

February 26, 2023

10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday in Lent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LITANY FOR LENT

Jesus of the temptations, You enter the wilderness of our hungers,
our lust for power, our eagerness to test God:

be with us on our journey to Jerusalem, we pray.

Jesus of hopes, You set aside Your glory, choosing to cradle us in
Your scarred hands:

hold us in Your tender embrace, we pray.

Jesus of the Feast, You are broken so we might be healed,
You pour out Yourself so we might be drenched in Your grace:

feed us from the simple gifts of creation, we pray.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Led by the crafter of lies, Lord God, we wander into the wasteland
of wrongdoing. We hunger for more and more and feel emptier
and emptier. We seek power, especially over others, only to do
harm. By our choices, we worship the false gods of success,
wealth, and spectacle. Have mercy on us, God of love, and forgive
us for the power we give to temptation in our lives. Help us to
become as vulnerable as Jesus, for in that vulnerability, we find
the humility to trust you in all things; in that trust, we discover
the grace which sets us free from the grasp of the shrewd one; in
that freedom, we can leave our badlands behind, in order to
follow Jesus in this life, and into the next.....(silence for
personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**With glad cries of deliverance, we offer our thanks to God who loves
us and forgives us.**

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #357

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

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. pg. 2; pg. 3)
Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T. pg. 3)

ANTHEM "Oh Dios, Crea en Mí" (O God, Create in Me)
Eleazar Cortés

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Jesus Was Tempted"
Rev. Alice Batchter

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #280 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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 #388 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Beyond the Days" Ricky Manalo

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 26, 2023



"Jesus Was Tempted"

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 26, 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

Please pray for James Tuerke, Emily Palmer's brother, who has leukemia. His levels were low last week and couldn't receive his bone marrow biopsy and chemo.

Please pray for Maria Grezgorski, a friend of Linda Vassallo's, who has breast cancer that has metastasized to her spine.

2nd Week

Prayers for Bob Fernandez, Joe Fernandez's dad, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and undergoing chemo. Please pray for his peace and comfort and for his family.

3rd Week

4th 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.

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
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) |

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 26, 2023

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

MONDAY, February 27, 2023

TUESDAY, February 28, 2023

10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry – CE Bldg.
6:30 p.m. Presbytery Meeting – Zoom (Sandy Kosakowski)

WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper/Film – JMH

THURSDAY, March 2, 2023

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

FRIDAY, March 3, 2023

SATURDAY, March 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, March 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Lydia Tembo)
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: March 5th & March 12th. 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 now back to 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 at the church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

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.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS – for the next 4 weeks beginning on Wednesday, March 1st through Wednesday, March 29th, we will once again be having our Lenten soup suppers along with a showing of "Noah" from the Sight and Sound Theater located in Lancaster, PA. in Jacob Morgan Hall. Soup served at 5:30pm followed by film/discussion at 6:15pm. Please come out and join us for a wonderful night of soup and fellowship.

GOOD FRIDAY – we have been invited to join worship at The First Presbyterian Church of Iselin located at 1295 Oak Tree Road at 3:00pm. Therefore, no Good Friday Worship service in the Sanctuary.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, March 5th is Rev. Lydia Tembo. Rev. Lydia is a Zambian born, semi-cradle Presbyterian, raised in Forest Hills, NY. Rev. Tembo earned a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Theology, Women and Gender from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Tembo is the Director of Admissions at Princeton Theological Seminary and serves as a discernment partner for those exploring their sense of call to ministry and theological education. She enjoys walks to the local coffee shop with her partner Michael and their daughter Seraphina.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!

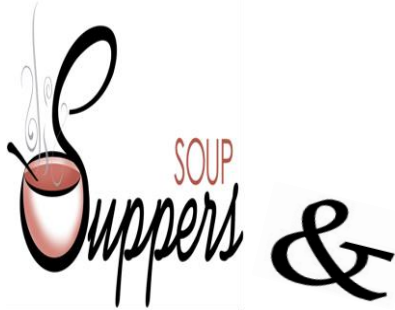
Visitors, we welcome you to this morning's time of worship. If you are looking for a church home or would like to explore the meaning of membership at Avenel Presbyterian Church, please ask an usher or the worship assistant.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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, March 5th

Genesis 12:1-4a
John 3:1-17

Please join us for...



Film Discussion



Wednesday, March 1st through
 Wednesday, March 29th
 Jacob Morgan Hall
 Soup is served @ 5:30
 Film & discussion begins @ 6:15



PW Women's 2023 Spring Retreat

April 29, 2023 900 AM—4:00 PM
 Camp Kiddie Keep Well, Edison NJ

The Gift of Friendship

By Lynne M. Baab
The Thoughtful Christian

Our retreat is hosted by the Presbyterian Women of FPC of Woodbridge. All women are welcome to join us as we explore The Gift of Friendship. Please bring your Bible with you. The retreat is \$25, which includes breakfast & lunch. Please mail the completed form and a \$25 payment to: FPC of Woodbridge, 600 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, NJ 07095; or email to Sharon Hanley at slgh96@comcast.net. **Return by April 8th.**

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____

Need a Ride? Yes _____ No _____

Over for Directions →

Address for GPS:

35 Roosevelt Drive, Edison, NJ 08837 ~ Red Log Cabin

1. **From Rt. 1 South** - Follow Rt. 1 South to blue and white "Menlo Park Mall" sign. Turn Right, following the sign. Go past 7-11 to the traffic light. Turn right at the light onto Parsonage Rd. Follow Parsonage Rd. to the 2nd traffic light labeled Oakwood Avenue. Turn left onto Oakwood Ave. (this becomes Roosevelt Drive now). The camp is ½ mile up the road on the left side. The first driveway goes to the Main Office, the 2nd driveway is to Schirber Hall, and the 3rd driveway is to the Log Cabin. So, pass the 1st two driveways and turn into the 3rd driveway. Parking is available near the tennis courts, and there is handicapped parking also.
2. **From Rt.1 North** - Follow Rt. 1 North to the Parsonage Rd. exit. Follow the jug handle across Rt. 1 and through the traffic light. Stay on Parsonage Rd. to the 3rd traffic light labeled Oakwood Ave. Turn left on Oakwood Ave., which becomes Roosevelt Drive. The Camp is ½ mile up on the road on the left side. Follow the directions above to the Log Cabin.



American Irish Assn of Woodbridge – St. Patrick's Day Parade

Grand Marshal – Ken Egan – Member of the Woodbridge K of C

March 12th stepping off at 1:30 pm. Starting at Woodbridge HS. It travels down Freeman St., to Linden Ave., to Green St., To Amboy Ave. (Rt 35) to Main St. & ends at Townhall.

The St. Patrick's Day parade is the largest event in Woodbridge Township & is free to our residents.

It includes over 80 marching units (bagpipe bands, High School & other bands, community groups & various entertainments groups)

If your non-profit / volunteer group wants to march – register here -

[American Irish Association - \(Iselin \(Woodbridge Township\), NJ\) - powered by LeagueLineup.com](#)