

January 21, 2024

10:00 a.m.

3rdh Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delia Zelazny

MOMENT FOR MISSION Matt Barany, Second Level Ministry

PRELUDE "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" HYMN #404

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God calls us here to worship.

**We are here to worship.**

Drop your nets and leave your boats. God is with us. Jesus calls us.

**We are here to worship.**

Let us worship God together.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Diane Anderson-Butts

OPENING HYMN #306

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh. We have gotten comfortable in our categories: haves and have-nots, makers and takers, bigots and bystanders, self-starters and subordinates, law-abiders and illegals, the perpetrators, and the innocent. We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy. Let us hear your good news again.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Diane Anderson-Butts

God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and

transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Let us confess the faith of the Church as one, using the words of the Apostles' Creed. Church, what do you believe?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(\*universal)

**HEARING THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1: 14-20 (N.T. pg. 51)

Children's Sermon

ANTHEM

"Why Me Lord"

Kris Kristofferson

Guitar – Rich Culton Harmonica – Jake Stockl

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

SERMON: "We Need to Change the Bait!" Diane Anderson-Butts

**SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*RESPONSE HYMN #525

"Here I Am, 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

### CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #403 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "He is Exalted" *[insert]* Twila Paris

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

\*Please stand if able

#### **Diane Anderson-Butts Bio:**

Diane Anderson-Butts is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. She is the founder and spiritual leader of Faith Works, an outreach ministry that goes into the streets of Paterson to reclaim God's children among the homeless, addicted and broken. Faith Works is a healing ministry that seeks to build disciples by developing relationships with the unchurched, forming a community of believers out of those relationships and shaping those believers into disciples through prayer and bible study. Diane possesses a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a school social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a powerful speaker with a message of hope, healing, and transformation through Christ.

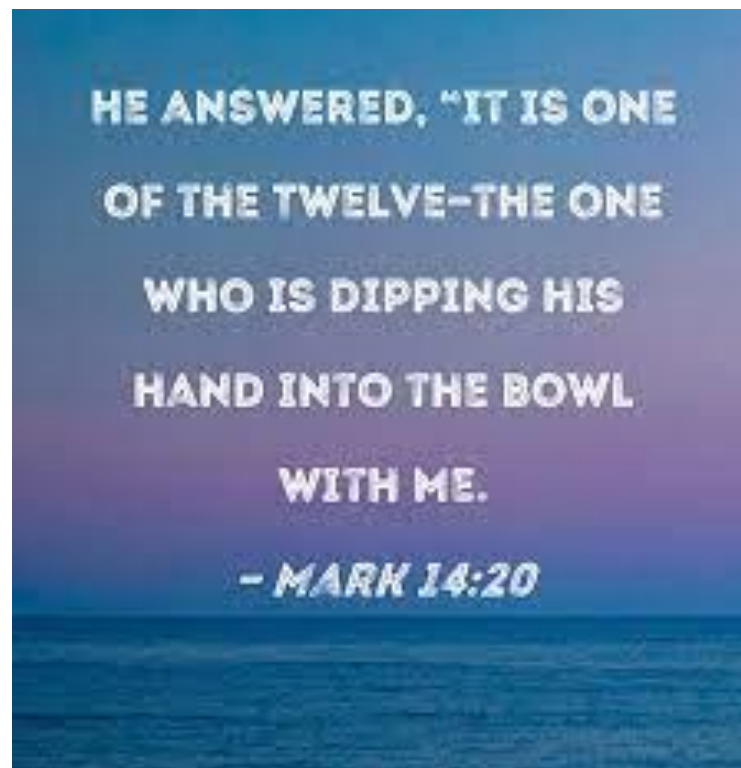
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Diane Anderson-Butts

January 21, 2024



"We Need to Change the Bait!"

### **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 –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s niece

Jeffrey Hansen –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl’s nephew

#### **OVERSEAS**

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

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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

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 21, 2024*

**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*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week*

*4<sup>th</sup> Week*

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*6<sup>th</sup> Week*

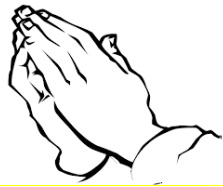
*Prayers and Sympathies*

*SHUT-INS*

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

***Health and Healing***

*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 2024**

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		
01/31/2023	\$ 80,730.57	\$(2,728.83)	\$( 2,728.83)
02/28/2023	\$ 79,873.93	\$ (856.64)	\$( 3,585.47)
03/31/2023	\$ 79,283.62	\$ (590.31)	\$( 4,175.78)
04/30/2023	\$ 79,248.48	\$ (35.24)	\$( 4,210.92)
05/31/2023	\$ 80,317.20	\$ 1,068.72	\$( 3,142.20)
06/30/2023	\$ 85,270.39	\$ 4,953.19	\$ 1,810.99
07/31/2023	\$ 90,105.95	\$ 4,835.56	\$ 6,646.55
08/31/2023	\$ 91,709.07	\$ 1,602.12	\$ 8,249.67
09/30/2023	\$ 94,254.05	\$ 2,544.98	\$10,794.65
10/31/2023	\$100,771.56	\$ 6,517.51	\$17,312.16
11/30/2023	\$100,415.69	\$ (355.87)	\$16,956.29
12/31/2023	\$106,201.71	\$ 5,786.02	\$22,742.31

**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 \$14/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 21, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service - Guest Minister Diane Anderson-Butts  
 Guest Pianist Jon Benjamin  
 Live Stream-Facebook

**MONDAY, January 22, 2024**

**TUESDAY, January 23, 2024**

**WEDNESDAY, January 24, 2024**

4:30 p.m. Bible Study – JMH

**THURSDAY, January 25, 2024**

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

**FRIDAY, January 26, 2024**

**SATURDAY, January 27, 2024**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

**SUNDAY, January 28, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 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 open: 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, & 2/25. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

**PRAYER GATHERING** – is now back every **Thursday** 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 church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

**BULLETINS** – are now on our website.

**SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET)** – is now back 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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – sheets are located in the bulletin bin.

**BIBLE STUDY** – a 13-week course every Wednesday at 4:30pm will be taught by Rev. Misick in Jacob Morgan Hall. Please register by Email: [gmisick@yahoo.com](mailto:gmisick@yahoo.com) or Call: **917 679-5676**

**GUEST PIANIST** – for the Sunday, January 14th and 21st is Jon Benjamin.

**GUEST MINISTER** – for today is Diane Anderson-Butts. Diane is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. Diane possesses a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a school social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a powerful speaker with a message of hope, healing, and transformation through Christ.

## 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.*

Joseph Fernandez  
Michael Peterson  
Belinda Kerchner  
Linda Vassallo  
Vacant

Music Director  
Sexton  
SS Superintendent  
Church Office  
Webmaster  
Church Email  
Church Website

resolutjoe@gmail.com  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
For 2024  
(732) 634-1631

avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

*Scripture for Sunday, January 28th*

**Ephesians 3:1-13**



He is Exalted.pdf