



December 21, 2023

# This Week at FPC

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

## Worship: December 17

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his  
people and has raised up a horn of  
salvation for us in the house of his  
servant David."*

*Luke 1:68-69*

## The Tender Mercy of God

Pastor-in-Residence Sean Bland continued our lesson in Luke 1 with a look at the birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's Prophecy in verses 57-80.

While there is much to be excited about in the Advent season, it is not always full of joy for some. Difficulties and challenges can dampen our joy. Yet from this passage we learn that we can still take time find joy and celebrate:

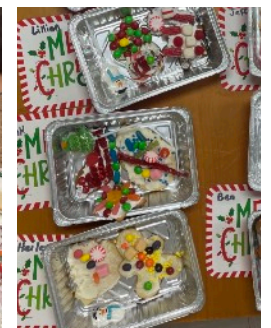
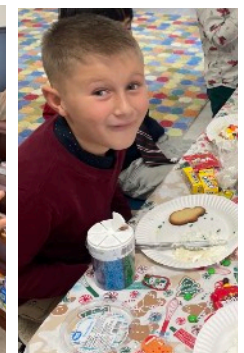
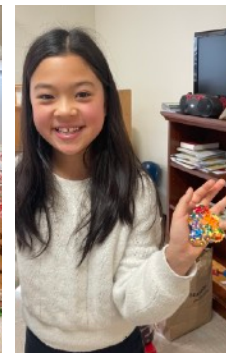
1. **Rejoice when others have joy**, thanking God for the good gifts and blessings he gives to others.
2. **Rejoice in God's decisions**. Even in our hard circumstances we can still find joy in what God has ordained for us.
3. **Rejoice when God's hand is with his people**. God encourages, strengthens, and guides us.
4. **Rejoice that God's spirit fills His servants**.
5. **Rejoice that God visits people**. He is the great Shepherd, meeting people where they are.
6. **Rejoice that God keeps his promises**.
7. **Rejoice that we have been saved from the enemy into God's services**.
8. **Rejoice that the sun has risen**, bringing light which distills the clouds of darkness and despair.



Lighting of the Advent Candle with Mike Hicks, Ling-I Huang, Isaac Hicks and Peggy Leino Hicks; Children's sermon with Pastor Sean



The special Advent children's church activity on December 10 included a lesson involving decorating cookies.



## Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior

Join the joyful celebration Christmas Eve morning at 10:30 a.m. and at the candlelight service at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided in the morning service only. Both services will be livestreamed at [fpcnewport.org](http://fpcnewport.org).

# With Grateful Hearts...

## An Update From the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee thanks everyone for your continued prayers of support, encouragement, and discernment for the process we have gone through this past year. We also thank you for the patience you have given us. We are nearing the end of our journey to discover the pastor that God has planned for First Presbyterian Church. We look forward to being able to share more details next month.

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

## Buildings & Grounds

### More Parking!

The parking lot of the former Dunkin Donuts at the corner of Everett and Broadway is once again available for parking on Sunday mornings.

### Handicapped Parking Spots

Now that more parking is available across Everett Street we ask that the spots in the parking lot be reserved for those in our congregation with limited abilities.



### Have news to share?

Send it to [secretary@fpcnewport.org](mailto:secretary@fpcnewport.org). Include dates, times, details, and contact information.

## 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](mailto:mm9616b@gmail.com) for the link.

### Music Notes

Love to sing? Join the choir! The choir meets in the choir loft at 6:30 Wednesday evenings, then at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings to warm up before service. Contact Angel at [music@fpcnewport.org](mailto: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.



*“And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.”*

Ezekiel 34:23

## Pray...

**...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
- Bonnie's brother Mike
- Troy Hutchinson's mother
- Bruce and Jan Jones
- Jamie Landsman
- Ida Lash (Stacie's mom)
- Peggy Leino
- Ken Scigulinsky
- Rob Silvia
- Lilia Svizzero Merrill and daughter Dana
- Ralph and Alice Thomas







## Poinsettias...Given In Love

### In Memory of

**Donald and Louise Fennessey and Dennis and Phyllis Tudor** by Don and Sue Fennessey

**Loved Ones** by Roger and Julie Ward

**George and Jessie Davis** by William Davis

**Warren B Hartwell** by Nancy Hartwell and family

**My husband, Don Miller** by Bunny Miller

**Case and Mary Hoogendoorn, Frank and Carolyn Sisson, Sarah and Martin Manley and Anna Bulk** by Dick and Judy Hoogendoorn

