

March 5, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
2nd Sunday in Lent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Stevenson

PRELUDE "Open the Eyes of My Heart"(Instrumental) Paul Baloche

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

**We come with burdens and questions that only Christ Jesus can answer.**

May we all open our hearts to Him.

**May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. AMEN.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus has said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord as we lift up our personal confessions.....(silence for personal confession)**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. And so, I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are loved, we are forgiven!

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #488 "The God of Abraham Praise"

### HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-4a (O.T. pg. 10)  
John 3:1-17 (N.T. pgs. 93-94)

ANTHEM "Rain Down" Jaime Cortez

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Whoa...How Can These Things Be?"  
Rev. Lydia Tembo

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #461 "God Is Here!"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### THE INVITATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS #581 "Holy, Holy, Holy 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.**

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Let us keep the feast.**

HYMN #370

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

**CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD**

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #374 "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "In Christ Alone" Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

\*Please stand if able

*Saturday evening, 3/11*



**REV. LYDIA TEMBO BIO:**

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

March 5, 2023



That which is born of  
the flesh is flesh, and  
that which is born of  
the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:6, ESV

"Whoa...How Can These Things Be?"

Rev. Lydia Tembo

### 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 –

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*

*March 5, 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*

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

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.

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

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

*4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

*6<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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, March 5, 2023

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

#### MONDAY, March 6, 2023

7:00 p.m. Property Care Meeting – CO

#### TUESDAY, March 7, 2023

2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Meeting – CO  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting – CO  
7:30 p.m. CE Meeting – SSO

#### WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2023

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

#### THURSDAY, March 9, 2023

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

#### FRIDAY, March 10, 2023

#### SATURDAY, March 11, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### SUNDAY, March 12, 2023

#### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Diane A. Anderson-Butts)  
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 12th & March 19th. 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.

**BULLETINS** – are now on our website.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**GUEST MINISTER** – for the next three weeks is Diane A. Anderson-Butts. Diane is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. She is the founder and spiritual leader of Faith Works, an outreach ministry that goes into the streets of Paterson to reclaim God's children among the homeless, addicted and broken. Diane possesses a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary.

## 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  
Stephanie Kurowsky  
Belinda Kerchner  
Linda Vassallo  
Susan Smolsky

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

resolutjoe@gmail.com  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelstreamlines@comcast.net  
For 2023  
(732) 634-1631  
rustisioux@comcast.net  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org



Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour  
on Saturday evening, 3/11

*Scripture for Sunday, March 12th*

**John 4:5-42**

Please join us for...



# Film Discussion



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



**PW Women's 2023 Spring Retreat**  
April 29, 2023 9:00 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](mailto:slgh96@comcast.net). **Return by April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)