

September 3, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Delia Zelazny

PRELUDE “Servant Song” Donna Marie McGargill

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Turn us, O God,  
**away from the world’s temptations and distractions.**

Return us, O God,  
**to the quiet calm of Your presence.**

Restore us, O God,  
**to the path You call us to follow.**

Orient us, O God,  
**to the hope of all that is possible through You.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love, You ask us to love one another from the center of who we are, You tell us to bless one another, You encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to Your words. Instead of loving, we have practiced hatred. Instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing. Instead of doing good, we have sought to get even. Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again, and encouragement to make Your ways, our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Know that you are forgiven and loved and be at peace.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #371 “Lift High the Cross”

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 Psalm 8 (O.T. pg. 492)  
Genesis 1: 1-2, 24-31 (O.T. pgs. 1, 19-20)

ANTHEM “All That Is Hidden” Bernadette Farrell

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

Children’s Sermon

SERMON: “Creation Care” Dr. Gayle Griffin

**SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*RESPONSE HYMN #263 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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 #429 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"I Will Choose Christ"

Tom Booth

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

\*Please stand if able

**Gayle Griffin, Ph.D. Bio**

Gayle W. Griffin has been a member of Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey for more than 22 years, and is an Elder there. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she was a member of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, for 19 years. There, she was a Deacon for 7 years, including 5 years as Moderator of the Deacon Board, and 10 years as an Elder. She worked in several ministries in Grace Church. She also served as secretary of the church's non-profit foundation, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation. At Roseville, she teaches the adult women's Sunday School Class and chairs the Worship and Music Committee, is an Elder, and serves on the Roseville Church non-profit foundation, Roseville Outreach Community Corporation. She has served on numerous church and presbytery committees and is currently serving on the Vision Board for the newly organized Presbytery of North East NJ.

In her professional life, Dr. Griffin is retired from the Newark Public Schools and the East Orange School District as Assistant Superintendent. She served on the **Newark Public Library** Board of Trustees for 14 years. She has been an Executive School Performance Coach and served as Executive Director of the NJ Department of Education's Regional Achievement Center in Essex and Hudson County. She currently is a faculty member at Seton Hall University's Urban School Transformation, serving as an educational consultant in school districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Griffin is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who at the age of seventeen moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. FloJaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

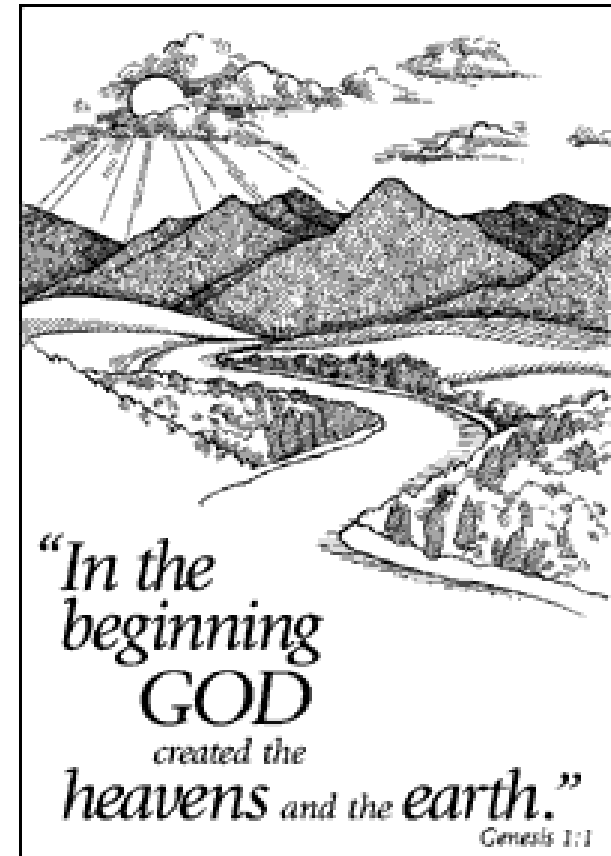
More importantly, though, she is a born again Christian. Mrs. Griffin believes, "A woman makes her plans, but the Lord orders her steps." Through prayer, this proverb has guided her daily actions.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

September 3, 2023



"Creation Care"

Dr. Gayle Griffin

### **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*

*September 3, 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*

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

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

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

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

*6<sup>th</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.

*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, September 3, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Dr. Gayle Griffin)  
**NO COMMUNION**  
 Live Stream-Facebook

#### MONDAY, September 4, 2023

*HOLIDAY – LABOR DAY*

#### TUESDAY, September 5, 2023

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

#### WEDNESDAY, September 6, 2023

2:00 p.m. Missions/Outreach Mtg – CO  
 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg – CO  
 7:30 p.m. CE Mtg – SSO

#### THURSDAY, September 7, 2023

#### FRIDAY, September 8, 2023

#### SATURDAY, September 9, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### SUNDAY, September 10, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Dr. Gayle Griffin)  
**COMMUNION**  
 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** – The following dates are open: 9/10, & 9/24. 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 Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm.

**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 back 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.

**A TOWNSHIP REMEMBERS** – a salute to the Woodbridge First Response Community will be held on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> beginning 6:00pm at the Joseph R. Lewis Concert Field of Woodbridge High School. Check the bulletin flyer for more details.

**GUEST MINISTER** – for the Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Dr. Gayle Griffin. Gayle is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who at the age of seventeen moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. FloJaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

## 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  
avenelpres@gmail.com  
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

*Scripture for Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>*

Exodus 34:1-9  
John 9:1-15

Mayor John E. McCormac

Woodbridge Township Municipal Council



# "A Township Remembers"

9/11 - 22nd Anniversary Memorial Service - 9/11

&



Salute to the Woodbridge Township First Response Community

Woodbridge Police Department

Woodbridge Township Fire Departments

Woodbridge Township First Aid Squads

Woodbridge Township Office of Emergency Management

Woodbridge Township C.E.R.T

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:00pm

Woodbridge High School

Joseph R. Lewis Concert Field

