



November 9, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship - November 5

"Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'"

Luke 5:31-32



We were pleased to welcome David Alvarez back as guest preacher. David's sermon on Luke 5:27-39 asked us to consider: Are we living the "old wine life" of rules and exclusion of neighbors or the "new wine life" of a changed heart through repentance, embracing Jesus and inviting others into this grace-filled joy.

Tim Schultz was the lay leader and Greg Bloom gave an announcement about stewardship month.

Selecting Next Year's Leaders

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting held immediately following the service this Sunday, November 12. The nominating committee will recommend that the following covenant partners be elected:

Class of 2026

Elders: Phil Thow, Chip Wilson, Peggy Yates-Berg

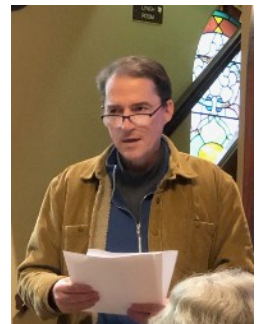
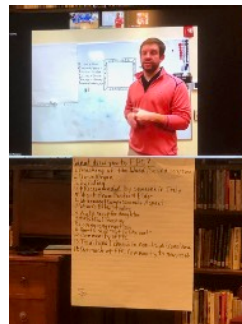
Deacon: Deb MacDowell

Class of 2025

Elder: Greg Bloom

Fall Retreat

At the fall retreat on November 4 attendees were given an update by the Vision Framing Committee on progress they have made on formulating a vision for the church. The Inner Life Committee led by the Petits prepared a beautiful spread, Mike Ricci was the tech expert, Tim Schultz made the opening remarks and Chip Wilson led the discussion. Pastor Allen Thompson of Fairview Presbyterian Church in North Augusta, SC, who has helped guide the VFC, also participated remotely.



Finance & Personnel

November is Stewardship Month

FPC has been blessed by the continued financial support of our congregation. As of the end of September, we are running a surplus of approximately \$34,000. For the entire year, we have forecasted a surplus of approximately \$60,000. We need to continue to build on our surplus to enable us to call a new pastor. This is not unattainable provided our attendance and giving continues to increase. Soon you will receive a letter and two pledge cards, one for General Giving and the one for the Capital Improvement Fund. These pledge cards assist the Finance and Personnel Committee in preparing our 2024 budget. Please prayerfully consider tithing. Your pledge cards can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or forwarded to the church office. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Qualified Charitable Distribution: Is there an advantage of getting older? It may be since an individual who has reached at least 70 ½, can donate from an IRA account directly to FPC. It is called a QCD which stands for Qualified Charitable Distribution. The advantage of this type of donation is the donor 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 still benefit FPC. Please consult your tax advisor or if you have questions about QCDs please contact Susan Thow, FPC Treasurer.

Holiday Happenings



Ladies, plan now to attend our Women's Christmas Brunch Saturday, December 2 from 10 to noon in the

Fellowship Hall. To RSVP, speak with Daryl Kolator on any Sunday, call 401-339-7625 or email dakolator@gmail.com.

Deck the Halls! Help decorate the church on Saturday, November 25 starting at 9 a.m.

The annual **Christmas In Newport Concert** will be Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at FPC.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is on Sunday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon on all of these holiday happenings!

It's Poinsettia Time!



These holiday plants lend their color and vibrancy to our sanctuary every Advent season. To dedicate a poinsettia in praise of or in memory of someone you love, complete the form below and send it to the church office or place in the offering plate. Only pre-paid orders will be accepted through November 26. Make checks payable to FPC or include cash payment. Please clearly designate the funds are for poinsettias.

Name(s) of Giver(s): _____

Phone: _____

In Praise Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Single Plants () x \$14 each = _____

Double Plants () x \$27 each = _____

Total Amount of Check Enclosed _____

Last Call for Advent Devotional Submissions



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 (1-3 paragraphs)
- End with a short prayer.

Contributions are due no later than November 12. Drop it off at the office or send it to Brian Petit (blpetit56@gmail.com) or secretary@fpcnewport.org.



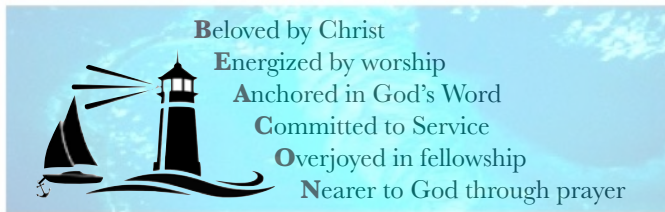
Game Night!

