



October 19, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship October 15

"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers." Acts 9:31



Rev Jeff Hutchinson's sermon from Acts 9:19-31, "Living in the Fear of the Lord and Encouraged by the Holy Spirit," focused on the importance of keeping yourself in the love of God and loving one another. Where the Lord is present there is hope and encouragement! Deidra Ricci was Lay Leader, and Susan Thow spoke about the Boston Project Ministry an amazing ministry in Dorchester, MA, that our church has long supported.



Looking ahead

Fall Clean-up New Date



October is the perfect time for a morning of fellowship and the feeling of a job well done! Join our annual FPC Fall Work Day **Saturday, October 28**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call or text Roger Ward for details. Wear your most comfy work clothes, and feel free to bring gloves, rakes and other tools (or just your willing hands) for a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks. No experience needed. Working together, we will clean up our church and grounds, and prepare for the winter season—and enjoy coffee and snacks!



Save the Date! The FPC Fall Retreat will be at FPC **November 4**. We will

explore the vision for FPC's future based on the efforts of the Vision Framing Committee. More to follow.

Help create our Advent Devotional!

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

- Begin with a scripture verse.
- Content (one to three paragraphs)
- End with a short prayer.

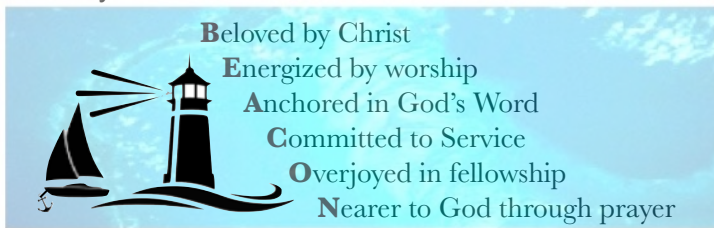


To be ready for the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, **we need your contribution no later than November 12**, the earlier the better. Drop it off at the office or send it to Brian Petit, blpetit56@gmail.com or secretary@fpcnewport.org.

On the Journey

Psalm 43:3 tells us God will "send forth your light and truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell."

The Vision Framing Team We will learn more about this team's work at our Fall Retreat as we discuss the draft statement of values and how to fulfill them. The draft vision statement describes FPC as "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 Haun, and Daryl Kolator*

Looking for FPC's 2024 leaders

The Nominating Committee is developing a slate of nominees for Elders and Deacons for 2024. We will vote on this slate **November 12** at a congregational meeting after worship service.

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

Pastor Nominating Committee meets at least once a week to conduct interviews. We welcome your questions or comments as we seek to determine God's plan for FPC. 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

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).



Be Involved...

Evensong meets at 6:00 p.m. Sunday (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 practice our weekly anthem as well as "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!



Sunday Flowers

If you would like to contribute financially to the flowers that beautify our sanctuary each Sunday, please contact Emily Halley via phone or text her at 408-668-4977. She and Bunny Miller will be coordinating flowers as Alice Hand heads to Tucson for the winter with our thanks for a job well done. Flowers can be designated in memory or honor of someone of your choosing or in celebration of a special event.

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 or Deidra Ricci (pamperdee@aol.com) about the next class.

Sunday School

- Elementary School students meet in the Sanctuary to sing, then have a lesson with Cindy Wilson in the room off the nursery.
- Middle Schoolers meet with Dave Kolator in the Resource Room for a small group study on the Gospel of John.
- Adults are continuing through the Psalms with sessions led by Sean and Chip until Advent.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study currently focuses on the "**Q Place**" study on *Prayer*. Please join either the afternoon Zoom group session Thursdays at 2 p.m. or the in-person study Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the Hometime Room.

Reaching out...



Operation Christmas Child

Filling shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in need around the globe has long been a beloved tradition at our church. This year, we have a new opportunity to help these gifts in their long journey.

In addition to filling our boxes, we have been selected as the area Drop Off site for Operation Christmas Child. This requires people to be available to collect the boxes during the week of November 13-20. Several two-hour time slots are available each day and evening. Contact Daryl Kolator (401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com).

We also need volunteers Saturday, November 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 when we will pack 75 boxes with items supplied by the Rhode Island Area Coordinator and 25 boxes with items purchased by FPC Deacons. Again, contact Daryl Kolator if you can help pack.

