

March 20, 2022
10:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday in Lent

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

Lord, we come into your presence this day claiming that you alone are our strength and our redeemer. We need your strength and we need you to reclaim and redeem our tired and weary hearts. Melt them and remold them into something new and full of your abounding love. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As far as the East is from the West—so far has Christ removed our transgressions from us. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #324 “Open My Eyes That I May See”

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:

Isaiah 11:1-9 (O.T. pg. 640)

Galatians 5:22-23 (N.T. pg. 195)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

“Beyond the Days”

Ricky Manalo

SERMON:

“Fruit Basket Delivery”

Rev. Cynthia Wilcox

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #322

“Spirit of the Living God”

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 #467 "How Great Thou Art"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door"

*Please stand if able

Rev. Cynthia Wilcox Bio:

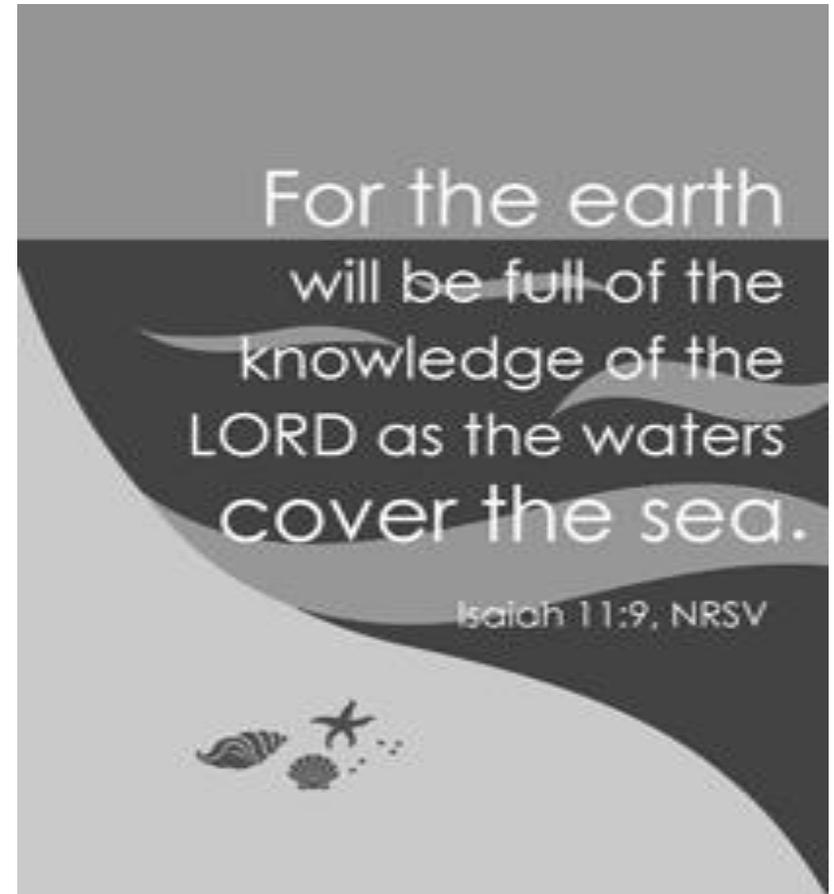
A native of New Jersey, and a Manasquan High alumni (1984), Cindy moved to Massachusetts where she attended Gordon College, got married, and raised her four kids. While living in Andover, MA Cindy was Director of Children's Ministries, a personal trainer, a lifestyle weight management coach, and produced 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.*

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

March 20, 2022



"Fruit Basket Delivery"

Rev. Cynthia Wilcox

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

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

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 20, 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

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th Week

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

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
12/31/2021 \$ 76,156.39		
01/31/2022 \$ 73,393.05	\$(2,753.34)	\$(2,753.34)
02/28/2022 \$ 73,809.90	\$ 416.85	\$(2,336.49)

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, March 20, 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

MONDAY, March 21, 2022

TUESDAY, March 22, 2022

- 6:30 p.m. Presbytery Mtg-Zoom (Carolyn Gilligan)

WEDNESDAY, March 23, 2022

THURSDAY, March 24, 2022

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

FRIDAY, March 25, 2022

SATURDAY, March 26, 2022

SUNDAY, March 27, 2022

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

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 1st and 3rd 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 27th & April 3rd. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

*The flowers are in honor of Joan Benkert’s 90th Birthday.
Given with love from her family.*

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.

EASTER LILIES – order forms are in the bulletin. Please have all orders placed and paid by Friday, 3/25/22.

YOU TUBE CHANNEL – An email request has been sent to everyone asking to subscribe to the church YouTube Channel. We need a minimum of 50 subscribers to be able to live stream our service, we currently have 34. Thank you for helping. Mission Team.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, March 27, 2022, is Rev. Cynthia Wilcox. A native of New Jersey, and a Manasquan High alumni (1984). 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 27th

Isaiah 40:27-31
Matthew 4:12-17



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 \$10.00.

Orders are due no later than Friday, March 26th, 2022

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: _____



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