

July 23, 2023

10:00 a.m.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Belinda Kerchner

PRELUDE "In This Place" Trevor & Victoria Thomson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the moment we open our eyes each morning, until we close them at night, God is with us.

There is no one like You, our God!

In times when we are surrounded with struggles, in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

There is no one like You, our Brother!

When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into faith's family, **the Holy Spirit is with us.**

There is no one like You, Witnessing Spirit!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Insolently we turn against You, God of truth. When we follow those desires that control us; when we live for ourselves, shutting off the gifts of those around us; when we think we do not need to share love, hope, peace with others, we show how we have joined that league of hooligans who ignore Your way of life. Yet, You have chosen to adopt us as Your children, God-who-stands-with-us, forgiving us and making us inheritors with Jesus of Your grace and joy. So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into creation which groans for love and healing.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us with peace and healing.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

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 Genesis 28:10-19a (O. T. pg. 25)
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (N.T. pgs. 14-15)

ANTHEM "All That Is Hidden" Bernadette Farrell

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Preparing for the Harvest"
Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #281 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

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 #298 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Shout to the Lord" Darlene Zschech

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Alice Batcher Bio:

Reverend Alice Batcher is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

July 23, 2023



"Preparing for the Harvest"

Rev. Alice Batcher

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

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

July 23, 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

Prayers for Danetta Juarez who is undergoing physical therapy after knee replacement surgery.

Prayers for Gayle Nolan's dad, Tom, who is in rehab undergoing physical therapy.

Prayers for Vilma Ambis, who is in an assisted living facility with advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease.

5th 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

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) |
| 04/30/2023 | \$ 79,248.48 | \$ (35.24) |
| 05/31/2023 | \$ 80,317.20 | \$ 1,068.72 |
| 06/30/2023 | \$ 85,270.39 | \$ 4,953.19 |

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, July 23, 2023

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

MONDAY, July 24, 2023

9:00 a.m. VBS – CE Bldg. & Sanctuary

TUESDAY, July 25, 2023

9:00 a.m. VBS – CE Bldg. & Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, July 26, 2023

9:00 a.m. VBS – CE Bldg. & Sanctuary

THURSDAY, July 27, 2023

9:00 a.m. VBS – CE Bldg. & Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR (CANCELLED)

FRIDAY, July 28, 2023

9:00 a.m. VBS – CE Bldg. & Sanctuary

SATURDAY, July 29, 2023

SUNDAY, July 30, 2023

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

**JULY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Wednesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – dates are: July 30th & August 6th. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – will resume in September. Date to be determined.

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 now on **Thursdays** for the summer 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.

GUEST MINISTER – for the month of July is Rev. Alice Batchner.

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.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <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, July 30th

Genesis 29:15-28

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52