

October 15, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

---

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Belinda Kerchner

PRELUDE "In This Place" T. Thomson, V. Thomson

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

**God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.**

The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

**God's goodness and mercy are always close.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of perfect love, You continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but You are strong. Our ways are flawed, but Your ways are true. We are seldom right, but You are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us and restore us to the people You would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.....(*silence for personal confession*)

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #482 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

#### 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 21:1-14 (N.T. pg.23)

ANTHEM "You Alone" Sarah Hart, Dwight Liles

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Called To Be Invited! Are You Ready?"  
Diane Anderson-Butts

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*RESPONSE HYMN #171 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

#### 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 #555 "Now Thank We All Our God"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fly Like a Bird" Ken Canedo

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 15, 2023

The crowds ... shouted,



"Hosanna to  
the Son of David!"

Matthew 21:9

"Called To Be Invited! Are You Ready?"

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 15, 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*

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

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

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

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

*6<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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 15, 2023**

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

**MONDAY, October 16, 2023**

**TUESDAY, October 17, 2023**

7:00 p.m. Session Mtg – CO

**WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023**

**THURSDAY, October 19, 2023**

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

**FRIDAY, October 20, 2023**

**SATURDAY, October 21, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

**SUNDAY, October 22, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Rev. Dr. Glen Misick)  
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.

*Today's flowers are in the loving memory of Edna Ely celebrating her birthday in heaven on October 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Given by her daughter, Holly Calantoni.*

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> is Rev. Dr. Glen Misick. Rev. Glen is an Honorably Retired Pastor (PCUSA) and member of the Presbytery of New York City. He served as the Senior Pastor of the historic First Presbyterian Church in Newark, NJ, 2013 -2017. Prior to this, for 11 years he was an executive with the Reformed Church in America, on loan from PCUSA, where he recruited pastors, conducted Church growth workshops, and trained church leaders. He is married to Jennifer Engram Misick, PhD, a retired professor of the City University of New York.

## 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 22nd*

Judges 6:11-19



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](mailto: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**

