

February 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Toro

THE INTROIT

Special Music

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are the body of Christ, and we depend on God's grace.

We pray to God in times of distress, knowing that we are freed from sin and preserved from trouble.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

We will be glad in the Lord and shout for joy!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Jeremy Campbell

OPENING HYMN #384 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, afraid and despairing, we cry for Your redemption. The demands of our society overwhelm us, separating us from You and one another. Fear consumes us, greed manipulates us, and violence occupies us. Forgive us, we pray. Keep our feet planted in the wisdom of the Spirit and our lungs filled with your breath of mercy, that we might be made new. We place our trust in You alone, through Jesus Christ.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Jeremy Campbell

Friends, there is no need for fear or shame. We are forgiven. Through the love of Christ, the powers of sin and death have lost their hold on us. Nothing can destroy us, for anyone who is in Christ

is a new creation. Let this news sink into your body and soul and be at peace.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (O.T. pgs. 2-3)
Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T. pg.3)

ANTHEM

Special Music

Children's Sermon

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Gardens and Deserts"

Rev. Jeremy Campbell

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #81 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

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.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

+++WE ENTER TO WORSHIP; WE LEAVE TO SERVE!!!

Rev. Jeremy Campbell Bio:

Rev. Jeremy Campbell serves the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey as Resourcing Co-Leader and Stated Clerk. He is a graduate of Moravian College in Bethlehem PA with a BA in Graphic Design and German Language. He completed his M. Div and an MA in clinical counseling at Moravian Theological Seminary earned his Certified Advanced Alcohol and other Drug Counselor (CAADC). He, his wife Megan, and their two kids live in Metuchen NJ with their cat.

*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Jeremy Campbell

February 22, 2026

They heard the
sound of the
LORD God walking
in the garden
at the time
of the evening
breeze ...



Genesis 3:8, NRSV



"Gardens and Deserts"

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.

Robbie Olah

Joan Benkert

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 – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's nephew

Michael Seda – US Navy Training – husband of Regina Luntungan-Seda

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Jake & Carolyn Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – deployed to Iraq – Jake & Carolyn 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 –

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude's Children's Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Samaritan's Purse

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises ***February 22, 2026***

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

Prayers needed for Sophie currently at JFK Hospital. Please pray for her courage, strength, and recovery.

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th Week

Prayers for Dani Juarez who is back home recuperating.

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



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

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
WORKING FROM HOME
TUESDAY-THURSDAY

IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
FRIDAY'S ONLY 8:30AM – 1:30PM

**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 22, 2026

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Guest Minister-
Rev. Jeremy Campbell)
Live Stream – Facebook
11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

MONDAY, February 23, 2026

TUESDAY, February 24, 2026

10:00 a.m. JoAnn Breza and Jake Stockl Food Pantry – CE Bldg.
6:30 p.m. Session Meeting – CR (Rev. Charles Gillett)

WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2026

5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers/Vespers – JMH

THURSDAY, February 26, 2026

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

FRIDAY, February 27, 2026

SATURDAY, February 28, 2026

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CO
10:00 a.m. Presbytery Meeting – Gayle Nolan

SUNDAY, March 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Jeremy Campbell)
Live Stream – Facebook

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, & 3/22. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is every Thursday evening at 8:00pm. 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 church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins. Bulletins are on our website: avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – is every Saturday morning 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.

TEMPORARY FILL-IN GUEST MINISTER – beginning in March and going forward, Rev. Jeremy Campbell has agreed to stay on as our temporary guest minister until a permanent Pastor has been hired.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – is today immediately following worship.

SOUP SUPPER & VESPERS – beginning 2/25th through 3/25th in Jacob Morgan Hall at 5:30pm. See the bulletin flyer for details.

EASTER LILIES – order forms are in the bulletin. Please have all orders placed and paid by Tuesday, 3/17. NO EXCEPTIONS!

WALTER HOVING HOME – The ladies from Walter Hoving Home will join us on Sunday April 12 to share song and testimony. They are running a supply drive and your support makes a meaningful impact in helping the women at Hoving Home feel valued and cared for! Supply list is attached.

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.

	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Temporary Pulpit Supply</i>
<i>William Gorman</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>williamgormanmusic@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2026</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>

Scripture for Sunday, March 1

Genesis 12:1-4a

Matthew 17:1-9

CALL FOR CONGREGATION / CORPORATION MEETING



Every year the church offers Easter Lilies to members and friends of the congregation to remember or honor a loved one. If you would like to place an order for a plant(s), please fill out the form below and return it to the church office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001, with your check made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel. Each plant is \$10.50.

Orders are due no later than Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Plants may be taken by those who donated them after the 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service. Any remaining plants will be distributed to those families and friends who have lost loved ones this past year.

Please Print Clearly

Your Name(s) _____

Phone Number: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Quantity _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
AVENEL, NEW JERSEY, THE ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION/CORPORATION
WILL BE HELD ON **TODAY**
*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
WORSHIP SERVICE.* THE PURPOSE
OF THE MEETING IS TO REVIEW THE
ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025 AND TO
CONDUCT ANY OTHER BUSINESS
THAT MAY BE PROPERLY BROUGHT
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
CONGREGATION.



Film Discussion



Wednesday, February 25th through
Wednesday, March 25th
Jacob Morgan Hall
Soup is served @ 5:30
Film & discussion begins @ 6:15



Having Home
REBUILDING SHATTERED LIVES

LADIES' NEEDS

Toiletries

Shampoo and Conditioner (for various hair types)
Body Wash and Bar Soap
Deodorant (stick and spray)
Moisturizers (face and body)
Face Masks (for skincare)

Makeup

Foundation, Concealer, and Face Powder
Mascara and Eyeliner
Lip Products (lip balm, lipstick, gloss)
Blush and Eyeshadow Palettes
Makeup Brushes and Tools

Personal Care

Shower Caddies (for organization)
Clear Water Bottles (BPA-free)
Skin Care Products (toners, serums)

Underwear

Plastic Applicator Tampons and Pads
Underwear and Bras (various sizes, including sports bras)
Nightgowns and Sleepwear

Towels

Bath Towels and Washcloths (different colors & sizes)
Beach Towels and Quick-Dry Towels
Hand Towels for kitchens and bathrooms