

September 26, 2021
10:00 a.m.
18th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation *(for silent meditation before worship)*
O, Lord God open our hearts and minds to hear your word, to rejoice in one another and to strengthen ourselves for the work of your kingdom. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Stevenson

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, how we do struggle to be faithful to You. Sometimes we wound others—with what we do and with what we fail to do. Sometimes O God, we are lazy, sometimes indifferent, sometimes cruel. We come with sorrow and repentance in our hearts....*(silence for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that we are forgiven.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN #420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

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, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into

heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.
(*universal)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 14:12 (N.T. Pg. 175)
Mark 2:1-12 (N.T. pg. 36)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: “Seeking Manifestations of the Spirit”
Rev. Brooks Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #404 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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

*CLOSING HYMN #447 “Lead On, O King Eternal”

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “We Are the Light of the World” Jean Anthony Greif

*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 nonprofit 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 26, 2021



“Seeking Manifestations of the Spirit”

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

Daniel Hedner – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Amy Updike

Rob – serving in the U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA. - Lynn & Wayne Dubin's son.

Anthony Service – U.S. Air Force, in San Antonio.

OVERSEAS

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

Elizabeth Port Presbyterian Church Children's Center, NJ

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 26, 2021

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 Carol Palmer. She will have a CAT SCAN on 9/28 to determine outcome of HIPEC procedure. Please pray for Larry, her husband, and their extended families.

2nd Week

3rd Week

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

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
12/31/2020	\$109,515.39		
01/31/2021	\$104,658.48	\$(4,856.91)	\$(4,856.91)
02/28/2021	\$100,834.39	\$(3,824.09)	\$(8,681.00)
03/31/2021	\$ 94,305.80	\$(6,528.59)	\$(15,209.59)
04/30/2021	\$ 88,398.27	\$(5,907.53)	\$(21,117.12)
05/31/2021	\$ 86,186.03	\$(2,212.24)	\$(23,329.36)
06/30/2021	\$ 83,254.27	\$(2,931.76)	\$(26,261.12)
07/31/2021	\$ 70,951.00	\$(12,303.27)	\$(38,564.39)
08/31/2021	\$ 71,414 .52	\$ 463.52	\$(38,100.87)

CHURCH PROPERTY 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.

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 26, 2021

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

MONDAY, September 27, 2021

TUESDAY, September 28, 2021

10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry – CE Building
6:30 p.m. Presbytery Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 29, 2021

THURSDAY, September 30, 2021

8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In

FRIDAY, October 1, 2021

SATURDAY, October 2, 2021

SUNDAY, October 3, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Dr. Ken Macari)
Live Stream-Facebook

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

SUNDAY SCHOOL – will begin in October. Dates to follow shortly.

YOUTH GROUP – will begin in October. Dates to follow shortly.

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are available on the chancel flower calendar: October 17th & October 24th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

CHILD CARE – is available for infants and those not yet in Kindergarten in the care room in the back of the Sanctuary. Please let an usher know if you would like to have your child there during the service. We will have a Toddler Care volunteer to help.

CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES – if you are mailing your envelopes, please use the Church Office's address: 621 East Woodbridge Avenue **NOT** the Manse address: 631 East Woodbridge Avenue.

PRAYER GATHERING – Dial in every Thursday evening at 8:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski.

AMAZON JOB OPPORTUNITY – the Amazon team in New Jersey is hiring. Please visit amazon.com/njhourlyjobs if interested or text JERSERYNOW1 to 77088 to sign up for alerts from Amazon.

WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM – via Facebook every Sunday 10:00 am service. We hope you will join us online if you will not be attending at the church. Please tell your friends and 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.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, October 3, 2021, is Rev. Dr. Ken Macari. He is an honorably retired minister of the Elizabeth Presbytery. He earned both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Seminary in MA. He has served churches in his native Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY, and, most recently, at Community Presbyterian, Edison. Ken now currently volunteers at the Fanwood Church where his wife, Linda, serves on session. He regularly serves as a pulpit supply throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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, the worship assistant or Pastor Bob.

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 2021
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	churchwebsite@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scripture for Sunday, October 3rd

Hebrews 10:15-25