

January 29, 2023

10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delia Zelazny

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, who do you come to worship?

We come to worship the one true God.

How will you worship?

Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love.

Come, you who belong to God. Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

We come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and derision.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #9

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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

Micah 6:1-8 (O.T. pg. 866)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (N.T. pg. 166)

ANTHEM

"I Will Praise the Lord" Bernadette Farrell

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON:

"Consider Your Call"

Rev. Lydia Tembo

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #405

"What Does the Lord Require"

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 #525 "Here I Am, Lord"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Lead Me, Lord" John D. Becker

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Lydia Tembo Bio:

Rev. Lydia is a Zambian born, semi-cradle Presbyterian, raised in Forest Hills, NY. Rev. Tembo earned a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Theology, Women and Gender from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Tembo is the Director of Admissions at Princeton Theological Seminary and serves as a discernment partner for those exploring their sense of call to ministry and theological education. She enjoys walks to the local coffee shop with her partner Michael and their daughter Seraphina.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

January 29, 2023



"Consider Your Call"

Rev. Lydia Tembo

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 29, 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

2nd Week

Please pray for James Tuerke, Emily Palmer's brother, who is in leukemia remission but still receiving treatments.

3rd Week

Please pray for Maria Grezgorski, a friend of Linda Vassallo's, who has breast cancer.

4th Week

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.

5th Week

6th 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

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 29, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Lydia Tembo)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, January 30, 2023

TUESDAY, January 31, 2023

10:00 a.m. JoAnn's Food Pantry – CE Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023

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

THURSDAY, February 2, 2023

FRIDAY, February 3, 2023

SATURDAY, February 4, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, February 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams)
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: February 5th & February 12th. 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY – we have been invited to worship at The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge located at 600 Rahway Avenue at 7:00p.m. Therefore, there will be NO WORSHIP SERVICE in our Sanctuary, February 22nd.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, February 5th is Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams. 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 husband is originally from England. They have one son, who is a musician and computer programmer. In her spare time, Janet enjoys reading, quilting, and travel (having visited 41 states and 17 countries).

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	Music Director	resolutjoe@gmail.com
Michael Peterson	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
Stephanie Kurowsky	Stream Lines	avenelstreamlines@comcast.net
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2023
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	rustisioux@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scripture for Sunday, February 5th

Psalm 121
Luke 18:1-8