

September 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hanna Pallitto

PRELUDE

“In This Place” Trevor Tomson, Victoria Thomson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

This day is God’s gift to us!

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has graciously gathered us together in this place.

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

God is good and faithful. God is worthy of our praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen Your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find fault easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered Your gifts. We have turned from Your ways. We have ignored Your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with Your love and cleanse us with Your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people You would like us to be.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #559 “We Gather Together”

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:13-16 (O.T. pg. 578)
John 9:1-3; 20: 19-20 (N.T. pgs. 102; 115)

ANTHEM

“Christ, Be Our Light” Bernadette Farrell

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children’s Sermon

SERMON:

“A Messy Faith” Dr. Gayle Griffin

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #280 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

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.

*COMMUNION HYMN #513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #440 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Alleluia! Give the Glory" Ken Canedo, Bob Hurd

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 10, 2023



**FOR I AM
FEARFULLY**

**WONDERFULLY
MADE.**

Psalm 139:14

"A Messy Faith"

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

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 10, 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.

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

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

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
08/31/2023	\$ 91,709.07	\$ 1,602.12	\$ 8,249.67

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 10, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Dr. Gayle Griffin)

COMMUNION

Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, September 11, 2023

TUESDAY, September 12, 2023

4:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg – CR

WEDNESDAY, September 13, 2023

THURSDAY, September 14, 2023

8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In
(425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#.

FRIDAY, September 15, 2023

SATURDAY, September 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, September 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Diane Anderson-Butts)

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: 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, & 10/29. 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 14th 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 11th 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 17th is Diane Anderson-Butts. Diane Anderson-Butts is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. She is the founder and spiritual leader of Faith Works, an outreach ministry that goes into the streets of Paterson to reclaim God's children among the homeless, addicted and broken. Faith Works is a healing ministry that seeks to build disciples by developing relationships with the unchurched, forming a community of believers out of those relationships and shaping those believers into disciples through prayer and bible study. Diane possesses a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a school social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a powerful speaker with a message of hope, healing, and transformation through Christ.

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 17th

Genesis 50:15-21
Matthew 18:21-35

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



Mayor John E. McCormac

Woodbridge Township Municipal Council



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