

October 16, 2022
10:00 a.m.
19th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Stevenson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home.

God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.

God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day.

Let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself. But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you? How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice? How often have we tried to dominate others even as you stand with them? How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation by our treatment of the heavens, the earth, and its waters? Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way. All Loving God, we want to be among those whom you seek. Shower your mercy upon us. Find us and lead us safely home to faithfulness.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around, gathering us in to the people of God. Let us rejoice in God's mercy!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #356 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

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 Luke 15:1-10 (N.T. pg. 78)

ANTHEM "Stand by Me" Tom Kendzia

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON: "Jesus Never Gives Up on Us"
Rev. Dr. Grace Nzameyo-Maa

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #280 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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 #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "How Can I Keep from Singing" ENDLESS SONG
Robert Lowry & Randall Debruyn

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Dr. Grace Nzameyo-Maa Bio:

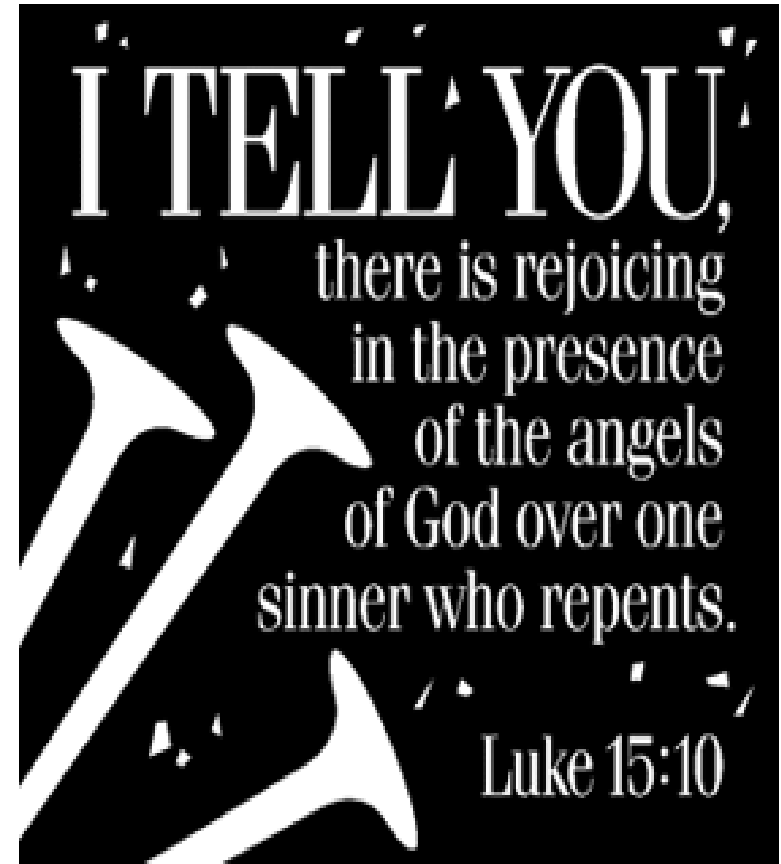
Grace Katie Nzameyo was born in Douala, Cameroon. She grew up in Kribi in the South Shore community area of the capital and was raised in a conventional Presbyterian parent home. She is a member of the 100-year-old Black sonority Alpha Kappa Alpha, the NAACP and the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. In 2006, Ms. Nzameyo enrolled at Drew Theological Seminary where she obtained her Master of Divinity degree and came under the care of the Presbytery of Newark as a ministerial candidate. She was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments in 2018, and in 2021 obtained her Doctorate degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Grace is married and has three children, Franck, and Ines (twins), 25, and baby Grace, 17, and they live in Newark, New Jersey.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

October 16, 2022



"Jesus Never Gives Up on Us"

Rev. Dr. Grace Nzameyo-Maa

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

Jeffrey Hansen – 1st 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

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 16, 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

2nd Week

3rd Week

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.

4th 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.

5th Week

6th Week

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

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)
09/30/2022 \$ 74,880.75	\$ (64.23)	\$(1,265.64)

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 16, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(Guest Preacher–Rev. Dr. Grace Nzameyo-Maa)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, October 17, 2022

TUESDAY, October 18, 2022

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2022

THURSDAY, October 20, 2022

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

FRIDAY, October 21, 2022

SATURDAY, October 22, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, October 23, 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.

The flowers are in memory of Edna Ely's Birthday on October 17th given by Holly Ely-Calantoni.

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 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 at the church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

BULLETINS – are now on our website.

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.

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.

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST – Iselin Presbytery will be hosting a pumpkin decorating contest. Submit a photo to Margarita at Margarita01@comcast.net by Thursday, 10/27. Winner(s) will be published in November issue of Spire.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, October 23, 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	resolutjoe@gmail.com
Michael Peterson	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
Stephanie Kurowsky	Stream Lines	avenelstreamlines@comcast.net
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2022
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	rustisioux@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scriptures for Sunday, October 23rd

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Luke 18:9-14