



November 16, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship - November 12

"He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:42-43

Pastor-in-Residence Sean Bland returned this week to continue our time in the book of Acts, looking at two rituals in the life of the church: the Lord's Supper and baptism. Our observance and participation in these rituals is for the benefit of our relationship with God, with fellow believers, and with those outside of the faith. Both rituals are signs pointing to the amazing grace provided by God through salvation in Christ.



Sunday's service included beautiful gathering music from Richard Ashmore and Angel Conwell, a children's message from Pastor Jeff, the baptism of Karis Alvarez and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

With Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Fernella Smith who passed away on November 5. A lovely memorial service was held on Saturday, November 11 at FPC.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34



Game Night!

Don't miss the last family game night of the year. Join us this Friday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m. Pizza will be served. Bring salad or dessert to share if you wish. All are welcome.



The Women's Christmas Brunch is Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be food, fun and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. Contact Daryl Kolator at 401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com to RSVP or speak to her on any Sunday.

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.



Deck the Halls! Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Advent. Join us on Saturday, November 25 starting at 9 a.m.

Plan to attend the annual **Christmas In Newport Concert** on Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. There will be carol singing, choral anthems, Scripture and more. Invite friends and neighbors to this special time that is always uplifting and inspiring.

The annual **Holiday Potluck Supper and Carol Singing** is Sunday, December 17 at 4:30 p.m. The Inner Life Committee will provide a ham main course. Please bring a side dish or dessert if you are able. Following dinner we will gather around the piano to sing carols.

Christmas Eve Services will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Poinsettias



These beautiful holiday plants lend their color and vibrancy to our sanctuary every Advent season. 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 by November 26. Only pre-paid orders will be accepted. 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 = _____

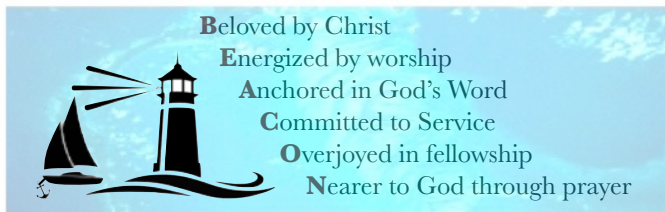
Double Plants () x \$27 each = _____

Total Amount of Check Enclosed _____

On the Journey...

Let us lift up prayers of thanks and praise for all the Lord has done for us.

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*

Serve...

Sunday Morning Greeters

We're looking to add more friendly faces to our greeter team. Simply arrive 15 minutes early to the worship service to say "Good morning!" and "Welcome!" to all those who come through our doors. Talk to Julie Ward on Sunday mornings, or contact the church office if you're interested.

Parents Afternoon Out

Plans are forming for a "Free the Parents" Saturday afternoon of childcare early in December. Adult help is needed and a final date is being determined. If you would like to spend an afternoon doing activities and having fun with the kids of the church, or if you have children you would like to lend us for the afternoon, contact Deidra Ricci or the church office.

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)
- Janet Champagne
- Chase family
- 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
- Jamie Landsman
- Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)
- Rob Silvia
- Family of Fernella Smith
- Lilia Svizzero Merrill
- Ralph and Alice Thomas



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

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 for more information.

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 – 9:15-10:15 a.m.

- 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 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.

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 16

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)*

Friday, November 17

5:30 p.m. *Game Night*

Saturday, November 18

7 a.m. *Promise Keepers breakfast*

Sunday, November 19

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

Tuesday, November 21

10 a.m. *Women's Bible Study (at FPC)*
6 p.m. *Choir rehearsal*

Saturday, November 25

9 a.m. *Church decorating*

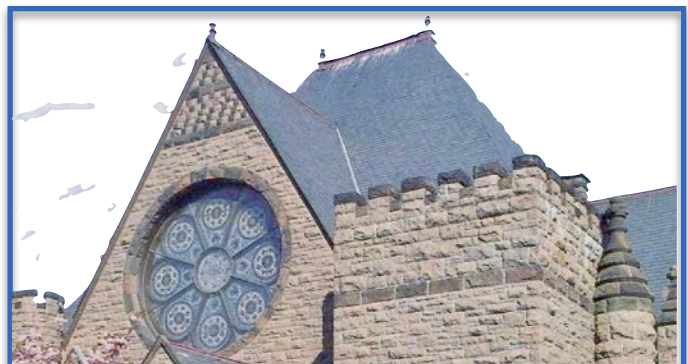
Mark Your Calendar

Sat., Dec. 2—Women's Brunch

Sun., Dec. 10—Christmas In Newport

**Sun., Dec. 17—Potluck Supper and
Carol Singing**

Sun., Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Services



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.

