

January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

We come to this space, following the star, seeking a miracle.

Leader: You will see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice

for here we find a prophecy fulfilled, and a mystery revealed!

Let us worship the light of God revealed to us.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Refugee of Israel, we would like to believe that we would be like the magi, that we would protect the innocent child, that we would stand up to power. But too often we have turned away from those who need us. Too often we have bent to the powers that be, resigning ourselves to the way it has always been. Forgive our lack of action, guide us back to your purposes, and help us be brave enough to do your will.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God calls to us from wherever we are. God's love shines like a beacon. God's voice echoes in our souls, "You are forgiven!"

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #62 "Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love"

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 60:1-76 (O.T. pg. 690)
Matthew 2:1-12 (N.T. pg. 2)

ANTHEM

"We Adore" Sarah Hart & Scott Krippayne

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON:

"The Light of God Revealed"

Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #66

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS #581

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast.

HYMN #53

“What Child Is This”

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #411 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”
GOD REST YOU MERRY

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams Bio:

Janet grew up in California. A graduate of Fuller Seminary and Louisville Seminary, she has served churches in Caldwell, Irvington, Elizabeth, and West Milford, before moving to Lawrenceville. Her and her husband have one son, who is a music teacher. In her spare time, Janet enjoys travel, reading and quilting.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

January 8, 2023



“The Light of God Revealed”
Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams

Prayers for those with long-term concerns

We ask that these friends have God in their lives, that they and their families feel His loving presence, and comfort during their continued struggles. Updates will be printed as available.

Jennifer Perez – RSD/CRPS, & gastroparesis

Maria - a friend of the Knotts and Haggerty families; she is in an acute care facility for traumatic brain injury.

Friends and Loved Ones in the Service and their Families

STATESIDE

Robert L. Gillis – invasive cardiovascular technologist in the US Navy and stationed at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, grandson of Barbara & Bill Morgan.

Lauren Hansen-Salmond – 1st LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – 1st LT, Kuwait, Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

The children and youth in our congregation and our youth ministry
Racial equality reconciliation in Woodbridge Township and our nation.

Our ministry partners –

Boys Town

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

International Students, Inc.

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Reliant Redemption Church, Pennsylvania

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude's Children's Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises

January 8, 2023

The Prayer Chain - provides immediate prayer for *critical and emergency situations*. All other needs will be taken care of through the prayer list. To place someone on the prayer chain call Millie Knotts at 732-382-9391.

The Prayer List - provides opportunities to share prayer within our church family. Prayer requests will be published for up to 6 weeks unless updated. To add someone to this list call the church office at 732-634-1631.

(Note: Please be sure the person you are adding to this list has given his or her permission to do so).

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people”

Ephesians 6:18

New Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Bob Fernandez, Joe Fernandez's dad, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Please pray for his peace and comfort and for his family.

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th Week

Prayers for our long-time church member Bill Morgan who is 93 years old and not doing well. Prayers for peace and comfort for him and Barbara.

5th Week

6th Week

Please pray for Donalda Funk, who is in CareOne rehabilitation.

Please pray for James Tuerke, Emily Palmer's brother, who is back in CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) having issues with his port. They are running tests to determine if it must be surgically replaced.

Please pray for the PNC as they work hard to find a Pastor.

Prayers and Sympathies

SHUT-INS

Please continue to keep in your prayers those members who are unable to join us for worship on Sundays.

Health and Healing
Carol Palmer and Jen Perez

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is **to grow in Christ and make Him known**. This is based on John 15:5: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches, apart from me you can do nothing." The Holy Spirit strengthens us to:

1. **Connect** to the vine,
2. **Grow** to maturity,
3. **Share** the fruit

STEWARDSHIP 2021

In an effort to help our congregation track our annual budget as it compares to giving, the Session has decided to include a brief monthly report. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and are completely dependent upon tithes, offerings, and donations to fulfill our budgeted expenses.

General Fund Balance	Net for the month	YTD
12/31/2022	\$ 83,459.40	

CHURCH PROPERTY ACTIVE STEWARDS NEEDED (for pay) – When we rent church property such as the gym (Westminster Hall) or Jacob Morgan Hall, a church member must be present on site. Stewards open/close the building and oversee good property stewardship. For their service, stewards are paid \$12/hour (by renters). If you are able to serve in this way (occasionally or regularly), or have questions or would like more information, please call the church office from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE! WE BELIEVE YOU ARE HERE FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE. LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU TODAY!

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

SUNDAY, January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –
(Guest Minister – Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, January 9, 2023

TUESDAY, January 10, 2023

7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting – CR

WEDNESDAY, January 11, 2023

8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In
(425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#.

THURSDAY, January 12, 2023

FRIDAY, January 13, 2023

SATURDAY, January 14, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Alice Batcher)
Ordination/Installation of Deacons & Elders
Live Stream-Facebook

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are available on the chancel flower calendar: January 15th & January 22nd. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and is to be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is every **Wednesday** evening at 8 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski at 908-930-3628.

WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM – via Facebook every Sunday at 10:00 am. We hope you will join us online if you will not be attending at the church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

BULLETINS – are now on our website.

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – is on Saturdays from 9:30am to 11:00am in the Sanctuary's Choir Room. Bring your projects, a friend, and any patterns you would like to share or may need help with. We can learn new things from each other.

WALTER HOVING HOME – will be our guests on Sunday, January 22nd. If anyone has items that they purchased for them for Christmas, they will gladly accept them then.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, January 15th is Rev. Alice Batchner. She is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!

Visitors, we welcome you to this morning's time of worship. If you are looking for a church home or would like to explore the meaning of membership at Avenel Presbyterian Church, please ask an usher or the worship assistant.

<i>Joseph Fernandez</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>resolutjoe@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Stephanie Kurowsky</i>	<i>Stream Lines</i>	<i>avenelstreamlines@comcast.net</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2022</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Susan Smolsky</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>rustisioux@comcast.net</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>

Scripture for Saturday, January 15th

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42