

September 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Toro

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.

We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

Alleluia! Amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

First of all, Everlasting God, we must confess how we have not lived as your people. We serve many masters - work, wealth, power, addictions - yet find no hope in them. We hear the cries of the poor and shut the doors of our hearts to them. We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us. Forgive us, Compassion's Heart, and heal us of our brokenness. Make us well, so that by our healing, we might be the hope and love others need in their lives, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought these gifts to us, calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now that we have let go of the pain, the bitterness, the anger of our lives, let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other, forgiving as God has forgiven us.

We are God's beloved children and will model God's grace and love in our hearts.

Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

OPENING HYMN #408 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

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: Luke 16:1-13 (N.T. pg. 79)

ANTHEM "I Will Choose Christ" Thomas Booth

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Cleverness and Faithfulness"
Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone"
Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio, John Newton

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 #420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Are the Light of the World" Jean Anthony Greif

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:

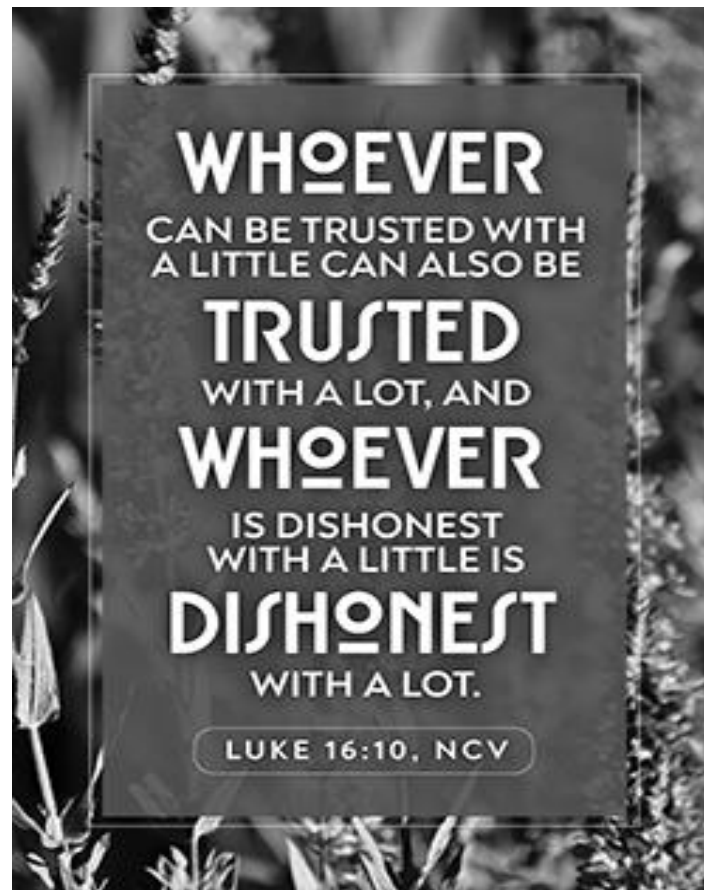
Reverend Alice Batcher is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

September 18, 2022



"Cleverness and Faithfulness"

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

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

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 18, 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

Prayers for the Spewak family on the passing of John, Carol Palmer's sister's father-in-law.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

Please pray for Vilma Ambis who has continuing health issues.

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

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)
08/31/2022 \$ 74,944.98	\$ 7,419.78	\$(1,201.41)

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 18, 2022

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

MONDAY, September 19, 2022

TUESDAY, September 20, 2022

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting – KHL

WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2022

THURSDAY, September 22, 2022

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

FRIDAY, September 23, 2022

SATURDAY, September 24, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR
10:00 a.m. Wrestling-N-WRecovery-Gym

SUNDAY, September 25, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. David Bowman)
Live Stream-Facebook
11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary

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 25th & October 2nd. 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) – is 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.

WRESTLING-N-WRECOVERY – On Saturday, Sept 24th and Saturday, Oct 29th Wrestling-N-WRecovery will be doing wrestling events in our gym. This organization is a fun family event for all recovering addicts. They will have vendors, food, and all types of addiction literature. All are invited! For ticket information, please

email: Wrestlingnwrecovery@yahoo.com

Any other questions please see Carolyn Stevenson.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, September 25, 2022, is Rev. David Bowman. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and has served in a pastoral role in several Presbyterian Churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For the past 17 years he has been Pastoral Ministries Manager at Seabrook Village, a large continuing care retirement community in Tinton Falls, NJ. He resides on a small farm in New Egypt, NJ.

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 25th

Luke 16:19-31



Manse Options, E.
Ferrie Sept. 5, 2022.1

WRESTLING N WRECOVERY

Presents

**Addiction Awareness Outreach Event
September 24th, 2022
11:00am to 6:00pm
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, NJ
07001**

We are seeking vendors. \$30.00 for 1 table and 2 tables for \$50.00 if you are interested in being a vendor. Please contact me (Renee) at wrestlingnrecovery@yahoo.com or leave your email address and I will send you more information.

**Thank You!
Wrestling N WRecovery**

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

[2x]

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.