

January 3, 2025



This Week at FPC

Worship: December 29

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus”

1 Timothy 2:5



The Birth of the One Mediator Between the One God and Humankind

This week, Sean preached from 1 Timothy 2:1-7. This passage teaches us that God is one, holy, and inclusive. In response, let us pray to God *through Christ for All*.

A Few Odds and Couple of Ends

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

This passage teaches us about the radical exclusivity AND inclusivity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is exclusive, in that there is only one God and only one way to that one God, His one and only Son (which Jesus also says when he remarks that he is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one can come to Father except through him). But the gospel is also inclusive, for God desires all to come to Him through His son, Jew and Gentile alike.



We were thrilled to welcome Pastor Sean’s mother, brother and sister-in-law at Sunday’s service.



As we wrap up another year here at First Presbyterian Church, I just want to thank you all for your prayers for our church and involvement in this community. I am excited about a new year here and for all that I trust God will continue to do. Mary and I are getting married on January 5 in Salisbury MA, and will be off to Hawaii for a few weeks on our honeymoon. We are both looking forward to returning and celebrating with everyone here!

I think God is doing some extraordinary things here at FPCN. I have so enjoyed being here for the past year and half, and cannot believe how quickly time has gone. When I came as an intern for the summer of 2022, our church was just going through a period of conflict, I was still in seminary, single, and my father was well. Now, our church is growing and moving forward by God's grace, I have graduated from seminary, am soon to be married, and my father is with God in glory. A lot can change in a short amount of time - "all we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us" as Gandalf said. Let us use our time in 2025 well and for God's glory, with an eye to eternity, and with prayerful hearts.

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8-10

Pray...

...for our pastor. Pray for discernment and sensitivity to what is pleasing to God. (Phil. 1:9-11, Col 1:9-11)

...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:

- Janet Champagne
- Family of Larry Chase
- Traci Dalton
- Family of Becky Farwick
- Bonnie Haun
- Dick and Margaret Falb
- Melissa Ferreira
- Ellie Green and family
- Bruce and Jan Jones
- Ida Lash
- Peggy Leino
- Odile Mukiza
- Beverly Pascoal
- Brian Petit
- Stacey Ruff
- Ken Scigulinsky
- Diane Sommerset
- Lilia Svizzero Merrill and daughter Dana
- Ralph and Alice Thomas
- Phil Thow
- Roger Ward’s sister Heather
- Robert White
- The church neighborhood



Un-Deck the Halls

Mark your calendar and help “un-decorate” the church. Please join us tomorrow, Saturday, January 4 from 9 to 11 a.m. to help take down the Christmas decorations. *Thank you!*

Women’s Bible Study

A new women’s Bible study will be offered in February. “The God of His Word” is a 6-week video Bible study that explores some of the names for God used in scripture and what they say about his nature and character. It will be available in person at FPC on Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. or by Zoom on Thursdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. If you would like to attend or have any questions, please contact Deidra Ricci at Pamperedee@aol.com. Study guides will be ordered by mid-January.



Holy Communion

In January, communion will be on the third Sunday of the month, January 19. In February, communion will be on the second Sunday of the month, February 9.

Attention FPC Men

Save the date! You are invited to breakfast in the church dining room at 8:30 on Saturday, January 25. We will kick off 2025 with fellowship, pancakes, eggs and meat! Pastor Sean will present his vision for men's ministry for next year, and we will enjoy a presentation by Thomas McMillan from Iron Sharpens Iron. Contact Don Fennessey at 401-855-6716 or fenns@hotmail.com if you plan to be hungry that day!

Pastor Office Hours

Please also note, Pastor Sean will be out of the office and unavailable between January 5 and January 17. During this time, please contact Administrative Assistant Kendra Fleming for any urgent matters.



Call for Sextons

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the FPC facilities for worship and special services. Flexible schedule and exciting chance to become part of the FPC ethos. Not required to be quirky or nuts, but the ability to lurk among the shadows is a plus. Please talk to Roger Ward if interested!

2nd Annual Church Family Photo



On Friday, December 27th the FPC Men's Group celebrated Sean's pending nuptials at Stumpy's Hatchet House in Fall River, MA. It was an evening of fellowship for 17 men during the holiday season. It was also an "axcellent" way to wish Sean and Mary a long and prosperous marriage.



Learn and Grow...

Sunday School/Childcare for Infants, Toddlers, Pre-school and Lower Elementary:

- Childcare is provided from 9:15-10:30 a.m. in the nursery rooms.
- During the service childcare for infants and toddlers is provided in the nursery room.
- Instruction for pre-school and lower elementary children will follow the children's message in the room off the main nursery room.

Sunday School

- Upper Elementary/Middle School with Dave Kolator: Meets in the Resource Room
- Grade 9-12 with Dan Yates-Berg: Meets in the Lynch Room
- Adults: Meet in the Hometime Room

Young Adult Small Group

Young adults (20s and 30s+), single and married, meet on the second Thursday of each month for a time of Bible study and fellowship. Contact Rachel Schulz at rachelschulz23@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

Groups meet on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in person or on Thursday at 2 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Deidra Ricci at Pamperedee@aol.com or 401-447-3833 for more info.

Small Group Bible Study

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 7 p.m. at rotating homes of the members. Contact Daryl Kolator at dakolator@gmail.com.

Evensong

Join us Sundays at 6 p.m. on Zoom for worship with songs, scripture, and fellowship. Contact Cindy Wilson or Kendra Fleming (adminassistant@fpcnewport.org) for the link.

The MomCo

The MomCo (for moms of infants through middle schoolers) meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Contact Rachel Nerheim at fpcmomco@gmail.com.

'The Story' Study

This group meets on Friday evenings using The Story, an abridged chronological Bible. Join us Friday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Hometime Room. Childcare is available for ages 2-12. Email Michael Hicks at michaelehicks89@gmail.com.

"The Story" is a 31-lesson study of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This group for men meets every other Thursday and is led by Mike Hicks. Email michaelehicks89@gmail.com or call 612-393-9298 for details.

BetterMan is an 11-session study devoted to being better men, husbands, fathers, servants and followers of Christ. The group meets on alternating Thursday evenings. Contact Don Fennessey at fenns@hotmail.com or 401-855-6716.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday, January 3

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Church office open
6:30 p.m. 'The Story' Bible Study

Saturday, January 4

7:30 a.m. FPC Men's Breakfast
9 - 11 a.m. Un-decorating the Church

Sunday, January 5

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

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

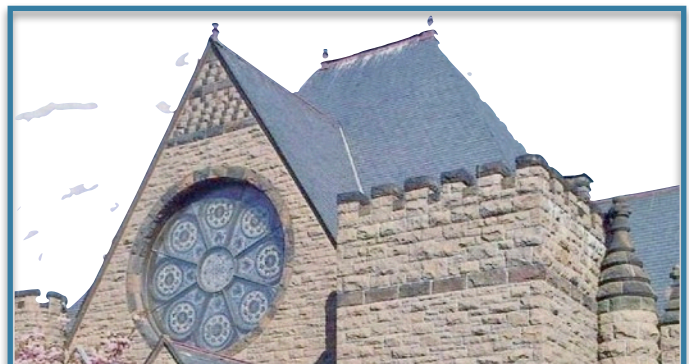
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Church office open
10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (at FPC)
6:30 p.m. MomCo
7 p.m. Inner Life Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 8

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Church office open
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 9

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Church office open
2 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
7 p.m. Men's Bible Study
7 p.m. Young Adult Small Group



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

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

