

October 1, 2023
10:00 a.m.
18th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Hanna Pallitto

PRELUDE "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Brian Doerksen

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, so God can teach us goodness and love for each person
We will complete God's love by having the same compassion as God.

We come, so Jesus can lead us into lives of service and obedience.

We will complete Jesus' hopes by putting others before ourselves.

We come, so the Spirit can help us to empty ourselves for God and those around us.

We will complete the Spirit's peace by sharing our lives with others.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to You. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid with judgment. Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of Your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet.
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

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

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17:1-7 (O.T. pg.64)
Matthew 21:23-32 (N.T. pgs. 23-24)

ANTHEM "To You, O Lord" Scott Soper

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Challenging the Leaders"
Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #302 "I Danced in the Morning"

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 #367 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Rise Up with Him" Janet Vogt

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

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

October 1, 2023

He called the place...

MERIBAH,

because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying,

**"IS THE LORD
AMONG US
OR NOT?"**

Exodus 17:7

"Challenging the Leaders"

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 –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

October 1, 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

4th 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.

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, October 1, 2023

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

MONDAY, October 2, 2023

TUESDAY, October 3, 2023

2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Mtg – CO
7:00 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg – CO
7:30 p.m. CE Mtg – SSO

WEDNESDAY, October 4, 2023

THURSDAY, October 5, 2023

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

FRIDAY, October 6, 2023

SATURDAY, October 7, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, October 8, 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: 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.

WRESTLING-N-WRECOVERY – will sponsor a Halloween party & a wrestling meet and greet on Saturday, October 28th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the gym. Please check the bulletin flyer for more details.

GUEST MINISTER – for the Sunday, October 8th, 15th, & 29th is Diane Anderson-Butts. Diane 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. 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	Music Director	resolutjoe@gmail.com
Michael Peterson	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
Stephanie Kurowsky	Stream Lines	
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2023
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, October 8th

Isaiah 5:1-7
Matthew 21:33-46

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.



WRESTLING N WRECOVERY

Sponsoring A
Halloween Party
& Wrestling Meet & Greet

The First Presbyterian
Church of Avenel
621 East Woodbridge Ave. Avenel

October 28th
Saturday 4PM - 6PM

OWE
OUTREACH
WRESTLING
ENTERTAINMENT

**TITAN
KIDS**
WE ARE THE FUTURE

**TITAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLING**

The poster features a dark orange background with various Halloween-themed illustrations: a spiderweb, two ghost characters (one with a purple bow, one with a purple hat), a black spider, a black witch hat with a purple band and white polka dots, and a black brushstroke. At the bottom, there are three logos: 'OWE' with a purple figure, 'TITAN KIDS' in colorful letters, and 'TITAN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING' in yellow and black.