.

## Praying...



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

*"I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them." Jeremiah 23:4.*

...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	Thow family
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).



## ***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, was honored by a grateful congregation after worship service October 8. He is an

ECO Ordination Applicant and a Navy Chaplain Candidate. He graduated from Yale University and recently earned his Master of Divinity Degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary.



## **Weekly Meetings and Activities**

### **Thursday, October 12**

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

### **Friday, October 13**

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

### **Saturday, October 14**

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

### **Sunday, October 15**

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 16**

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

### **Tuesday, October 17**

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (at FPC)  
7:00 p.m. Session meeting

### **Wednesday, October 18**

6:30 Choir rehearsal

**When you have news to share**, send it to [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://fpcnewport.org)

[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://facebook.com/fpcnewport.org)

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

