

February 13, 2022
10:00 a.m.
6th Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation (*for silent meditation before worship*)

Loving God, you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Give us a hunger for your Word, and in that food satisfy our daily need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Stevenson

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #345 "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

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, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

(*universal)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-24 (N.T. pgs. 78-79)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM "Lead Me, Guide Me" Doris M. Akers

SERMON: "From Remembrance to Restoration"
Rev. Brooks Smith

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #394 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

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

*CLOSING HYMN #343 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Lead Me, Lord" John D. Becke

*Please stand if able

Rev. Brooks Smith Bio:

I grew up in Chicago and Albany, New York. My college majors were History and Economics. In 1964, I participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project and that shaped my call to be a pastor.

My initial seminary training was at the University of Chicago Divinity School. I received a Master's degree from the university. I received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1970 and was ordained in 1971 to serve the Cuyahoga Falls (Ohio) Presbyterian Church. In 1995, I received a Master of Science degree from the New School University in non-profit management.

I retired in 2007.

CALL FOR CONGREGATION / CORPORATION MEETING

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL, NEW JERSEY, THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION/CORPORATION WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO REVIEW THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 AND TO CONDUCT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY BE PROPERLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGREGATION

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 13, 2022



"From Remembrance to Restoration"

Rev. Brooks Smith

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

Daniel Hedner – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Amy Updike

Rob – serving in the U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA. - Lynn & Wayne Dubin's son.

Anthony Service – U.S. Air Force, in San Antonio.

OVERSEAS

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

Camp Johnsonburg

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

Elijah's Promise, New Jersey

Elizabeth Port Presbyterian Church Children's Center, NJ

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 *February 13, 2022*

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

3rd Week

4th Week

Please pray for successful recovery for Carolyn Stockl who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

5th Week

Please pray for Vilma Ambis who was admitted to Brighton Gardens located in Edison on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

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 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 12/31/2021 \$ 76,156.39 | | |
| 01/31/2022 \$ 73,393.05 | \$(2,753.34) | \$(2,753.34) |

CHURCH PROPERTY 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.

Per Capita Amount has been changed from \$45.00 to \$40.00

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 13, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher– Rev. Brooks Smith)
Live Stream-Facebook
- 11:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

MONDAY, February 14, 2022

TUESDAY, February 15, 2022

- 7:00 p.m. Session Mtg – KHL

WEDNESDAY, February 16, 2022

THURSDAY, February 17, 2022

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

FRIDAY, February 18, 2022

SATURDAY, February 19, 2022

SUNDAY, February 20, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Samantha Gilmore)
Live Stream-Facebook
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group – CE

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

SUNDAY SCHOOL – meets every Sunday at 9 am in the Christian Education Building’s Sunday School Office.

YOUTH GROUP – meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00pm in the Christian Education Building.

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are available on the chancel flower calendar: February 20th & February 27th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

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

WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM – via Facebook every Sunday 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 – will now be on our website. Weekly bulletins can be emailed as well. If you would like a weekly bulletin emailed, please contact the Church Office to be put on the emailing list.

LIVE STREAM CAMERA VOLUNTEERS – The mission team is asking for several people to consider operating the live streaming camera so we can insure no interruptions in our outreach. It is easy, requires very little work once setup. Stephen will show exactly how to operate. Please see Stephen or Bob Toro after worship.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – today immediately following worship.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, February 20, 2022, is Samantha Gilmore. Samantha is a Ph.D. candidate in homiletics (the study of preaching) at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she

also received her M.Div./M.A. She is passionate about preaching and teaching preaching and thanks God that she gets to do both! Originally from Seattle, she loves coffee and the sound of rain on rooftops. When she’s not studying, she can be found running or taking walks with her husband Lance and their dog, Driscoll, preferably with coffee in hand!

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.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <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> |

Scriptures for Sunday, February 20th

1 John 4:16b-21

Luke 13:10-17