

October 2, 2022  
10:00 a.m.  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Stevenson

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

God's mercies never end; they are new every morning. We gather in gratitude, that our faith may increase.

**We will sing our songs of praise. We will proclaim the good news of the gospel.**

Take delight in God, who is with us wherever we go. Trust God, even when we do not feel like singing.

**We will commit all our ways to God. We will wait patiently for answers to our prayers.**

By God's grace, we are gathered for worship. In God's love, we are no longer exiles and strangers.

**We have been called together by the Holy Spirit. We will treasure this special time in this sacred space.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we face our world with cowardice. We would rather avoid danger than take a stand against injustice. We want to enjoy privileges not available to others. We wish to keep away from all the cries for help that bombard us. The problems around us are overwhelming. The distress within us is staggering. Too often we lash out at others rather than turning to you for guidance and strength. Now, in these moments together, we cry out for help. We want to be your people. We want to live with a clear conscience and right spirit. Remake us, loving God.....(silence for personal confession)**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Open yourselves instead to the grace, mercy and peace God offers.

**Great is the faithfulness of our God because it is in Jesus Christ that we are forgiven.**

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #460 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

### HEARING THE WORD

#### SCRIPTURE:

Luke 15:5-10 (N.T. pg. 80)  
1 Timothy 1:1-14 (N. T. pgs. 207-208)

#### ANTHEM

"You Have Called Us" Bernadette Farrell

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### SERMON:

"Guarding the Deposit"

Rev. Mike Atzert

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #516 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"

#### 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.**

HYMN #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

### **CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD**

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #538 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Now Is The Time” Tom Kendzia

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

\*Please stand if able

#### **Rev. Mike Atzert Bio:**

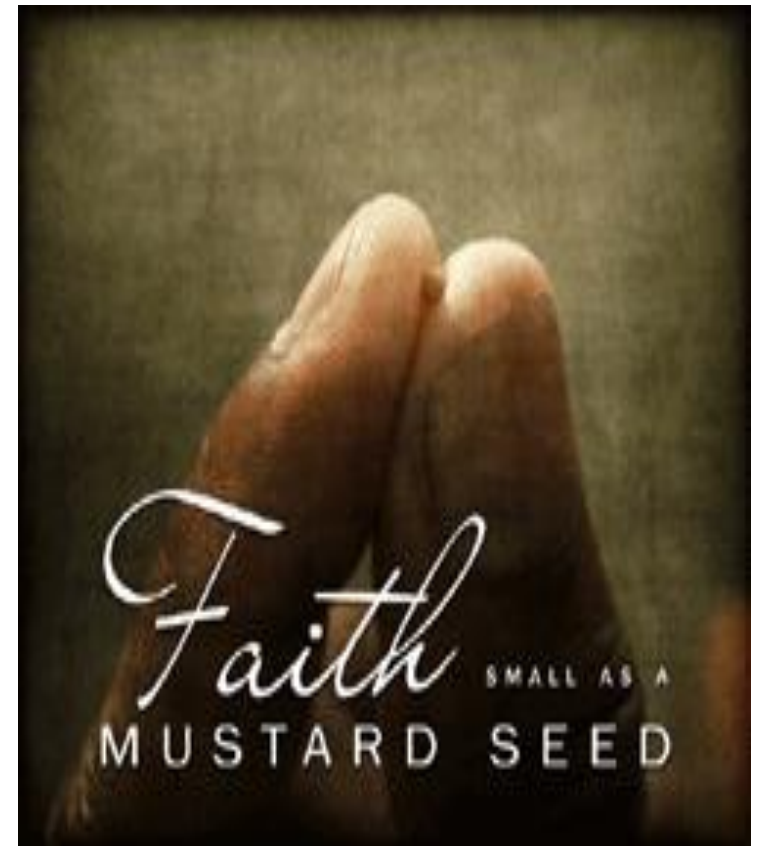
Reverend Mike Atzert is a Hospice Chaplain after serving as pastor of Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church (Ringoes) for 8 years and First Presbyterian Church of Blackwood, NJ for 10 years. Mike graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2003 and was ordained by New Castle Presbytery (Delaware). Mike has been married to Amy for 30 years. They have two daughters, a son-in-law, a future son-in-law, and a rescue dog named Auggie.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

October 2, 2022



“Guarding the Deposit”

Rev. Mike Atzert

### 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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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*

October 2, 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*

Please continue your prayers for Maritza and her family, especially her dad who has health issues.

Prayers Donna, Emily Palmer's Mom. She fell and broke her wrist and will need surgery.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week*

Please pray for James Tuerke, Emily Palmer's brother, who has been diagnosed with Lukemia. He will be in CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) for 2 weeks and then to another facility for about 2 months to continue his chem treatments. Please also pray for Emily.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week*

*4<sup>th</sup> Week*

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

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*6<sup>th</sup> 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
12/31/2021 \$ 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, October 2, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher—Rev. Mike Atzert)  
Live Stream-Facebook

#### MONDAY, October 3, 2022

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO)

#### TUESDAY, October 4, 2022

2:00 p.m. Missions/Outreach Mtg – CO  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg – CO  
7:30 p.m. CE Meeting – SSO

#### WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2022

#### THURSDAY, October 6, 2022

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

#### FRIDAY, October 7, 2022

#### SATURDAY, October 8, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### SUNDAY, October 9, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher—Rev. Emily Lueder)  
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 available on the chancel flower calendar: October 23rd & November 6th. 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** – is 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration is 6:00pm and Dinner and Program to follow at 7:00pm. Please visit [WWW.HOVINGHOME.ORG/NJ](http://WWW.HOVINGHOME.ORG/NJ) Tickets for details.

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT FALL FEST** – Mark your calendars! Friday, 10/28 5:00-7:00pm in the Sanctuary parking lot. Free hot dogs, games, and crafts. If you would like to decorate your car and pass out candy, or to man a table or game, see the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have questions, contact Cindy Culton at 732-261-3720.

**GUEST PREACHER** – for Sunday, October 9, 2022, is Rev. Emily Lueder. Originally from Northwest Indiana, Emily studied theology and ministry and philanthropic leadership and service at Valparaiso University. She moved to Princeton, NJ and graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019. She completed her yearlong chaplain residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan and currently serves as a palliative care chaplain with Hackensack Meridian Health. In her free time, Emily enjoys all things Golden Girls and Abraham Lincoln.

## 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	<a href="mailto:resolutjoe@gmail.com">resolutjoe@gmail.com</a>
Michael Peterson	Sexton	<a href="mailto:avenelpres@gmail.com">avenelpres@gmail.com</a>
Stephanie Kurowsky	Stream Lines	<a href="mailto:avenelstreamlines@comcast.net">avenelstreamlines@comcast.net</a>
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2022
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:rustisioux@comcast.net">rustisioux@comcast.net</a>
	Church Email	<a href="mailto:avenelpres@gmail.com">avenelpres@gmail.com</a>
	Church Website	<a href="http://avenelpresbyterianchurch.org">avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</a>

*Scripture for Sunday, October 9th*

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**

**Luke 17:11-19**