

August 13, 2023

10:00 a.m.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

PRELUDE

“In Christ Alone” Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name, let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Come! Let us worship the LORD, our God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #379

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess the faith of the Church as one.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33 (N.T. pg. 16)

ANTHEM

“Stand by Me”

Tom Kendzia

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children’s Sermon

SERMON:

“Eyes Fixed on Him”

Rev. Emily Lueder

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #210

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

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 #281 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "How Can I Keep from Singing" ENDLESS SONG
Robert Lowry, Randall DeBruyn

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Emily Lueder Bio:

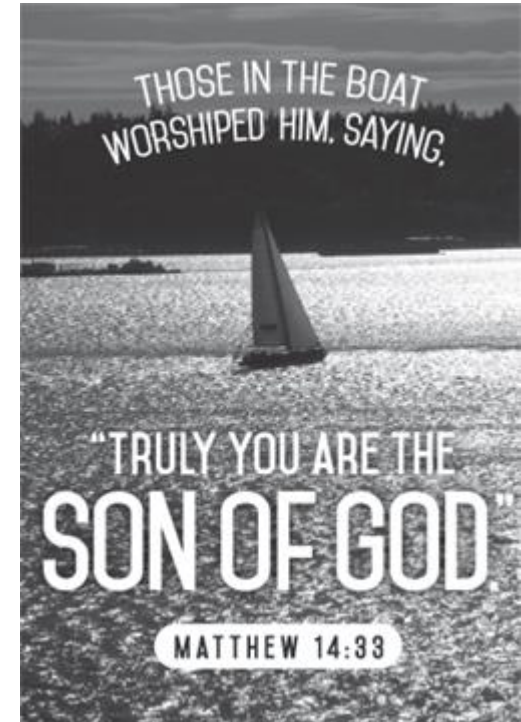
Originally from the Midwest, Emily studied at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. She moved to Princeton, NJ to study at Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating with her M.Div. in 2019. Emily worked as a chaplain for several years and currently serves as the Pastoral Ministries Coordinator at Seabrook in Tinton Falls. In her free time, Emily enjoys spending time with her fiancé, Elvin, and his German shepherd, Hazel.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

August 13, 2023



"Eyes Fixed on Him"

Rev. Emily Lueder

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 13, 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

Please pray for Tom Cameron, Gayle Nolan's dad, who is now at home receiving PT as an outpatient.

2nd Week

3rd 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.

4th Week

5th Week

6th 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
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 13, 2023

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

MONDAY, August 14, 2023

TUESDAY, August 15, 2023

WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2023

THURSDAY, August 17, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

FRIDAY, August 18, 2023

SATURDAY, August 19, 2023

SUNDAY, August 20, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Brooks Smith)
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 20th & August 27th. 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 20th is Rev. Brooks Smith. 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.

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

Scripture for Sunday, August 20th

Genesis 41:1-14
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23