

March 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Stephanie Kurowsky

THE INTROIT "I Can Only Imagine" Bart Millard

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

We seek God's presence in our lives.

Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness.

Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence. AMEN.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

OPENING HYMN #464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is the season of turning. We are called on this journey to turn our lives to the Lord, to turn away from all those things which have harmed us and others; to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy. It is far too easy for us to sink into the mire of self-pity and self-serving attitudes, wondering why everything isn't coming our way. We want comfort, contentment, no stress, no struggle. Yet our lives are filled with stress and discontent. We hurt, Lord. We hurt in our

bodies and our souls. We hurt in our relationships with others. How we must try Your patience! We don't want to be like this - we want to feel the warmth of Your love, the freedom of Your spirit, the joy of serving You. Forgive us for our selfishness and stupidity. Heal us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

You are given another chance! God has heard your cries. Turn again to the Lord. Find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for you. Be healed.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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: Isaiah 55:1-9 (O.T. pgs. 685-686)

Luke 13:31-35 (N.T. pg. 77)

Children's Story Hanna Pallitto

SOLO – Amanda Seik "The Goodness of God" Ce Ce Winans

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "A Time to Seek, Trust, and Hope" Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE 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.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #363 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

+++WE ENTER TO WORSHIP; WE LEAVE TO SERVE!!!

*Please stand if able

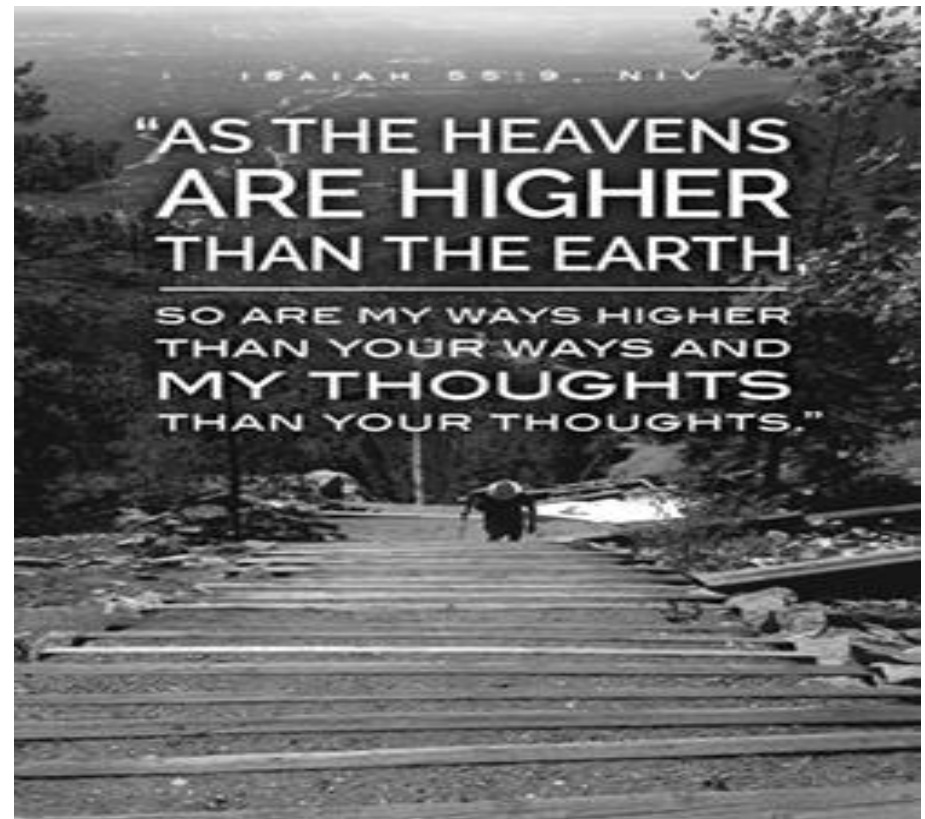
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

March 23, 2025



“A Time to Seek, Trust, and Hope”

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

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Jake & Carolyn Stockl’s nephew

Steven Stockl – deployed to Iraq – Jake & Carolyn 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 –

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Samaritan’s Purse

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises ***March 23, 2025***

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

Prayers for Joan who is in assisted living.
Prayers for Reuben who is recuperating from surgery.

3rd Week

4th Week

Prayers for Pauline's son, Raymond, who is receiving chemo.
Prayers for Robbie.
Prayers for Carolyn.
Prayers for Bobby, Carolyn's oldest son.
Prayers for Katie Rooney who is undergoing chemo.

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



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

Sermon Notes

Sunday:

Preacher:

Sermon Topic/Theme:

Scripture:

Point # 1:

Point # 2

Point # 3

**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 23, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Live Stream–Facebook

MONDAY, March 24, 2025

TUESDAY, March 25, 2025

10:00 a.m. JoAnn Breza and Jake Stockl Food Pantry – GYM

WEDNESDAY, March 26, 2025

5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers/Vespers – JMH
6:30 p.m. Bible Study – On-Line Via Zoom (ON HOLD UNTIL 4/16)

THURSDAY, March 27, 2025

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

FRIDAY, March 28, 2025

SATURDAY, March 29, 2025

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

SUNDAY, March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Live Stream–Facebook

The PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT for 2025 is \$40.00.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, & 4/27. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is every **Thursday** evening at 8:00 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 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.

BIBLE STUDY – is on hold for Lent until 4/16.

SOUP SUPPER & VESPERS – began 3/12th and will continue through 4/9th in Jacob Morgan Hall at 5:30pm. See the bulletin flyer for details.

EASTER LILIES – order forms are in the bulletin. Please have all orders placed and paid by Tuesday, 4/8.

The **PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT** for 2025 is \$40.00.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our **Heat and Air Conditioning Fund**. There are labeled envelopes on the table in the back of the Sanctuary that can be placed in the collection plate or dropped off at the church office. If you choose to donate another way, please be sure to include 'Heat and Air Conditioning Fund.' We are making great strides in phase one of our Capital fundraising campaign, please help keep this momentum going! Your donation is greatly appreciated!

-Sandy Kosakowski

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.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Rev. Glen C. Misick</i>	<i>gmisick@gmail.com</i>
<i>William Gorman</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>williamgormanmusic@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2025</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Hanna Pallitto</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>hannapallitto@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm

Scripture for Sunday, March 30

Luke 15:11-23



Film Discussion



Wednesday, March 12th through
Wednesday, April 9th
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 \$11.00.

Orders are due no later than Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Plants may be taken by those who donated them after the 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service. Any remaining plants 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 \$ _____ Quantity _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____