

October 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation *(for silent meditation before worship)*

Almighty God, you have taught us in your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We don't all come to confession, Loving god, with identical feelings and thoughts. Some of us may be feeling ashamed because of things recently done or said, frustrated by our ignorance and ineffectiveness. Some may be uneasy about our inertia as a church. Some among us may be discouraged by our well intentioned, yet hurtful blundering. Some of us may be feeling judgmental of others yet full of self-justification. Merciful Savior, no matter what we feel or think, please deal with us according to our true need as you see it. Bring us to an appropriate repentance, that we may humbly seek your grace, accept your forgiveness, and from this moment makes clean start in this new week. This we ask in the name of Christ our redeemer....*(silence for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

.....When God forgives you, you are irrevocably forgiven on earth and in heaven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN #339

"Be Thou My Vision"

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, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen. (*universal)

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Open The Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

Soloists: Rich Culton, Guitar & Jake Stockl, Harmonica

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (O.T. pg. 163)

Mark 12:28-34 (N.T. pg. 49)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON:

"Not Far From the Kingdom"

Rev. William (Tex) Culton

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #492

"Baptized in Water"

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF OLIVER EDWARD ZELAZNY
(Infant son of Delia and Scott Zelazny)

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

*CLOSING HYMN #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" Ernest Sands

*Please stand if able

William (Tex) Culton Bio:

Greetings: My name is William Owen Culton, but I have a nick name, Tex. It was given to me in the 1st grade in Avenel school! I was raised in and by the Avenel Presbyterian Church. Graduated from Tusculum College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Served 40 years in the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church and have been doing interim work since 2009. I am married with two married children and four grandchildren, and an 8 month old Golden Retriever named Maia. My wife is Kendel (51yrs.). Our son and wife are Aaron and Melody. Our daughter and husband are Leah and Leandro. My free time is spent trying to read while keeping Maia happy, caring for our lawn while keeping Maia happy, and wood working.

WELCOME OLIVER EDWARD ZELAZNY
TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue
Avenel, NJ 07001



"Love
the LORD
your God
with all your
heart...soul
...mind and...
strength."

Mark 12:30, NRSV



"Not Far From the Kingdom"
Rev. William (Tex) Culton

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

Daniel Hedner – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Amy Updike

Rob – serving in the U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA. - Lynn & Wayne Dubin's son.

Anthony Service – U.S. Air Force, in San Antonio.

OVERSEAS

Jeffrey Hansen – 1st LT, Kuwait, Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky'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

Elizabeth Port Presbyterian Church Children's Center, NJ

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 24, 2021

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 Carol Palmer. She took a CAT SCAN on 9/28 to determine outcome of HIPEC procedure. Please pray for Larry, her husband, and their extended families.

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

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
12/31/2020	\$109,515.39		
01/31/2021	\$104,658.48	\$(4,856.91)	\$(4,856.91)
02/28/2021	\$100,834.39	\$(3,824.09)	\$(8,681.00)
03/31/2021	\$ 94,305.80	\$(6,528.59)	\$(15,209.59)
04/30/2021	\$ 88,398.27	\$(5,907.53)	\$(21,117.12)
05/31/2021	\$ 86,186.03	\$(2,212.24)	\$(23,329.36)
06/30/2021	\$ 83,254.27	\$(2,931.76)	\$(26,261.12)
07/31/2021	\$ 70,951.00	\$(12,303.27)	\$(38,564.39)
08/31/2021	\$ 71,414.52	\$ 463.52	\$(38,100.87)
09/30/2021	\$ 71,063.34	\$ (351.18)	\$(38,452.05)

CHURCH PROPERTY 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.

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 24, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Tex Culton)
Oliver Edward Zelazny’s Baptism
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, October 25, 2021

TUESDAY, October 26, 2021

WEDNESDAY, October 27, 2021

THURSDAY, October 28, 2021

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

FRIDAY, October 29, 2021

SATURDAY, October 30, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. His Hands Clothes Closet – CE Building

SUNDAY, October 31, 2021

HALLOWEEN

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev.Dr.Byron Shafer)
Live Stream-Facebook

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

SUNDAY SCHOOL – meets every Sunday at 9 am in the Christian Education Building's Sunday School Office.

YOUTH GROUP – meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00pm in the Christian Education Building.

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are available on the chancel flower calendar: November 7th & November 14th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

The flowers are in honor of Oliver Edward's baptism given by his grandparents, Rich and Cindy Culton.

"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever."

2 Peter 3:16

PRAYER GATHERING – is on Thursday evenings 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 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.

LIVE STREAM CAMERA VOLUNTEERS – The mission team is asking for several people to consider operating the live streaming camera so we can insure no interruptions in our outreach. It is easy, requires very little work once setup. Stephen will show exactly how to operate. If you are willing, see Stephen after worship or Bob Toro.

MUSIC MINISTRY – if you are interested in joining, we are seeking vocalists and instrumentalists. Please see Joe after service or contact him at (908) 868-4020. Or email at resolutjoe@gmail.com.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, October 31, 2021, is Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer. He is an *emeritus* professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University in New York City and also the *emeritus* Pastor of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. In retirement, he spent four academic terms serving as a Visiting Professor of Old and New Testaments at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India. Dr. Shafer has been active in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on many levels. He was a member of the Committee of 15 that reviewed and edited that denomination's "Brief Statement of Faith," part of its *Book of Confessions*. And in 1993, he served as Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City. He is currently a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of the Coastlands.

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, the worship assistant or Pastor Bob.

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
avenelstreamlines@comcast.net
For 2021
(732) 634-1631
churchwebsite@comcast.net
avenelpres@gmail.com
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scriptures for Sunday, October 31st

Ruth 1:1-18; Mark 12:28-34

Walter Hoving Home Christmas Program

Hi Friends!

It's coming up on that time of year again. The Hoving Home is looking forward to celebrating our 54th holiday season with the ladies, staff, volunteers, and families of the ministry. We are beyond grateful for how folks like you have partnered in the vision of making each Christmas season special for the ladies entrusted to our care. Before entering the Hoving Home, most of the women have little to no positive Christmas memories. It is with great joy and through the remarkable generosity of individuals such as yourself, that the ministry can provide the ladies in the Hoving Home with a Christmas experience centered around the love of Christ. This Christmas the Hoving Home has an incredible opportunity for creating a Christmas to remember for our ladies.

This year we will continue doing our new Christmas program where those who contribute will not only enrich the ladies' holiday season but simultaneously improve their future at large. In reflection of the structure we currently utilize, the ministry desires to shift into a greater stewardship of your kindness. We realized that if the very same funds that currently go into purchasing generalized items, was instead invested in gifting items the resident specifically needs, the impact would be immeasurable. Whether needing a pair of winter boots or finances towards getting their driver's license. The harvest of this new program will surely abound.

If you are interested in contributing to the Christmas program, you will see on the next page the general wants/needs and community needs which benefit the ladies directly for Christmas. Please do not hesitate to contact, Kaitee Coe, at 908-651-5846 or kcoe@hovinghome.org with any questions. Thank you for considering this opportunity to extend God's love to the ladies, not only while they are in the program, but also throughout their lifetime.