

October 31, 2021
10:00 a.m.
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Hallows' Eve

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

Almighty God, we pray for Your blessing on our congregation: Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Kurowsky

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that we have taken Your commandments lightly. We have not loved You with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not lived up to Your expectations of us, nor have we inspired the next generation. There are so many distractions that occupy our time. There are so many groups that claim our loyalty. There are so many activities that bid for our attention. Even the church involves us in busyness that keeps us from matters of greater importance. Forgive our foolish ways, O God, and save us from our misplaced priorities. In every age You have raised up women and men who have lived and died in faith. Equip us to realize our own value as Your beloved children, and nurture us to grow in our understanding of Your promises. In the name of Christ, we pray.....*(silence for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...**Congregation**: promises to accompany us on our lifelong journey of faith.

All: Upon straightaways, at crossroads, through difficult turns, our loving God will remain steadfast and true.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN #364 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of 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, 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)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE:

Ruth 1:1-18 (O.T. pg. 241)

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON:

"Halloween—All Hallows' Eve"

Rev. Byron Shafer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #326

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

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 #526 "For All the Saints"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Are the Light of the World" Jean Anthony Greif

*Please stand if able

Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer Bio:

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer 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. For more than seventeen years, Dr. Shafer served as the Protestant host of "Religion on the Line," a three-hour Sunday-morning interfaith call-in program on WABC Radio in New York City. Dr. Shafer received his B.A. in History from the College of Wooster in Ohio, his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in the History, Religion, and Literature of Ancient Israel.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

October 31, 2021



"Halloween—All Hallows' Eve"

Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer

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 31, 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

6th 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.

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 31, 2021

HALLOWEEN

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

MONDAY, November 1, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Property Care/Stewardship Mtg – CR

TUESDAY, November 2, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg – CO
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg – SSO

WEDNESDAY, November 3, 2021

- 2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Mtg – CO

THURSDAY, November 4, 2021

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

FRIDAY, November 5, 2021

SATURDAY, November 6, 2021

DAYLIGHT SAVING – TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

SUNDAY, November 7, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Emily Lueder)
Live Stream-Facebook
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group – CE Bldg

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 24th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

The flowers are in remembrance of Bruce and Jane McKee given by Marlene Sorge and family.

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, November 7, 2021, 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, the worship assistant or Pastor Bob.

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 2021
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Susan Smolsky	Webmaster	rustisioux@comcast.net
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scripture for Sunday, November 7th

1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 12:38-44

**In observance of
All Saint's Day Eve,
we remember:**

Ruth Barrett
Ilene Nisbet
Vincent Sorge
Mae Dudas
Marjorie Greasheimer
Luisa Rondoh
Linda Guarracino



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@hovingshome.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.



Walter Hoving Home Christmas Items List.pdf



Just a friendly reminder to change
your clocks on Saturday evening
one hour behind



Inviting all congregation
members to join us for

SANCTUARY DECORATING

on November 21st at 3:30pm