

February 27, 2022

10:00 a.m.

### Transfiguration of the Lord

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

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful and the earth be Glad. We rejoice in the creation and your love for the whole earth—and in your love for us. Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Kurowsky

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort; where we have been dead, grant us your life. Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing, in and with you we can do all things.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As far as the east is from the west so far has God removed our transgressions from us.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #339

“Be Thou My Vision”

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:

Romans 12:9-18 (N.T. pg. 162)

Luke 6:27-38 (N.T. pgs. 64-65)

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

“Seek Ye First”

Karen Lafferty

SERMON:

“You’ve Got To Be Kidding Me”

Rev. Brooks Smith

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #345

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

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 #367

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Alleluia! Give the Glory" Ken Canedo & Bob Hurd

\*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

February 27, 2022

**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.

In 1973, I became the Associate pastor at the 3000 member First Presbyterian Church of Allentown(Pa). While in Allentown, I was responsible for youth ministry, adult education and mission.

In 1978, I came to pastor the Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. Our church had a dynamic music program. Our youth group went on annual mission trips, including to Dominican Republic, Mexico and Nicaragua. We created a housing corporation, organized the CROP walk, opened an after school program and started a refugee center.

I retired in 2007



“You’ve Got To Be Kidding Me”

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 – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 27, 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*

Please pray for Alba Grano, Linda Vassallo's childhood friend, who is facing multiple health issues.

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

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

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

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

*6<sup>th</sup> Week*

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

*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.

<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>Net for the month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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 27, 2022**

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

**MONDAY, February 28, 2022**

**TUESDAY, March 1, 2022**

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg-CO
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg-SSO

**WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2022**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

- 2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Mtg-CO
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service at Iselin Presbyterian Church

**THURSDAY, March 3, 2022**

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

**FRIDAY, March 4, 2022**

**SATURDAY, March 5, 2022**

**SUNDAY, March 6, 2022**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Cynthia Wilcox)  
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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: March 6th & March 13th. 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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** – our congregation has been invited to worship at 7:00 p.m. for Ash Wednesday service at the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin by Chris Houtz, our Session moderator. Address is: 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin.

**GUEST PREACHER** – for Sunday, March 6, 2022, is Rev. Cynthia Wilcox. A native of New Jersey, and a Manasquan High alumni

(1984), Cindy moved to Massachusetts where she attended Gordon College, got married, and raised her four kids. While living in Andover, MA Cindy was Director of Children's Ministries, a personal trainer, a lifestyle weight management coach, and produced fitness shows for television. In 2013, as an empty nester, Cindy moved back 'home' and presently lives with her husband, Dennis Wilcox, in Spring Lake Hgts. She graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div) and is an ordained Presbyterian minister, presently serving as the Manager of Spiritual Care at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. She is passionate about faith, fitness and fellowship. Her ministry vision is to encourage others to live gratefully, hopefully and intentionally in alignment with their values. *Show up, Burn Bright, Live Passionately, and leave the rest up to Divinity.*

### **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, March 6th*

**Psalm 118:1-4, 22-24**

**1 Peter 2:4-9**