

February 20, 2022
10:00 a.m.
7th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Almighty God, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, love, and communion, we confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and body; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We ignore your commandments and stray from your way, even as we convince ourselves that we are walking closer to you. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sin and raise us to new life, that we may serve you faithfully and give honor to your holy name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #411 “ Arise, Your Light is Come!”

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: 1 John 4:16b-21 (N.T. pg. 241)
Luke 13:10-17 (N.T. pg. 76)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM “Rain Down” Jaime Cortez

SERMON: “You are Set Free From your Bondage?”
Samantha Gilmore

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #378 “Make Me a Captive, 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

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

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" Ernest Sands

*Please stand if able

SAMANTHA GILMORE BIO:

Samantha Gilmore 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!

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 20, 2022



"Woman,
you are set free from your ailment."

Luke 13:12, NRSV

"You are Set Free From your Bondage?"

Samantha Gilmore

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 20, 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

5th Week

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

6th Week

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

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 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

MONDAY, February 21, 2022

TUESDAY, February 22, 2022

- 6:30 p.m. Presbytery Mtg – Virtual

WEDNESDAY, February 23, 2022

THURSDAY, February 24, 2022

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

FRIDAY, February 25, 2022

SATURDAY, February 26, 2022

SUNDAY, February 27, 2022

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

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 27th & March 6th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

*The flowers are given in loving memory of Marjorie Greasheimer
celebrating her birthday in heaven.
Given with love from her daughters, Sharon and Marjorie.*

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.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, February 26, 2022, is Rev. Brooks Smith. He grew up in Chicago and Albany, New York. His initial

seminary training was at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He received a Master’s degree from the university. He 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, he received a Master of Science degree from the New School University in non-profit management. He retired in 2007.

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 2022
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	rustisioux@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scriptures for Sunday, February 26th

Roman 12:9-18

Luke 6:27-38