

September 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.
17th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Gilligan
PRELUDE "Open My Eyes" Jesse Manibusan

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP
O Lord God, you do call us from our everyday tasks.
Calm our minds and open our hearts.
You challenge us to hear Your Word.
Open us to understand.
You bless us with the opportunity to do love and justice.
Give us strength and wisdom and courage.
Through Christ our Lord we pray.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O Lord God we come with often broken and struggling lives. The good we would do; we often don't do. Sometimes, we mess up our relations. We care about many causes--but we are slow to commit. Forgive us, transform us. Heal us in Jesus' name.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
As far as the east is from the west so far has God removed our sins from us. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #250 "When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies"

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 Isaiah 9:2-6 (O.T. pg. 638)
Mark 2:1-12 (N.T. pg. 36)

ANTHEM "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" J. Myrin, M. Redman

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon
SERMON: "The Comma" Rev. Brooks Smith

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #442 "The Church's One Foundation"

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 #477 "Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" Ernest Sands

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Brooks Smith Bio:

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

September 24, 2023



"The Comma"

Rev. Brooks Smith

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 24, 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

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
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 24, 2023

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

MONDAY, September 25, 2023

TUESDAY, September 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry – CE Bldg

WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2023

THURSDAY, September 28, 2023

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

FRIDAY, September 29, 2023

SATURDAY, September 30, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, October 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Alice Batcher)
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: 10/1, 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 – is now back every **Thursday** evening at 8 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski at 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 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.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT – is back this year on Saturday, October 28th from 4:00pm to 5:30pm in the Sanctuary parking lot. Please check the bulletin flyer for more details.

GUEST MINISTER – for the Sunday, October 1st is Rev. Alice Batcher. Reverend 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.

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, October 1st

Exodus 17:1-7
Matthew 21:23-32




The First Presbyterian Church of
Avenel's 2nd Annual

TRUNK-OR- TREAT

Meet & Greet
professional
wrestlers across
the street after
at Wrestling &
Wreckovery

Saturday, October 28
4:00 - 5:30 PM

- **Candy** ● **Games** ● **Free Donuts & Cider** ●
- **Take-home crafts** ●



If you would like to
decorate your car and
pass out candy, contact
Cindy Culton at
ccculton@comcast.net
to register your car.




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