



April 11, 2024

# This Week at FPC

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

*“Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”*

Acts 15:10-11

## Grace Changes Everything

This week Sean preached on the meeting of the 'Jerusalem Council' in Acts 15. There, the gathered group of Elders and Apostles decreed that Gentiles coming to faith in Christ did not need to be circumcised. The key word in the argument is "grace" – unmerited favor. The Apostles and Elders realize that both Jew and Gentile are saved the same way: through grace, not through being perfect. Grace changes everything, it changes how we argue, lead, read (the Bible), and worship.



## A Few Odds and A Couple of Ends from Acts 15

*Pastor Sean often has more to share with us than he is able to fit in his sermon on Sundays. Here he shares “a few odds and couple ends” for our further understanding and contemplation.*

Someone asked me this week after the sermon about the stipulations on Gentiles to not eat meat strangled or with blood and to avoid sexual immorality. Each of the words used here are specific terms associated with the worship of idols, and so the council seemed to be saying that, at that time, Gentiles needed to guard the conscience of their Jewish brothers and sisters. It doesn't mean that we should avoid eating nice medium-rare steaks today. It also doesn't mean that the Old Testament laws have no use for us – they are to be read by Christians to grow in grace and love for our neighbors and to see where we fall short of this. We are to keep the law in response to grace, and not as a means of salvation.

## ***This Sunday***

Rev. Jeff Hutchinson will return to the pulpit this Sunday, April 14. In addition to inspiring us with The Word, he will lead a presbytery delegation to commission Sean Bland as a lay pastor.

We would like to memorialize this event by taking a 'family' picture immediately after service. Please then join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of celebration.

## Show Our College Students We Care!

FPC's Inner Life Committee is preparing care packages to our college students to help get them through the final stretch of classes. Please bring any contributions to the Fellowship Hall by this Sunday. If you have a college student in your family, be sure we have his or her name and current college address, or home address if your student is a commuter. Email or call Mark Barnes at markdbarnes01@gmail.com or 617-448-4109, or call the church office.



### Ladies Spring Fling Tea

Ladies, please join us for food, friends, flower activities and more! The Ladies Spring Fling Tea is Saturday, April 27 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You will take home a small bouquet that you make yourself plus a surprise gift.

To join this very fun time, please use the sign up list in the Fellowship Hall or contact Darien Petit at dspetit55@gmail.com or call 401-323-0077 by Wednesday, April 24.

## Food Pantry

Each month we support a local food pantry. Along with donations from our congregation, an additional \$300 worth of groceries is delivered by the Deacons every month to the St. Joseph's Food Pantry on Broadway. We recently received the following note from them expressing their appreciation:

*First Presbyterian Church Members, Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Food Pantry. It could not have come at a better time. I know that it takes time and effort to have a food collection and we appreciate what you do. Our Food Pantry is much busier than it has ever been in the past, and donations like yours help us to keep going. Your generosity is a blessing to us and to everyone we serve. Thank you again and God bless you.*



### Soup Kitchen Report

On Wednesday April 3 we served 41 guests and 8 take-out meals consisting of BBQ pulled chicken sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, plus brownies and ice cream for dessert. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who helped: Deidra and Mike Ricci for planning and preparing the meal; Regina Skudera, Linda Conheeny, Julie Ward, Julie Lairsey, Robert and Christine Sahms, Paul Cabral, Dave Kolator, Coleen Spencer, Mike Ricci and new helpers Bryant and Hunter for preparing and serving; and Jerry Spencer, Richard Price and Roger Ward for greeting and welcoming our guests. Many guests expressed their thanks for a great meal upon leaving.

## Pray for the Pastor

There is no better way to support our pastor than to pray for him. Pick up one of the brochures as we embark on this 30-week journey to pray for Sean. Each week's prayer will be in the Sunday bulletin and in the weekly e-news.

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Matthew 6:33

## Pray...

**...for our pastor.** Pray that Sean will cultivate strong character and uncompromising integrity. Pray that his testimony will be genuine, and that he will never do anything he would need to hide from others (Eph. 6:10-12; 1 Tim. 1:5; 3:7).

**...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.

**...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:

- Sean Bland and family
- Brenda (Troy Hutchinson's mother)
- Janet Champagne
- David Chase
- Becky Farwick and family
- Bonnie Haun
- John (Nadira Ferreira's father)
- Bruce and Jan Jones
- Jamie Landsman and brother-in-law Stacey Ruff
- Ida Lash (Stacie Schultz's mom)
- David Price (Richard Price's brother)
- Ken Scigulinsky
- Diane Sommerset (Brian Petit's sister)
- Coleen and Jerry Spencer
- Lilia Svizzero Merrill and daughter Dana
- Ralph and Alice Thomas
- Roger Ward's mother Shirley and sister Heather
- Robert White
- The church neighborhood



## Be Involved...

**Evensong** meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. on Zoom for worship with songs, scripture, and fellowship. Email Brian Ross at mm9616b@gmail.com for the link.

### Music Notes

Love to sing? Join the choir! The choir meets in the choir loft at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. to warm up before the service. Contact Angel at music@fpcnewport.org for more info.

### Sunday Flowers

If you would like to contribute financially to the flowers that beautify our sanctuary each Sunday, contact Emily Holley at 408-668-4977. Emily and Bunny Miller are coordinating the flower arrangements. Flowers can be designated in memory or honor of someone or in celebration of a special event.

### Young Adult Small Group

All young adults, single and married, are invited to this time of Bible study and fellowship. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at the home of Brian Fennessey. Speak with Brian or reach out to the church office for more information.

### Small Group Bible Study

This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 7 p.m. at rotating home locations of the members. Email Daryl Kolator at dakolator@gmail.com for details.

### Women's Bible Study

Join other ladies on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Hometime Room or on Thursdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom.

## 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 meet in the Hometime Room.

### Pastoral Office Hours

Sean has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please stop by to share your thoughts about a recent sermon, discuss the life of the church or just say hi. Sean is also available on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment only.



**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, April 11

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. *Pastor office hours*  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. *Church office open*  
2 p.m. *Women's Bible Study (Zoom)*

### Friday, April 12

7 p.m. *Small Group Bible Study*

### Saturday, April 13

7 a.m. *Promise Keepers breakfast*

### Sunday, April 14

9:15 a.m. *Sunday School*  
10 a.m. *Pre-worship Prayer*  
10:30 a.m. *Worship Service*  
11:30 a.m. *Fellowship Time*  
6:30 p.m. *Evensong (Zoom)*

### Monday, April 15

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. *Pastor office hours*  
*(by appointment only)*

### Tuesday, April 16

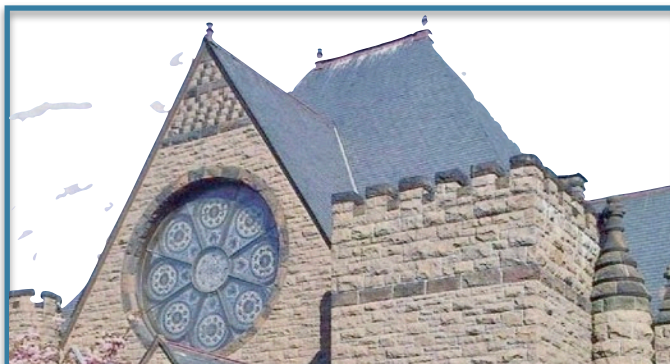
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. *Pastor office hours*  
10 a.m. *Women's Bible Study (at FPC)*

### Wednesday, April 17

6 p.m. *Choir rehearsal*

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday, April 27 - Ladies Spring Fling**



*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.

