



October 26, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship October 19

"There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. 'Aeneas,' Peter said to him, 'Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.' Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord." Acts 9:31

Rev Jeff Hutchinson's sermon, "Jesus Christ Heals You," recalled healing events from Acts 9:32-43 and how they relate to us today. The sermon reminded us that we bring the healing good news of Jesus with us when we travel with it, reaching others as Peter did—and when we welcome others in to our homes and fellowship, as Simon the Tanner did." He also had the joyous task of baptizing Kaden Nerheim, son of Rachel and Kevin Nerheim and grandson of Peggy and Dan Yates-Berg. Don Fennessey was lav leader.



Looking ahead

Fall Clean-up this Saturday

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 comfy work clothes, and 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, prepare for the winter season—and enjoy coffee and snacks!



Our fall retreat, *Developing Our Vision for Glorifying God and Growing in Christ*, will be here at FPC from 9:00 a.m. to noon, **November 4**. The Vision Framing Team will share its work over the last several months, and part of the process is engaging with and learning from members of the congregation. Please plan to be part of this important discussion!

Help create our Advent Devotional!

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.

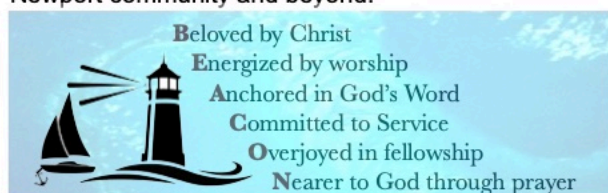
We need your contribution no later than November 12, the earlier the better. Drop it off at the office or send it to Brian Petit, blpetit56@gmail.com or secretary@fpcnewport.org.



On the Journey...

Let us seek the Lord's blessing on FPC as 1 Cor. 1:9 tells us "God, who called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful."

The Vision Framing Team We will learn more about this team's work at our Fall Retreat as we discuss our vision for FPC's future, as well as our 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 Kaun, and Daryl Kolator*



Pastor Nominating Committee meets at least once a week to conduct interviews. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We welcome questions or comments as we seek to determine God's plan for FPC. Email PNC@FPCNewport.org. *Greg Bloom, Deidra Ricci, Jamie Landsman, Barbara Ross, Mark Barnes, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey*

Selecting next year's leaders

Plan to attend the congregational meeting after Worship **November 12**. The nominating committee will recommend that Phil Thow and Chip Wilson be elected as Elders for the class of 2026, and Greg Bloom and Peggy Yates-Berg for the class of 2025.



Our third annual Women's Christmas Brunch will be Saturday, December 2, from 10 to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Last year's brunch was full of fellowship, laughter and great food. Don't miss this happy beginning of the Advent season!



The Lost and Found Box is full. Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of November. Come claim your lost treasures!

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 phone or text Emily Holley at 408-668-4977. She and Bunny Miller will coordinate 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 Bland and Chip Wilson until Advent.



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

Reach out...

Operation Christmas Child

Every year we fill shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in need around the globe. This year, we have a new opportunity to help these gifts in their long journey.



FPC has been selected as the area Drop Off site for Operation Christmas Child. We need to have a few people available to accept boxes during the week of November 13-20. Several two-hour time slots are available each day and evening.

We will also need volunteers Saturday, November 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 to pack 75 boxes with items supplied by the Rhode Island Area Coordinator and 25 boxes with items purchased by FPC Deacons. Contact Daryl Kolator (401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com). Kolator if you can help.

November is stewardship month



Our church reaches out to those in need in our congregation, community, and around the earth. We are able to do this because our church family members have always been generous with their time, talent and treasure. In fact, as of the end of September, we are running a surplus of approximately \$34,000. For the entire year, we anticipate a surplus of \$60,000. Continuing to build this surplus will enable us to call a new Pastor. This is attainable provided our attendance and giving continues to increase.

You will soon receive a letter and two pledge cards (general giving and capital improvement fund). Please fill these out and return them as soon as possible to help the Finance and Personnel Committee prepare our 2024 budget. Place them in the Sunday offering plate or send them to the church office. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Pray...