**Robert Henry, loving husband, father, and Beepa** by the Aleicho family

**Dora and Jose Aleicho and Ann Marie Blythe, Love and miss you,** by the Aleicho family

**Gordon Stewart** by Nanci Stewart

**Norman Champagne** by Janet Champagne

**Loved Ones** by Janet Champagne

**Cayden Joseph Ricci** by Mike and Deidra Ricci

**Loved Ones** by Mike and Deidra Ricci

**Alex Gair** by the Gair family

**Our parents David and Lynn (Tisdall) Tenney, Our son Christian David-Allan MacFarland** by Scott & NancyDee (Tenney) MacFarland

**Al and Barbie Angel, Craig Anthony Ruggiero** by Tony and Elaine Ruggiero

**My mother, Betty McEachern** by Bonnie Haun

**Loved Ones** by Lawrence and Lynn Chase

**Ruth Barnes** by the Barnes family

**Irene Heslin and Dorothy Skudera** by Regina and Wayne Skudera

**Captain Charles Quinn** by his wife Nancy Quinn

**My parents, Frank and Hilda Shaffer** by Emily Holley

**Colonel Frank A Clark** by Marcia M M Clark

**Robert Henry** by Carolyn J Henry

**Robert Henry, Chet Straka, and Harold Sullivan** by the Straka Family

**Our Loved Ones Who've Gone Before** by Chip and Cindy Wilson

**My husband, CDR William Robert Lang, my son, Peter James Lang** by Sandy Lang

### In Praise of

**God's Goodness to Us!!** by the Browne family

**Our sons, Sam and Nick** by Chip and Cindy Wilson

**God's Amazing Love!** by Richard and Cindy Price

**Our children, Erin, Andrew, and Lauren** by Andrew and Kristen Aleicho

**My grandchildren Frank and Lillian Ross** by Karen and David Addy

**Our first grandchild, Riley Lynn Oates** by Scott & NancyDee (Tenney) MacFarland

**Our Church** by Deb MacDowell

## Reaching Out...

### Gift Card Donations

As part of the continuing outreach to those in our community, in December the Deacons purchased \$200 worth of gift cards for children in DCYF care particularly focusing on the children in Newport County.



### EBCAP Adopt-A-Family Program Pickup

As part of our partnership with East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP), FPC again served as a distribution location for their annual Adopt-A-Family program. Donations given for families in need are collected, sorted and distributed in the span of only two days. We are grateful to be able to offer our space to help this wonderful organization.



## 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.





## Potluck & Carol Singing

A jolly group of about 25, ate, laughed, and selected their favorite Christmas carols to sing last Friday evening! Lots of good food and enthusiastic song requests filled the evening with a happy Christmas spirit! Thanks to all who worked hard to organize this fun event!



### THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

#### Thursday, December 21

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Church office open

#### Saturday, December 23

7 a.m. Promise Keepers breakfast

#### Sunday, December 24

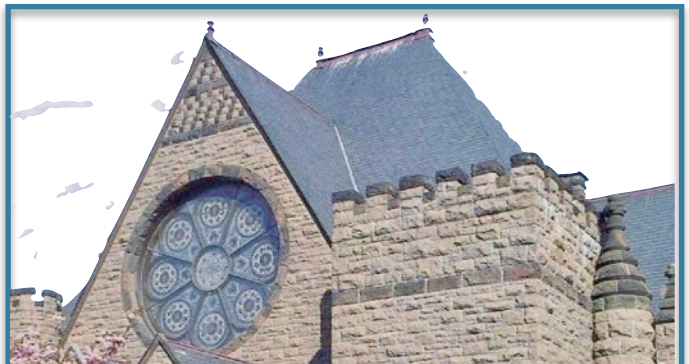
10 a.m. Pre-worship Prayer

10:30 a.m. Worship service

(nursery care available)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship time

6:30 p.m. Candlelight 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](http://fpcnewport.org)

[facebook.com/fpcnewport.org](https://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](http://fpcnewport.org). Be sure to subscribe for easier access. This QR code will take you directly to our website.