

September 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
13th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delia Zelazny

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the presence of God:

who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep, and in all the moments in between.

We gather in the house of God:

who has created a family for us, here as well as in the Bahamas, in Africa, and in Nashville.

We gather to be the people of God:

who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, in service.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves; we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows. Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News - we are God's new creation. **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven.**

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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

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 1 (O.T. pg. 489)

Luke 14:25-33 (N.T. pg. 78)

ANTHEM

"In Every Age" Janet Sullivan Whitaker

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON:

"Costly Discipleship"

Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #339

"Be Thou My Vision"

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 #538 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Here I Am, Lord" Dan Schutte

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

CONGREGATION MEETING

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL, NEW JERSEY, A CONGREGATION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS THE MANSE.

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

September 4, 2022



"Costly Discipleship"
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 – 1st LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – 1st LT, Kuwait, Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's nephew

Daniel Hedner – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

OVERSEAS

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

Camp Johnsonburg

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

Elijah's Promise, New Jersey

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

International Students, Inc.

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 4, 2022

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

Please pray for Vilma Ambis who has continuing health issues.

Please pray for Robbie Olah who is home from the hospital and recovering.

5th Week

6th Week

Please pray for Susan Shubeck, a friend of Betty Hulsizer, who is in treatment for Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer.

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

Carol Palmer and 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 2021

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
12/31/2021 \$ 76,156.39		
01/31/2022 \$ 73,393.05	\$(2,753.34)	\$(2,753.34)
02/28/2022 \$ 73,809.90	\$ 416.85	\$(2,336.49)
03/31/2022 \$ 64,806.01	\$(9,003.89)	\$(11,340.38)
04/30/2022 \$ 59,120.22	\$(5,685.79)	\$(17,026.17)
05/31/2022 \$ 54,878.34	\$(4,241.88)	\$(21,268.05)
06/30/2022 \$ 60,701.39	\$ 5,823.05	\$(15,445.00)
07/31/2022 \$ 67,525.20	\$ 6,823.81	\$(8,621.19)

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 \$12/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.

Per Capita Amount has been changed from \$45.00 to \$40.00

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 4, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher—Rev. Alice Batcher)
 NO COMMUNION due to Labor Day Holiday
 Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, September 5, 2022

HOLIDAY-LABOR DAY

TUESDAY, September 6, 2022

2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Mtg – CO
 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg – CO
 7:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg – SSO

WEDNESDAY, September 7, 2022

THURSDAY, September 8, 2022

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

FRIDAY, September 9, 2022

SATURDAY, September 10, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, September 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher—Rev. Alice Batcher)
 COMMUNION SUNDAY
 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 available on the chancel flower calendar: September 11th & September 18th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and is to be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – will begin on September 22nd and continue every Thursday evening at 8 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski 908-930-3628.

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 at the church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

BULLETINS – will now be on our website. Weekly bulletins can be emailed as well. If you would like a weekly bulletin emailed, please contact the Church Office to be put on the emailing list.

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – has resumed 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. We can learn new things from each other.

WALTER HOVING HOME – will be celebrating 55 years and hosting a two-night Faith, Hope, and Love banquet at the Palace at Somerset Park beginning Thursday, September 29th. Registration is 6:00pm and Dinner and Program to follow at 7:00pm. Please visit WWW.HOVINGHOME.ORG/NJ Tickets for details.

A TOWNSHIP REMEMBERS – a salute to the Woodbridge First Response Community will be held on September 11th at 1:00pm at the Township Stage of Woodbridge High School. Check the bulletin flyer for more details.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th immediately after worship to discuss the Manse.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, September 11, 2022, is Rev. Alice Batcher. She 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.

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	avenelstreamlines@comcast.net
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2022
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, September 11th

Luke 15:1-10



September 11th
Flyer.pdf