

March 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.
4th Sunday in Lent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Gilligan

PRELUDE "There Is a Longing" Anne Quigley

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.

The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

God's goodness and mercy are always close.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of perfect love, You continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but You are strong. Our ways are flawed, but Your ways are true. We are seldom right, but You are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us and restore us to the people You would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Relentlessly, God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #367 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Me with Your Love"

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 John 9:1-41 (N.T. pgs. 102-103)

ANTHEM "Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd"
(El Senor Es Mi Pastor) Mary Frances Reza

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
Diane A. Anderson-Butts

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 #369 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "I Am the Light of the World" Greg Hayakawa

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Diane A. Anderson-Butts Bio:

Diane Anderson-Butts is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. 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. Faith Works is a healing ministry that seeks to build disciples by developing relationships with the unchurched, forming a community of believers out of those relationships and shaping those believers into disciples through prayer and bible study. Diane possesses a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a school social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a powerful speaker with a message of hope, healing, and transformation through Christ.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

March 19, 2023

"Lord,
I believe."

John 9:38, NRSV



"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Diane A. Anderson-Butts

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

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 19, 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

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th 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.

5th Week

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

6th 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.

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 2023

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)
02/28/2023	\$ 79,873.93	\$ (856.64)
		\$ (3,585.47)

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.

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 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Diane A. Anderson-Butts)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, March 20, 2023

TUESDAY, March 21, 2023

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting – KHL

WEDNESDAY, March 22, 2023

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

THURSDAY, March 23, 2023

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

FRIDAY, March 24, 2023

SATURDAY, March 25, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR
10:00 a.m. His Hands Clothes Closet – CE Bldg.

SUNDAY, March 26, 2023

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 – dates are: March 26th & April 2nd. 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 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.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS – last day is Wednesday, March 29th 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.

EASTER LILIES – order forms are in the bulletin. Please have all orders placed and paid by Thursday, 3/30/23.

LADIES TEA – is Saturday, April 29th at 2:00pm in the Gym. Invitations are located in the Sanctuary near the bulletin box. RSVP by April 10th.

EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – will be served in Jacob Morgan Hall immediately after the 7:00am Easter SonRise Service on April 9th.

CPR TRAINING – first aid class will be on Monday, March 27th at 5:30pm in the Gym. The cost is \$30.00 per person for certification.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, March 26th is Diane A. Anderson-Butts. Diane is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. She also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!

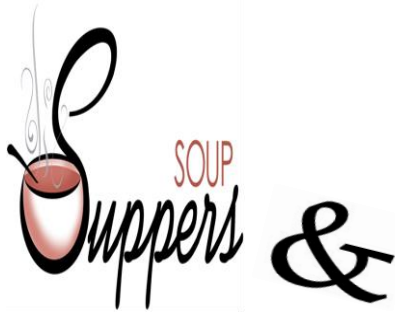
Visitors, we welcome you to this morning's time of worship. If you are looking for a church home or would like to explore the meaning of membership at Avenel Presbyterian Church, please ask an usher or the worship assistant.

Joseph Fernandez	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

Please join us for...

Scripture for Sunday, March 26th

John 11:1-45



Film Discussion



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



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 Thursday, March 30, 2023

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: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

***The Deacons of
The First Presbyterian Church
of Avenel***

***cordially invite you to
the Easter Breakfast
immediately following the
SonRise Service on
April 9, 2023 at 8:00am
in Jacob Morgan Hall***



Annual Ladies Tea

Saturday, April 29, 2023

The First Presbyterian Church
of Avenel



2:00 pm to 4:30 pm in the GYM

RSVP BY April 10, 2023

Reservations must be made early. We are limited to 80 people in the GYM.

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

Invitations are located in the Sanctuary.



The Woodbridge Wizards Basketball Team will sponsor a CPR/First Aid Training class on Monday, March 27th at 5:30pm in the Gym. Cost is \$30.00 per person for certification.



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