

October 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.
19th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek

PRELUDE "Seek Ye First" Karen Lafferty

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard.

Yet it goes out through all the earth
and to the end of the world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in Your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in Your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in You. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to Your Spirit and Your will. Help us to follow Your ways and find our freedom in Your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards Your goal.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, we have not already obtained the prize or reached the goal — but Christ has! And in Christ you are a new creation, you are made whole, and you are called beloved.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #359 "More Love to thee, O Christ"

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 Matthew 21:33-46 (N.T. pg. 24)

ANTHEM "You Have Called Us" Bernadette Farrell

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "More Questions than Answers"
Diane Anderson-Butts

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #306 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

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 #525 "Here I Am, Lord"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Praise You" D. Ducote, G. Daigle, M. Balhoff

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Diane Anderson-Butts Bio:

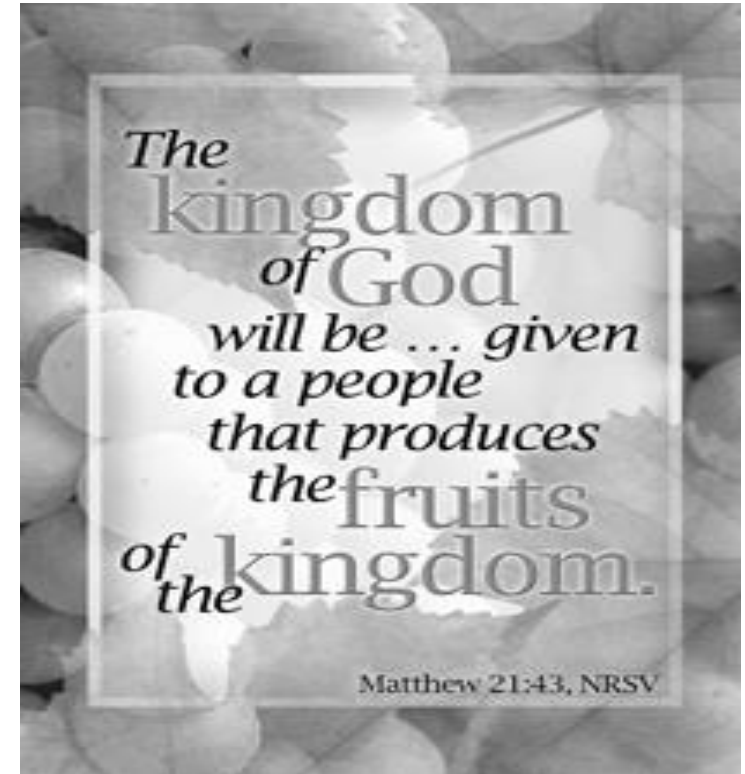
Diane Anderson-Butts is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. She is the founder and spiritual leader of Faith Works, an outreach ministry that goes into the streets of Paterson to reclaim God's children among the homeless, addicted and broken. Faith Works is a healing ministry that seeks to build disciples by developing relationships with the unchurched, forming a community of believers out of those relationships and shaping those believers into disciples through prayer and bible study. 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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

October 8, 2023



"More Questions than Answers"

Diane Anderson-Butts

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 8, 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

5th 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.

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
09/30/2023	\$ 94,254.05	\$ 2,544.98	\$10,794.65

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 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Diane Anderson-Butts)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, October 9, 2023

TUESDAY, October 10, 2023

4:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg – CR

WEDNESDAY, October 11, 2023

7:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

THURSDAY, October 12, 2023

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

FRIDAY, October 13, 2023

SATURDAY, October 14, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, October 15, 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: 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, & 11/26. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are in honor of Lillian Thorsen who is celebrating her 101st birthday on October 10th.
Given with love from her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-grandchild.*

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 15th & 29th is Diane Anderson-Butts.

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 15th

Isaiah 25:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

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**