



November 23, 2023

This week at FPC

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

Worship - November 19

"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Acts 11:26

What does it mean to call ourselves 'Christian'? Pastor-in-residence Sean Bland highlighted six expectations in his sermon from Acts 11:1-30:

1. **Be missional:** love our neighbors
2. **Be meek:** a lifelong learner
3. **Be magnanimous:** generous in giving and supporting others
4. **Be prepared to be mocked**
5. **Be misunderstood:** share the gospel message in truth and love
6. **Be remorseful and repent** over our sin

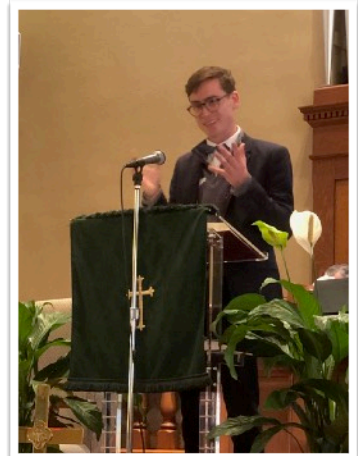


Thanksgiving GRATITUDE GAME

- NAME A PERSON YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR
- NAME SOMETHING YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR
- NAME A MEMORY YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR
- NAME A PLACE YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR
- NAME A SKILL YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR
- NAME ANYTHING YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR

Helpful Hands and Grateful Hearts

These kids were all smiles showing the candy bags they made which will be distributed to the FPC members the Deacons visit and at the Soup Kitchen in December. They ate some M&Ms while each shared something they were thankful before adding the candy to the goody bags.





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

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.

There will be a **Special Advent Children's Church Series** on December 3, 10 and 17. Young elementary aged students are invited to come participate in these special advent lessons following the Children's Sermon in the Sunday service.

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.

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.

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 _____



Thank you FPC!

Operation Christmas Child received 187 boxes to contribute to the outreach. Special thanks to

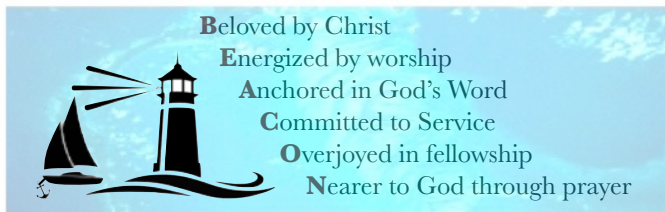
the Deacons and others who participated in our packing party with 115 boxes, and of course thanks to the individuals that created their own special boxes. Please remember to pray for the children who will receive a box of gifts and their opportunity to receive the Gospel.



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.

Nursery Helpers

Our nursery program is starting to grow again and we need a few more volunteers to ensure we can staff the room with two adults every Sunday. Sign up in the nursery room and indicate if you can help with a specific week or if you want to be included on the list of people who'd like to volunteer going forward!

Pray...

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

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

- Deuteronomy 31:6

...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

Finance & Personnel



Champlin Foundation Grant: The Distribution Committee of The Champlin Foundation has approved a grant in the amount of \$44,100.00 to First Presbyterian Church of

Newport to contribute to the refurbishment and repair of the Rose Window in 2024. The Finance and Personnel Committee along with the Building and Grounds Committee will be coordinating this repair to restore the Rose Window sills and framing to last for decades. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark your contribution on your pew envelope or check for the "Rose Window" repair.

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.

Game Night Fun!



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.



Last Chance!

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

Have news to share? Send it to secretary@fpcnewport.org. Include dates, times, details, and contact information.



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

Saturday, November 25

7 a.m. *Promise Keepers breakfast*
9 a.m. *Church decorating*

Sunday, November 26

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)*

Monday, November 27

7 p.m. *20s & 30s Single & Married Group*

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

6 p.m. *Choir rehearsal*

Thursday, November 30

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. *Church office open*
2 p.m. *Women's Bible Study (Zoom)*

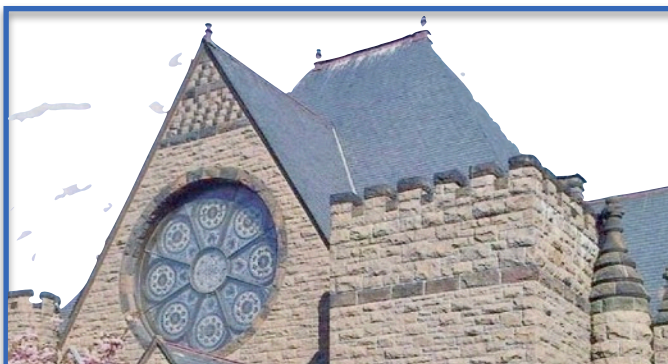
Mark Your Calendar

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.

