



November 30, 2023

This Week at FPC

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

Worship: November 26

"...the word of God continued to spread and flourish."

Acts 12:24

This week's sermon was from Acts 12, which details Peter's miraculous escape from prison and the reaction and response of the early followers of Christ. Pastor Sean reminded us of the importance of praying in all circumstances, and also specifically challenged us to pray:

- For God's word to multiply
- For God's servants to endure, especially those who are in prison and/or persecuted for the sake of the gospel
- For God's glory to advance
- For God's peace to spread



Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church for the Advent season:

Brian Petit
Brian Fennessey
Richard Price
Don Fennessey
Emily Holley
Regina Skudera
Deb MacDowell

Daryl Kolator
Angel Conwell
Juno Conwell
Eden Conwell
Zelda Conwell
Deidra Ricci
Mike Ricci





The **Women's Christmas Brunch** is Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Daryl Kolator at 401-339-7625 or dakolator@gmail.com to RSVP.

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

Free the Parents!

Mark your calendar for an afternoon out on Saturday, December 9 from 1 - 4 p.m. FPC is offering parents an afternoon of free childcare while your children spend a fun few hours participating in games and other activities. If you have children you would like to lend us for the afternoon, or if you would like to spend an afternoon doing activities and having fun with the kids of FPC, please contact Deidra Ricci at pampereedee@aol.com.

A **Holiday Potluck Supper and Carol Singing** will be held on 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.

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.



Christmas In Newport Concert

Invite friends and neighbors to this free annual concert for our community on Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. There will be carol singing, choral anthems, Scripture readings and more. A reception will follow.

The congregation is asked to bring finger food to be shared with concert goers to spread Christmas cheer and extend our hospitality. If you are able to bring something, please contact Nancy Burgess at nancykayaks@cox.net or call 401-835-0183 before December 7th.

Thank you to Brian and Darien Petit for putting together this year's **Advent Devotional booklet**. Copies are available in the back of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall. Pick one up and enjoy these reflections on the true meaning of Christmas, contributed by members and friends of FPC. If you are not able to pick one up, call the office (847-1749) to have one mailed to you.

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** is going through the *Q Place Study on Prayer*. Join the afternoon Zoom group Thursdays at 2 p.m. or the in-person study Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Hometime Room.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. —Colossians 1:9

On the Journey...

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

Be Involved...

Evensong meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. 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. The choir practices Sunday anthem music at 6 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.



Have news to share?

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



May God give FPC the grace to live a life that is worthy of Him and the power to accomplish all of the good things He has planned for FPC.

Pray...

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

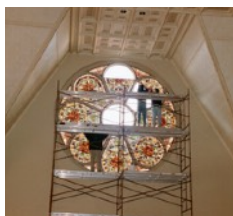
...for our church as we rely on our faith in God's plan for all of us and reach out to those around us.

...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. You should have received 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.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 30

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

Saturday, December 2

7 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Women's Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 3

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

Monday, December 4

10 a.m. Worship Committee

Tuesday, December 5

10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (at FPC)
7 p.m. Inner Life Committee

Wednesday, December 6

5 p.m. Soup Kitchen
6 p.m. Choir rehearsal

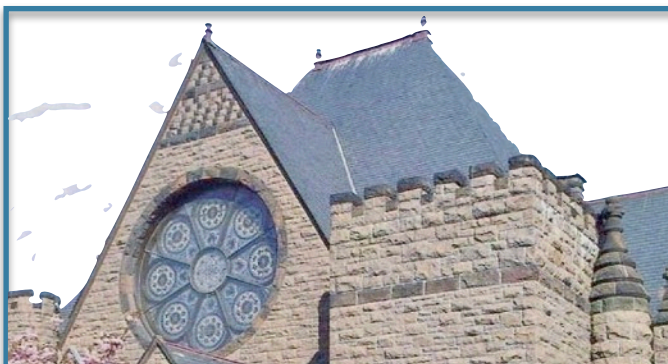
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sat., Dec. 9 — Parents Afternoon Out

Sun., Dec. 10 — Christmas in Newport

Sun., Dec. 17 — Potluck Supper &
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.



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.