

February 25, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
2nd Sunday in Lent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sandra Kosakowski  
PRELUDE "Transfigure Us, O Lord" Bob Hurd

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Lent can be barren and lonely, but God is with us.

**This is a time to make sense of God's plan and to ponder God's providence.**

For our lives are made up of transitions and transformations.

**The barrenness of the wilderness prepares the way for Easter and new life.**

We gather as a family before God and with strength and courage we wait upon the Lord.

**Let us worship God!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Courtney Cromie

OPENING HYMN #476 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are those whose sins the Lord will never count against them.**

Let us come humbly before the Lord asking for mercy for our sins.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we are so easily tempted to turn away from your word. We cling to whatever we can to keep us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, or emptiness. In order to escape uncomfortable situations quickly, we trust false idols whose promises dissolve in the wind. You are our true hope, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian, and our salvation. Forgive us and call to us again that we may be born anew in Your Spirit. Help us**

**to believe and guide us to the abundant life You desire for us. And now we silently share our individual confessions.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Courtney Cromie

Be glad and rejoice! For God does not count our sins against us but offers us his grace instead. My friends, hear the Good News - In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**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 Ezekiel 11:16-20 (O.T. pg. 777  
John 3:1-17 (N.T. pgs. 93-94)  
Children's Sermon

ANTHEM "If God Is for Us" Grayson Warren Brown

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "A Moonlit Encounter With Jesus"  
Rev. Courtney Cromie

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*RESPONSE HYMN #391 "Take My Life"

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 #371 "Lift High the Cross"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Instrumental"

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

\*Please stand if able

Rev. Courtney Cromie Bio:

Reverend Courtney Cromie was ordained in 1997 by The Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Courtney is a Certified Life Coach and offers coaching with spiritual direction. In her early years of ministry, Rev. Cromie served as an associate pastor for Colesville Presbyterian in Silver Spring, MD, First Presbyterian in Boca Raton, FL, and Yorkminster Presbyterian in Yorktown, VA. Rev. Cromie later became Pastor-in-Residence & Assistant Program Director for Princeton Seminary's Continuing Education Department and as The Director of Vocations and Admissions for Lancaster Seminary. She was a church-plant pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian in Jackson, NJ, pastor of Frenchtown Presbyterian in Frenchtown, NJ, and pastor of Larison's Corner Church in Ringoes, NJ. Courtney, most recently, worked for Princeton Township as a Parking Enforcement Officer and Crossing Guard. Courtney has a Bachelor of Arts from Auburn University, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Theology from Princeton Seminary.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

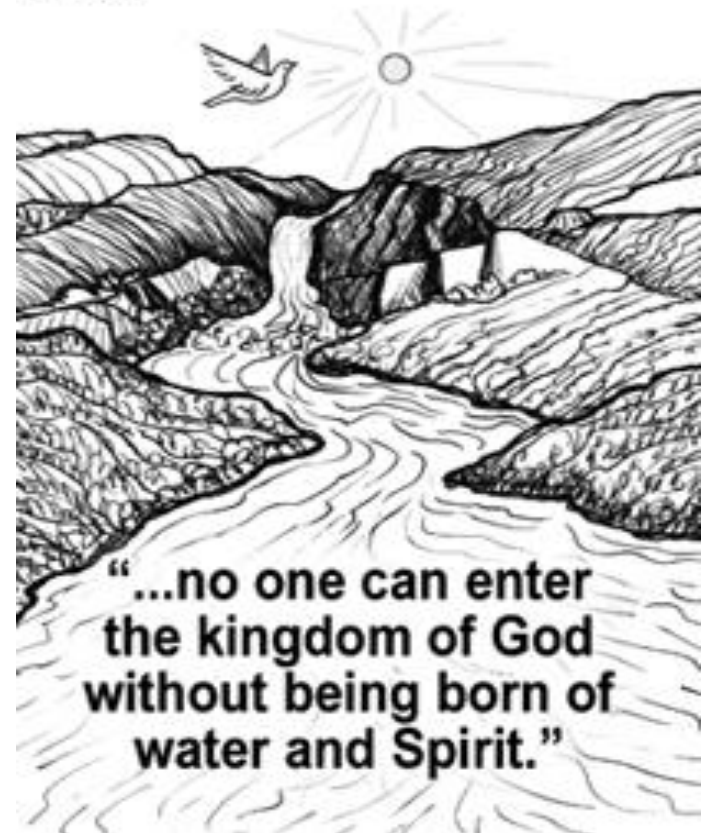
621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Courtney Cromie

February 25, 2024

John 3:5



"A Moonlit Encounter With Jesus"

### **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 –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s niece

Jeffrey Hansen –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl’s nephew

#### **OVERSEAS**

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

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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

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

## *Prayer Concerns and Praises* *February 25, 2024*

**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*

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

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

Prays for Maritza Flores-Shah and her father, Carlos, who is recuperating at home.

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

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*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***

*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

**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 \$14/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.

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**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 25, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
(Guest Minister – Rev. Courtney Cromie)  
Live Stream–Facebook

#### **MONDAY, February 26, 2024**

#### **TUESDAY, February 27, 2024**

10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry – CE Bldg.  
6:30 p.m. Presbytery Mtg. – Zoom (Carolyn Gilligan)

#### **WEDNESDAY, February 28, 2024**

4:30 p.m. Bible Study – JMH (**ON HOLD FOR LENT – RESUMING 4/3**)  
5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers/Vespers – JMH

#### **THURSDAY, February 29, 2024**

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

#### **FRIDAY, March 1, 2024**

#### **SATURDAY, March 2, 2024**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### **SUNDAY, March 3, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Live Stream–Facebook

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

**CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY** – The following dates are open: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, & 3/31. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

**PRAYER GATHERING** – is now back every **Thursday** 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 church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

**SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET)** – is now back 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.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – sheets are located in the bulletin bin.

**BIBLE STUDY** – ON HOLD FOR LENT - RESUMING 4/3.

**SOUPER SUPPER & VESPERS** – began 2/21<sup>st</sup> continuing through 3/20<sup>th</sup> in Jacob Morgan Hall beginning 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, 3/12.

**GUEST MINISTER** – for Sunday, February 25th is Rev. Courtney Cromie. Rev. Courtney was ordained in 1997 by The Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Courtney is a Certified Life Coach and offers coaching with spiritual direction. In her early years of ministry, Rev. Cromie served as an associate pastor for Colesville Presbyterian in Silver Spring, MD, First Presbyterian in Boca Raton, FL, and Yorkminster Presbyterian in Yorktown, VA. Rev. Cromie later became Pastor-in-Residence & Assistant Program Director for Princeton Seminary's Continuing Education Department and as The Director of Vocations and Admissions for Lancaster Seminary. She was a church-plant pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian in Jackson, NJ, pastor of Frenchtown Presbyterian in Frenchtown, NJ, and pastor of Larison's Corner Church in Ringoes, NJ.

## 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  
Belinda Kerchner  
Linda Vassallo  
Hanna Pallitto

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

resolutjoe@gmail.com  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
For 2024  
(732) 634-1631  
hannapallitto@gmail.com  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

*Scripture for Sunday, March 3rd*

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**



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 12, 2024**

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

Please Print Clearly

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Film Discussion



Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> through  
Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Jacob Morgan Hall  
Soup is served @ 5:30  
Film & discussion begins @ 6:15