

**July 30, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sandra Koskowski

PRELUDE "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Brian Doerksen

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

**We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.**

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his graciousness.

**God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.**

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

**We rejoice with God who is with us always.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love? Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to You. No matter how many times we hear the news that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it. For believing that our sins are more powerful than Your mercy, forgive us, Grace of the world. You cast out Your net of grace so that all might be gathered into Your kingdom. Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to You, and we are embraced with Your hope, blessed with Your love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

.....(*silence for personal confession*)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children.**

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #333 "Seek Ye First"

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 29:15-28 (O.T. pg. 26)  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (N.T. pgs. 14-15)

ANTHEM "If God Is for Us" Grayson Warren Brown

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

SERMON: Children's Sermon

"Small Valuables"

Rev. Alice Batcher

## SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #464            “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

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 #420        “God of Grace and God of Glory”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    “He Is Exalted”                    Twila Paris

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 30, 2023



“Small Valuables”

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

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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 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*

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.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week*

*4<sup>th</sup> Week*

*5<sup>th</sup> 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.

*6<sup>th</sup> 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***

*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)
05/31/2023	\$ 80,317.20	\$ 1,068.72	\$ (3,142.20)
06/30/2023	\$ 85,270.39	\$ 4,953.19	\$ 1,810.99

**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 30, 2023

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

#### MONDAY, July 31, 2023

#### TUESDAY, August 1, 2023

#### WEDNESDAY, August 2, 2023

7:00 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg – CO  
7:30 p.m. CE Mtg – SSO

#### THURSDAY, August 3, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR (CANCELLED)

#### FRIDAY, August 4, 2023

#### SATURDAY, August 5, 2023

#### SUNDAY, August 6, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Alice Batcher)  
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: August 6th & August 13th. 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 Sunday, August 6th is Rev. Alice Batcher.

**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, August 6th*

**Genesis 32:22-31**

**Matthew 14:13-21**