

February 5, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hanna Pallitto

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

We lift up our eyes to the hills; from where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

In praise and with thanksgiving, we gather as one body, with song and with prayer.

**The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time and forevermore.**

Come, let us worship God.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Grace-filled God, we confess that we pursue our own needs, neglecting the needs of others. We pursue our own desires, while slowly destroying the gifts of your creation. We deflect the call to ministry, ignoring the cries of those in need. We are drawn to proclaim the gospel yet live it out only at our convenience. Have mercy on us, O God. Open our eyes to the truth of the gospel that, whatever the time or wherever we are, we may fully embody your love and justice for all the world. Amen.....(silence for personal confession)**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends believe the good news of the gospel; in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #315 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

### HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 121 (O.T. pg. 571)  
Luke 18:1-8 (N.T. Pg. 81)

ANTHEM "All That Is Hidden" Bernadette Farrell

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Prayer"  
Rev. Janet Macgregor Williams

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN "Lord, Listen to Your Children" (Insert)

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 #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

**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

“Alleluia! Raise the Gospel”

Bernadette Farrell, Owen Alstott

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 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).

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 5, 2023



“Prayer”

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 – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s niece  
Jeffrey Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> 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*  
February 5, 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*

Requesting prayers for Richard (Richie) Kaczmarek, who is Stan's brother and Elaine Ferrie's brother-in-law. He fell from a second story ladder and is in an ICU unit with lung issues, multiple rib, skull, spine, and other fractures. Please for healing and a full recovery.

Prayers are needed for Donna Cecire, a friend of Holly Ely-Calantoni, who's breast cancer has come back and spread to her bones. She is undergoing blood transfusions. Please pray her platelets remain high.

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

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

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

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

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

*5<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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***

*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.

<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>Net for the month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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, February 5, 2023**

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

#### **MONDAY, February 6, 2023**

7:00 p.m. Property Care Meeting – CO

#### **TUESDAY, February 7, 2023**

2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Meeting – CO  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting – CO  
7:30 p.m. CE Meeting – SSO

#### **WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2023**

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

#### **THURSDAY, February 9, 2023**

#### **FRIDAY, February 10, 2023**

#### **SATURDAY, February 11, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR  
12:00 p.m. Wrestling-N-Wrecoery – GYM

#### **SUNDAY, February 12, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Alice Batcher)  
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.

*Today's flowers are given by Holly Ely-Calantoni  
in loving memory of her nephew's birthday,  
Christopher Yuhasz.*

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**GUEST MINISTER** – for the next 3 weeks is Rev. Alice Batchner. Rev. Alice 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.*

Joseph Fernandez  
Michael Peterson  
Stephanie Kurowsky  
Belinda Kerchner  
Linda Vassallo  
Susan Smolsky

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

resolutjoe@gmail.com  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelstreamlines@comcast.net  
For 2023  
(732) 634-1631  
rustisioux@comcast.net  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

*Scripture for Sunday, February 12th*

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Matthew 5:21-37**

# Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your".

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren".

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The third system of music concludes the chorus. The lyrics are: "pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace." The piece ends with a double bar line.

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.