

February 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.
6th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Stevenson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is by grace that we are who we are:

people who are called by Jesus, yet fearful to follow.

It is by God's grace that we can become followers:

people who are fearful, yet gifted with courage beyond wonder.

It is with God's grace that we become who we might be: **people who step out in faith, sharing the good news generously.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder and joy, we look in the mirror and do not see holiness reflected back. We long to be sisters and brothers with others, but don't want to be an intrusion in our friends' lives. We yearn to be more compassionate, yet it is often spite and malice we offer to someone else. We are so busy listening to those internal i-pods, that we have trouble hearing the cries of loneliness coming from those around us. Forgive us, God who longs to be enthroned in our hearts. You call us to different lives, so we might make a difference for all who hurt. You invite us into your kingdom, so we might show the others the way. You challenge us to take a risk by following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might become your children once again.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

By God's grace, with God's grace, we are who we are meant to be: forgiven, restored, called people.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #466

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (O.T. pg.??)

Matthew 5:21-37 (N.T. pg. ??)

ANTHEM

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Doris M. Akers

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON:

“ Following Jesus Isn't Easy”

Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #525

“Here I Am, Lord”

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Deacons:

Linda Sammartino
Carolyn Stockl

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 #339 "Be Thou My Vision"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Now Is the Time" Tom Kendzia

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Alice Batcher Bio:

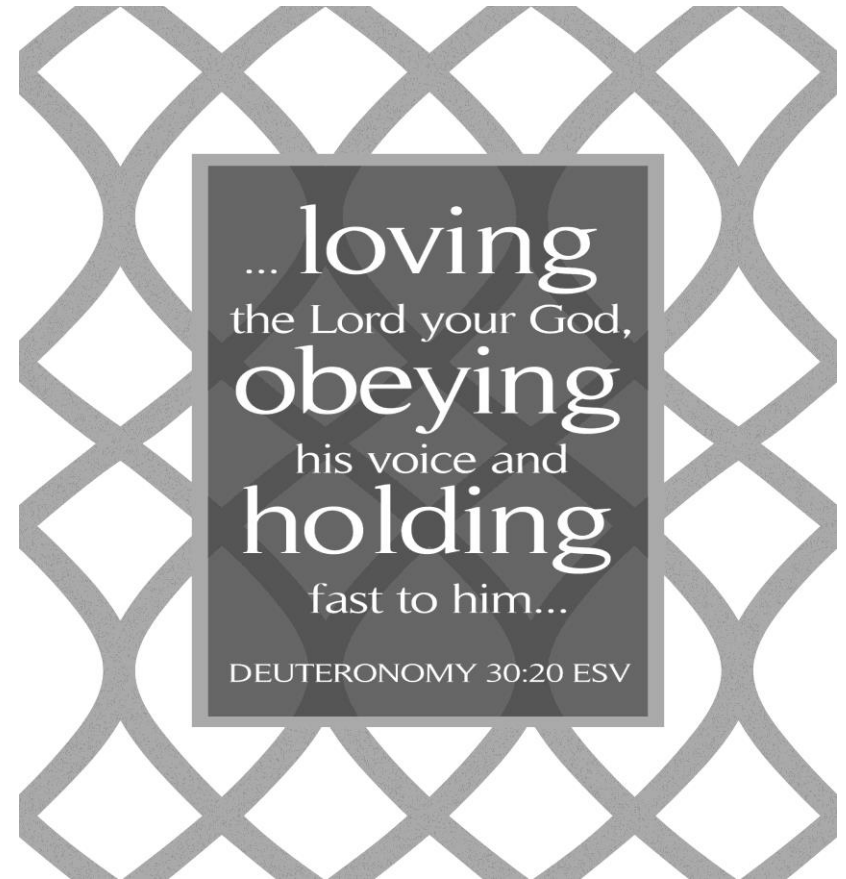
Reverend Alice Batcher is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 12, 2023



"Following Jesus Isn't Easy"

Rev. Alice Batcher

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 ***February 12, 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

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.

3rd Week

4th Week

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

5th Week

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

6th 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.

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		
01/31/2023 \$ 80,730.57	\$ (2,728.83)	\$ (2,728.83)

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 12, 2023

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

MONDAY, February 13, 2023

TUESDAY, February 14, 2023

4:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting – CR

WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023

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

THURSDAY, February 16, 2023

FRIDAY, February 17, 2023

2:00 p.m. Wrestling-N-Wrecoery – GYM

SATURDAY, February 18, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, February 19, 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 19th & February 26th. 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 the next 2 weeks is Rev. Alice Batchner.

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 19th

Exodus 24:12-18
Matthew 17:1-9