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

"To this end, we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and may fulfill every resolve for good, and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God, and the Lord Jesus Christ" 2 Thessalonians 1:11-1

...for our **church** as we rely on our faith in God's plan for all of us and reach out to those around us.

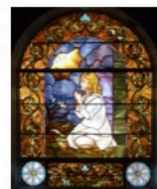
...for our **nation and its leaders**, for our first responders and for all those who serve our nation in dangerous parts of the world. At this time, pray especially for the people of Israel and all who are suffering from current strife.

...for **spoken and unspoken needs** in our church family: for health and healing, comfort in grief or hardship, and in 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	Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Bonnie's brother Mike	Peggy Hicks
Troy Hutchinson's mother	Bruce and Jan Jones
Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)	Lilia Svizzero Merrill
Darien Petit	Rob Silvia
Ralph and Alice Thomas	Thow family
Cindy Wilson	

"...and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.'"

Matthew 8: 16-17



DID YOU KNOW?

Qualified Charitable Distribution

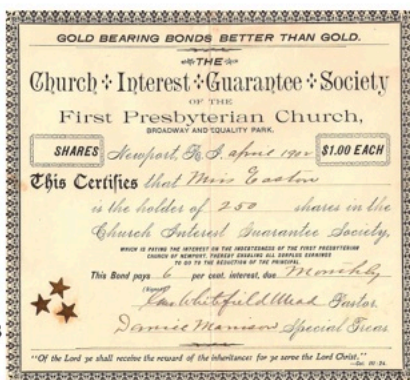
Is there an advantage of getting older? Yes, there may be, since an individual who has reached the age of at least 70½ can donate from an IRA account directly to FPC. This is called a "QCD," which stands for Qualified Charitable Distribution. The advantage of this type of donation is that donors can reduce their income from their IRA directly on their income taxes even if

they do not itemize their deductions. It may also help lower taxes due on other income and reduce certain thresholds for determining Medicare and health insurance costs. A QCD may save the donor on Federal and State income taxes and also benefit FPC. Please consult your tax advisor, or if you have questions about QCDs please contact the FPC Treasurer, Susan Thow.

Looking back—overcoming financial woes

Financial problems overshadowed everything else in our church's early years. The debt load from the construction of the new building was enormous. It cost far more than originally expected, even with all the volunteer labor of the church members. In 1899, the congregation was told that they still owed more than \$44,000—the equivalent of over a million dollars today. They owed money to the bank, the bondholders, various other creditors, and to the Church Erection Fund of the Presbyterian Church.

FPC's annual budget at that time was about \$3,000 a year and included interest payments on the debt, the pastor's salary, mission donations, and upkeep and maintenance for both the new church and the original Grace Chapel. (Sunday school classes were held at both locations for a number of years.) Often, the weekly Sunday offerings failed to meet minimum needs, and some of the elders and trustees reached deep into their own pockets once again to make up the difference. This was a time of great apprehension and financial uncertainty for the congregation. The Broadway and the Grace Chapel properties had been mortgaged and re-mortgaged, and there were other creditors who wanted to be paid. The company that supplied the stained-glass windows actually held the title to Grace Chapel for a while, and later the title was held by the company that made the church pews. In December 1902, apparently to avoid action by creditors, the title of the church property was legally transferred to one of the trustees, Joseph Haire, and the Grace Chapel property was similarly conveyed to William Leys, the church treasurer. Grace Chapel was finally sold in 1906.



To pay interest due on the original debt, new bonds were issued. This one paid six percent interest and was signed by the pastor, George Whitefield Mead.

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.

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.



Weekly Meetings and Activities

Thursday, October 26

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. office open
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pastor in office
2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturday, October 28

7:00 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

Sunday, October 29

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 30

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

Tuesday, October 31

9:00 - 4:00 p.m. Pastor in office
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (at FPC)
6:30 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, November 1

5:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen
6:30 Choir rehearsal

For your calendar

Saturday, Oct 28—FPC Work Day

Saturday, Nov 4—Fall Retreat

Sunday, Nov 12—Elect Elders/Deacons

Sunday, Nov 12—Advent devotions due

Saturday, Nov 25—Decorate church

Saturday, Dec 2—Women's Brunch

Sunday, Dec 10—Christmas In Newport



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.

