

May 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.
6th Sunday of Easter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Hanna Pallitto

PRELUDE "Your Words, Lord, Are Spirit and Life" Bob Hurd

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will,

to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth;

that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord God, we do know that we are Zacchaeus. We have prospered, some more than others. We enjoy some financial security--some more than others. And we have a hunger in our souls for the deeper joys and meanings and happiness of life. We want to be blessed and to be blessing. Come into our city that we might meet you--and be redeemed.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God we know in Jesus Christ, welcome us home as the Father welcomed his prodigal, lost son.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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

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 Esther 4:8-17 (O.T. pg. 447)
Luke 19:1-10 (N.T. pg. 82)

ANTHEM "Peace" Gregory Norbet

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Zacchaeus Needs YOU" Rev. Brooks Smith

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #391 "Take My Life"

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 #540 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Where My Father Lives" M.D. Ridge

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Brooks Smith Bio:

I grew up in Chicago and Albany, New York. My college majors were History and Economics. In 1964, I participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project and that shaped my call to be a pastor.

My initial seminary training was at the University of Chicago Divinity School. I received a Master's degree from the university. I received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1970 and was ordained in 1971 to serve the Cuyahoga Falls (Ohio) Presbyterian Church. In 1995, I received a Master of Science degree from the New School University in non-profit management.

In 1973, I became the Associate pastor at the 3000 member First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (Pa). While in Allentown, I was responsible for youth ministry, adult education, and mission.

In 1978, I came to pastor the Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. Our church had a dynamic music program. Our youth group went on annual mission trips, including to Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Nicaragua. We created a housing corporation, organized the CROP walk, opened an after-school program and started a refugee center.

I retired in 2007.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

May 14, 2023

The Son of Man
came to seek out
and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10, NRSV



"Zacchaeus Needs YOU"

Rev. Brooks Smith

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

May 14, 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

Offering prayers for the family of Carol Palmer on her passing May 4th.

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.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

6th 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.

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

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)
04/30/2023	\$ 79,248.48	\$ (35.24)	\$ (4,210.92)

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, May 14, 2023

MOTHER’S DAY

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

MONDAY, May 15, 2023

TUESDAY, May 16, 2023

4:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg – CR

WEDNESDAY, May 17, 2023

THURSDAY, May 18, 2023

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

FRIDAY, May 19, 2023

SATURDAY, May 20, 2023

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

SUNDAY, May 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith)
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 21st & May 28th. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

Flowers are to congratulate Erika Ferrie and Elvin Giordano on their engagement, April 16th. Erika is Elaine & Stan Kaczmarek's daughter and the granddaughter of Mae Dudas who passed in May 2021. A 2024 wedding is planned. Happy Mother's Day to all!

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 21st is Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith. Bobbie is a "Jersey girl." Born in Trenton, N.J. She lived in Ewing Township until she moved to Newtown, PA for her first call to the Newtown Presbyterian Church. She retired last year after thirty years of ministry serving churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Bobbie is a Certified Christian Educator with the P.C.U.S.A. Two years ago, she received her certification in Spiritual Direction from the Oasis ministry.

Bobbie has two daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren. She enjoys quilting, reading, music of all kinds, museums, walking, swimming, needlework, being with family and friends and laughing—a lot.

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
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Scripture for Sunday, May 21st

Psalm 150
Acts 1:1-11