The last family game night of the year will be Friday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m. Pizza will be served. Bring salad or dessert to share if you wish. All are welcome to join the fun and fellowship.

On the Journey...

May the Lord help us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and so that He will provide all that we need.

The Vision Framing Committee is tasked with crafting a vision for FPC's future which articulates 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. **VFC Members:** *Chip Wilson, Tim Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Rachel Nerheim, Mike Ricci, Phil Haun, and Daryl Kolator*



The **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.

PNC Members: *Mark Barnes, Greg Bloom, Nancy Burgess, Susan Fennessey, Jamie Landsman, Deidra Ricci, and Barbara Ross*



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

Pray...

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

Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established.

- Proverbs 16:3

...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)
Chase family
Becky Farwick and family
Nadira's daughter Melissa
Bonnie's brother Mike
Troy Hutchinson's mother
Jamie Landsman
Rob Silvia
Ralph and Alice Thomas

Janet Champagne
Marcia Clark
Nadira Ferreira's father
Bonnie Haun and Sadie
Peggy Hicks
Bruce and Jan Jones
Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)
Lilia Svizzero Merrill

Soup Kitchen

On Wednesday, November 1 we served 30 guests and gave out 13 take-out meals of lasagna, mixed salad, Italian bread and butter and ice cream. Heartfelt thanks to: Brian & Darien Petit for planning and preparing the meal; Linda Conheeny, Regina Skudera, Julie Ward, Paul Cabral, Julie Lairsey, Coleen Spencer and Richard Price for preparing and serving; Judy Graves and Dave Kolator for cleaning up; and Jerry Spencer, Roger Ward and Phil Thow for greeting and welcoming all of our guests.



Operation Christmas Child

This year FPC has been selected as the drop off site for the area's Operation Christmas Child

boxes. Volunteers are needed to be on site to accept boxes at the church November 13-20. This is only a 2-hour commitment with various hours each day/evening available.

We will also need volunteers on Saturday, November 18 from 1 – 2:30 p.m. to pack 75 boxes with items supplied by the Rhode Island Area Coordinator and 25 boxes with items purchased by FPC Deacons.

Please contact Daryl Kolator at 401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com if you can help.

Be Involved...

Evensong meets at 6:00 p.m. Sundays on Zoom for worship with songs, scripture, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending please email Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com for the link.



Music Notes

Join us in the choir loft on Wednesdays as we practice our weekly anthem and prepare for "Christmas in Newport" in December. The choir practices Sunday anthem music at 6:00 p.m. and music for Christmas in Newport at 6:45 p.m., wrapping up by 7:30 p.m. Contact Angel at music@fpcnewport.org if you have any questions.

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. Emily and Bunny Miller are coordinating the weekly flower arrangements. Flowers can be designated in memory or honor of someone or in celebration of a special event.

Learn...

Sunday School

- Elementary school age 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 John.
- Adults are continuing through the Psalms with sessions led by Sean Bland and Chip Wilson.

The Women's Bible Study currently focuses on the *Q Place Study on Prayer*. Join in the afternoon Zoom group Thursdays at 2 p.m. or the in-person study Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Hometime Room.



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Fernella Smith who passed away on Sunday, November 5. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, November 11 at 11:30 a.m. at FPC with a reception to follow.

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.

This Week's Meetings and Activities

Thursday, November 9

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. *Office open*
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Pastor in office*
2 p.m. *Women's Bible Study (Zoom)*

Saturday, November 11

7 a.m. *Promise Keepers breakfast*

Sunday, November 12

9:15 a.m. *Sunday School*
10:30 a.m. *Worship service*
(nursery care available)
11:30 a.m. *Congregational meeting*
11:45 a.m. *Fellowship time*
6 p.m. *Evensong (Zoom)*

Monday, November 13

6 p.m. *Buildings & Grounds Committee*
7 p.m. *20s and 30s Small Group*
7 p.m. *Finance & Personnel Committee*

Tuesday, November 14

10 a.m. *Women's Bible Study (at FPC)*

Wednesday, November 15

6 p.m. *Choir rehearsal*

Mark Your Calendar

Fri., Nov. 17—Game Night

Sat., Nov. 25—Decorate church

Sat., Dec. 2—Women's Brunch

Sun., Dec. 10—Christmas In Newport

Sun., Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service



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 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