Food to Help

When people in our church experience a family illness, incapacity, new baby, or other event, a prepared dish can be the best gift. We would like to maintain a list of volunteers to call on when needed. If you are willing to prepare a main dish to be brought to someone's home, please contact Darien Petit at dspetit55@gmail.com.



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. At this time, pray especially for the people of Israel.

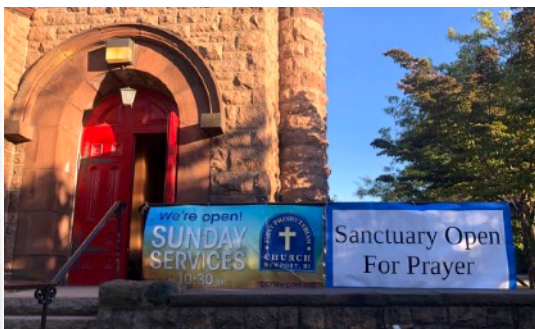
...for **spoken and unspoken needs** in our church family: for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and praise for answered prayers and God's omnipresence. As you pray, remember these and many others in our church family and beyond.

Mark Bland, Sean's father
Lynn Chase
Becky Farwick and family
Nadira's daughter Melissa
Bonnie's brother Mike
Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)
Darien Petit
Ralph and Alice Thomas
Cindy Wilson

Janet Champagne
Marcia Clark
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Bruce and Jan Jones
Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Rob Silvia
Thow family

May we pour out our hearts to the Lord and remember Psalm 3:8:

"From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people."



Welcoming neighbors and visitors

Saturday, October 14, First Presbyterian Church opened its doors to the public as part of Newport's annual Broadway Street Fair. Several visitors stopped in, and they were all very impressed with our sanctuary. Daryl Kolator, Don Fennessey, Bunny Miller and Richard Price all helped welcome guests. These Salve students learned about our historical and biblical stained glass and the other interesting special aspects of the church.



Pastor Appreciation Month is real at FPC!



Yes, the joy is back! This week we expressed our appreciation to Reverent Jeff Hutchinson and his wife Troy in these words: "Jeff and Troy brought the joy back to our congregation and made us feel loved again. We appreciate that you still make the journey once a month or more to be with us and preach and serve communion. You and Troy are a blessing to our congregation. We are a different church than the one you came to in April 2021. You both have encouraged us along the way with your enthusiasm for God's word, your joyful presence, your continued care for our congregation and your guidance to the Session. You did not try to fix us or tell us what we needed to do, you came alongside us and did ministry with us and welcomed us into your heart—and we are truly grateful." Rev. Hutchinson returns to FPC from his Connecticut responsibilities to celebrate communion and preach a sermon.



The robe Rev. Hutchinson wore Sunday is a Nigerian "agbada." It was given to him by his daughter's husband's family when Jeff recently performed their marriage. (He is very proud of it.)

And for those who missed coffee hour last week, we recognized Sean Bland, our Pastor in Residence, for all his work for the Lord at FPC. We wanted him to know how much we appreciate him and his love for the Lord, His Word, and our flock. We told him it was a joy to watch him grow as a Pastor as he tends to our needs as the body of Christ at FPC, and that he's done a wonderful job and we are very grateful to him and to God for his ministry to us.



FYI For amazing and heartwarming stories of the love of Jesus at work in Dorchester, MA, look up The Boston Project Ministry (tbpm.org.)

And one more "save the date"! Third annual women's Christmas brunch December 2, 10 a.m. More details soon!

Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, October 19

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

Saturday, October 21

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, October 22

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 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (at FPC)
6:30 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, October 25

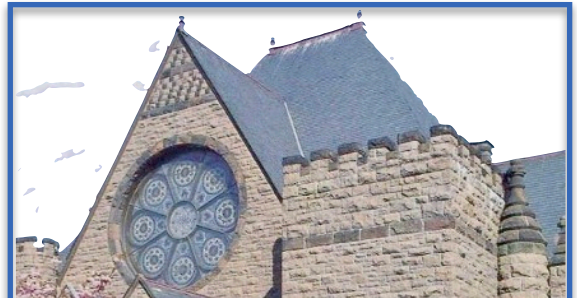
6:30 Choir rehearsal

Saturday, October 28, FPC Work Day
Saturday, November 4, Fall Retreat



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.

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.



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.

