

October 26, 2025

10:00 a.m.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

THE INTROIT – Choir "Heart of Worship"

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!

**My soul longs for the courts of the Lord... my heart and my flesh
sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
At Your altars, O Lord, my King and my God.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Debra Given

OPENING HYMN #288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord our God, You call us to work for a world where all people
have what they need to live with dignity, but we have walked
away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. You
call us to seek justice and peace, but we have gone along with evil,
prejudice, warfare and greed. You call us to proclaim liberty to the
oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all. God of grace,
help us to admit our sin, so that as You come to us in mercy, we
may repent, turn to You, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Debra Given

Anyone who lives in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a
new life has begun. Friends, believe and proclaim the good news of
the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through
despair, life breaks through death. We are forgiven, loved and set
free!**

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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)

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 65 (O.T. pgs. 527-528)

Luke 18:9-14 (N.T. pg. 81)

Children's Sermon

ANTHEM – Choir

"The Peace Gift"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Reformed and Always Reforming"

Rev. Debra Given

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #335 "Though I May Speak"

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.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #339 "Be Thou My Vision"

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

+++WE ENTER TO WORSHIP; WE LEAVE TO SERVE!!!

Rev. Debra Given BIO:

Rev. Debra Given is a graduate of Earlham College and Yale Divinity School. She has served in several Presbyterian churches and retired in 2016 after 15 years as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Leonia, New Jersey, a multicultural congregation. She lives in Manhattan with her husband of 46 years, Tom Phillips. She enjoys visiting with her children and grandchildren, sewing, playing the Irish drum (bodhran), birdwatching, and singing in the hospice choir, Eventide, which she founded after retiring.

*Please stand if able

SUNDAY, 11/2 @ 2:00am



First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Debra Given

October 26, 2025

Those who
**humble
themselves**
will be
exalted.
Luke 18:14, NIV



"Reformed and Always Reforming"

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.

Robbie Olah

Joan Benkert

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

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Jake & Carolyn Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – deployed to Iraq – Jake & Carolyn 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 –

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude's Children's Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Samaritan's Purse

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises

October 26, 2025

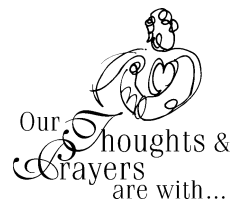
The Prayer Chain - provides immediate prayer for *critical and emergency situations*. All other needs will be taken care of through the prayer list. To place someone on the prayer chain call Millie Knotts at 732-382-9391.

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

6th Week

Prayers for Betty Hulsizer recovering from surgery.

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

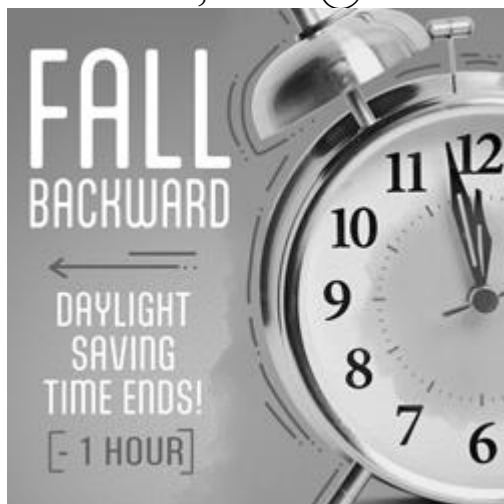


The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to grow in Christ and make Him known. This is based on John 15:5: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches, apart from me you can do nothing." The Holy Spirit strengthens us to:

1. ***Connect*** to the vine,
2. ***Grow*** to maturity,
3. ***Share*** the fruit

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30AM – 1:30PM

SUNDAY, 11/2 @ 2:00am



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 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Guest Minister-Rev. Debra Given)
Live Stream – Facebook

MONDAY, October 27, 2025

TUESDAY, October 28, 2025

10:00 a.m. JoAnn Breza and Jake Stockl Food Pantry – CE Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, October 29, 2025

THURSDAY, October 30, 2025

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

FRIDAY, October 31, 2025

SATURDAY, November 1, 2025

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CO

SUNDAY, November 2, 2025

***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS at 2:00am-Set
clocks back one hour***

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Guest Minister-Rev. Alice Batchter)
Live Stream – Facebook

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, & 11/30. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

Today's flowers on the communion table are in honor of Erika Ferrie and Elvin Giordano.

Congratulations to our daughter, Erika Ferrie and her new husband Elvin Giordano married on Saturday, October 25th.

Love and prayers for a happy marriage! Elaine and Stan Kaczmarek

PRAYER GATHERING – is every Thursday evening at 8:00pm. 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 on our website: avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – is every Saturday morning 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.

GUEST MINISTER – for Sunday, 11/2 is Rev. Alice Batchner. Reverend Alice is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

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.

William Gorman	Pastor	Temporary Pulpit Supply
Michael Peterson	Music Director	williamgormanmusic@gmail.com
Belinda Kerchner	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
	SS Superintendent	For 2025
	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	rustisioux@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scripture for Sunday, November 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36