

April 9, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday/Resurrection of the Lord

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belinda Kerchner

PRELUDE

“Rise Up with Him”

Janet Vogt

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Day has dawned and shadows are left behind. The stone is rolled away, and hope is reborn.

This is the day that our God has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

God opens to us the gates of righteousness. We enter to give thanks to our God.

We give thanks, for our God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Set your mind on things that are above. Look up and welcome God’s appearing.

We have been raised with Christ. Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the message of Easter has come again before we were ready to receive it. The Palm Sunday parade demanded very little of us. We could join in the hosannas. But the betrayal and denial, the suffering and shame, the agony and death, have left us fearful and shaken. We have become enemies of Jesus without intending to be disloyal. We have left him in the tomb, lest he upset our daily lives. The Jesus of long ago seems more comfortable to us than the Christ who is risen today in our midst. We confess our reluctance to let Christ claim us and change us. O God, we need forgiveness! We ask that you grant it to us in the name of the Risen Savior, Jesus.....(*silence for personal confession*)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All of us are invited to share in the promise of the Easter season – for it is in Jesus Christ that we are forgiven! Hallelujah!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #123

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

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

Matthew 28:1-10 (N.T. pgs. 33-34)

ANTHEM

“Our God Reigns” Leonard E. Smith, Jr.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children’s Sermon

SERMON:

“Easter Greetings!”

Rev. Mike Atzert

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #121

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

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 #118 "The Day of Resurrection!"

*BENEDICTION

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

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able



Rev. Mike Atzert Bio:

Reverend Mike Atzert is a Hospice Chaplain after serving as pastor of Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church (Ringoes) for 8 years and First Presbyterian Church of Blackwood, NJ for 10 years. Mike graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2003 and was ordained by New Castle Presbytery (Delaware). Mike has been married to Amy for 30 years. They have two daughters, a son-in-law, a future son-in-law, and a rescue dog named Auggie.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

April 9, 2023



"Easter Greetings"

Rev. Mike Atzert

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

April 9, 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

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

2nd Week

Please pray for Francie Pocalyko, friend of Gay Patrouch & Melanie Meli, who is on hospice care at home for brain cancer. Please pray for her peace and comfort for the family.

Please pray for Charles Olah, son of Robbie Olah and brother of Susan Smolsky. He is still recovering from his recent brain surgery and has now started 6 weeks of radiation treatments as well as 6 weeks of chemotherapy. The radiation treatments are 5 days a week and the chemotherapy is 7 days a week.

3rd 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.

4th Week

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 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)	\$ (2,728.83)
02/28/2023	\$ 79,873.93	\$ (856.64)	\$ (3,585.47)
03/31/2023	\$ 79,283.62	\$ (590.31)	\$ (4,175.78)

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, April 9, 2023

EASTER

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

MONDAY, April 10, 2023

TUESDAY, April 11, 2023

5:30 p.m. Property Care Mtg. – CO
7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. – CO

WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2023

THURSDAY, April 13, 2023

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

FRIDAY, April 14, 2023

SATURDAY, April 15, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, April 16, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Dr. Gayle W. Griffin)
Live Stream-Facebook
11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – dates are: April 16th & April 23rd. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

The flowers on the Communion table are in honor of Oliver's 2nd birthday given by his grandparents, Rich and Cindy.

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – is Sunday, April 16th immediately following worship.

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.

GUEST MINISTER – for the next two Sundays is Dr. Gayle W. Griffin. Gayle is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who at the age of seventeen moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. FloJaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

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

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

Scripture for Sunday, April 16th

Psalm 118:19-29
John 20:19-30



Easter Lilies

The beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life- the spiritual essence of Easter. Often called the "white-robed apostles of hope." Lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by surrounding their alters and crosses with masses of Easter Lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.



***First Presbyterian Church
Avenel, NJ
April 9, 2023***

Each year, the sanctuary is beautifully decorated on Easter morning with lilies. Each lily has been given by a member or friend of the congregation in honor or remembrance of loved ones.

Given by:

Ed & Shirley Benkert

Rich & Cindy Culton

Holly Ely-Calantoni

The Gilligan Family

Millie Knotts

Gay Patrouch

Gary & Carolyn Stevenson

Given by:

The Pallitto Family

The Sammartino Family

Gail Sheets

Colette & Oliver Zelazny

In Memory of:

Edward Benkert Sr.
Reinhart Thorsen
William & Ruth Freist
Nancy Leclair

Kay Price

Howard & Edna Ely
Christopher & Leslie Yuhasz

Don Gilligan
William & Mary Sandor
Alfred A. Seddon

Al Knotts
Ann Wetzel

Walter & Eloise Emery

Ernest & Arleen Schreiber
George & Stella Stevenson

In Honor of:

The Church Family

The Church Family

Easter Blessings to the
Church Family

Gaga and Pa Culton

