

August 6, 2023

10:00 a.m.

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Charlie Kurowsky

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

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

All who are thirsty, come!

**God is the fountain for our lives.**

All who are hungry, come!

**Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.**

Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

**The Holy Spirit gathers everyone around the Table.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are sure we do not have enough to end hunger in our communities, Holy God. Forgive us that we forget that, by Your presence and power, very little can do so much. We believe we are the only ones who carry heartache around with us. Forgive us, Compassion's Heart, that we do not see, or embrace the despair of those around us. We think we do not have the words with which to offer hope and healing to strangers. Forgive us, Welcoming God, for not having the courage to run up to them with Your grace. We convince ourselves that we need to devote all our time, our energy, our resources, our lives on keeping up with others. Forgive us for not living that joyful, gracious life modeled for us by You, Jesus our Brother.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**What good news! Everyone who thirsts is given water; everyone who hungers is fed; everyone Who sins is forgiven.**

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #329 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

### HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:22-31 (O.T. pg. 30)  
Matthew 14:13-21 (N.T. pg.16)

ANTHEM "Renew" Sarah Hart, Marc Byrd

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "A New Start"  
Rev. Alice Batchner

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #514 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS #581 "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

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.**

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Let us keep the feast.**

HYMN #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

**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 “At the Name of Jesus” Christopher Walker

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

August 6, 2023



“A New Start”  
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*  
August 6, 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*

*2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

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

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*6<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.

*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
07/31/2023	\$ 90,105.95	\$ 4,835.56	\$ 6,646.55

**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, August 6, 2023

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

#### MONDAY, August 7, 2023

#### TUESDAY, August 8, 2023

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

#### WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023

#### THURSDAY, August 10, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### FRIDAY, August 11, 2023

#### SATURDAY, August 12, 2023

#### SUNDAY, August 13, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Emily Lueder)  
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 13th & August 20th. 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 13th is Rev. Emily Lueder. Originally from the Midwest, Emily studied at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. She moved to Princeton, NJ to study at Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating with her M.Div. in 2019. Emily worked as a chaplain for several years and currently serves as the Pastoral Ministries Coordinator at Seabrook in Tinton Falls. In her free time, Emily enjoys spending time with her fiancé, Elvin, and his German shepherd, Hazel.

## 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  
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*Scripture for Sunday, August 13th*

**Matthew 14:22-33**