

April 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.
4th Sunday of Easter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Stevenson

PRELUDE "I Shall Not Want" Tom Booth (Instrumental)

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dear friends,

Let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. This is love:

Not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. God, please help us to experience your love today so we can embody it for others as we go forth from here.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you are faithful, true, and unchanging, but we do not always trust and obey You as we should. In our pride we challenge Your rule over us. In our shortsightedness we are slow to obey, or we ignore Your commands altogether. In our rush to claim what is ours, we forget that everything belongs to You. In thought and deed, we have sinned against You. Open our eyes, God, to see You as You are. Forgive us for these and other sins and have mercy on us in Jesus' name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, forgiveness comes from God, who does not count our sin against us. For God has reconciled us through Christ and entrusts

to us the message of reconciliation. Believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #487 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

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 Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 (O.T. pg. 106)
Matthew 5:38-48 (N.T. pg. 5)

ANTHEM "Rain Down" Jamie Cortez

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "They'll Know We Are Christians"
Robert M. Mason, Jr.

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #324 "Open My Eyes That I May See"

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 #372 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Scott Soper

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Robert M. Mason, Jr. Bio:

Elder Robert M Mason Jr. was born in Englewood, New Jersey. He grew up and still resides in Jersey City, NJ. He has been a member of the Claremont-Lafayette United Presbyterian Church in Jersey City, for over 55 years. At the age of 18, he was the youngest member of the church to be elected and ordained as an Elder in that Church, at that time. 2022 marked the 50-year anniversary of that ordination. He currently serves on the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of the Northeast. Robert worked as a Senior Vice President and Director of Employee Relations for the Provident Bank of New Jersey and retired in 2020 after 42 ½ years with the institution. He is currently enjoying his retirement immensely.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

April 30, 2023



**...YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF...**

LEVITICUS 19:18

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

Robert M. Mason, Jr.

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 30, 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 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.

5th 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.

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)
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 30, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Robert M. Mason, Jr.)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, May 1, 2023

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

TUESDAY, May 2, 2023

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

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2023

THURSDAY, May 4, 2023

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

FRIDAY, May 5, 2023

SATURDAY, May 6, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, May 7, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Lydia Tembo)
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: May 14th & May 21st. 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 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.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL – presents a tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Friday, May 19th at 8:00pm. For tickets visit Eventbrite.com. Advance tickets are \$18.00 and \$20.00 at the door.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, May 7th is Rev. Lydia Tembo.

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>Joseph Fernandez</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>resolutjoe@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Stephanie Kurowsky</i>	<i>Stream Lines</i>	
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2023</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Susan Smolsky</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>rustisioux@comcast.net</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>

Scripture for Sunday, May 7th

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

John 14:1-14