

November 13, 2022
10:00 a.m.
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Toro

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to God, who made us from dust and cares for us as precious treasures. **God's love endures forever!**

Give thanks to God's only Begotten who lived and died for us, was raised to new life for us, and ever lives to pray for us. **God's love endures forever!**

Give thanks to God the Spirit who breathes into us new life and calls us all to ministry in Christ's name. **God's love endures forever!**

Give thanks to the Triune God who summons us together to bear witness with joy. **God's love endures forever!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in Your light, and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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

Genesis 12:1-9 (O.T. pg.2)

1 Timothy 2:1-6a (N.T. pg. 208)

ANTHEM

"In Every Age" Janet Sullivan Whitaker

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON:

"Rattling the Gates of Heaven"

Rev. Gail Pendleton

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #388

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

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 #420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "In the Day of the Lord" M.D. Ridge

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

CALL FOR CONGREGATION / CORPORATION MEETING
BY ORDER OF THE SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL, NEW JERSEY, THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION/CORPORATION WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO REVIEW THE NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS, REVIEW OF THE 2023 BUDGET, AND TO CONDUCT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY BE PROPERLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGREGATION.

Rev. Gail Pendleton Bio:

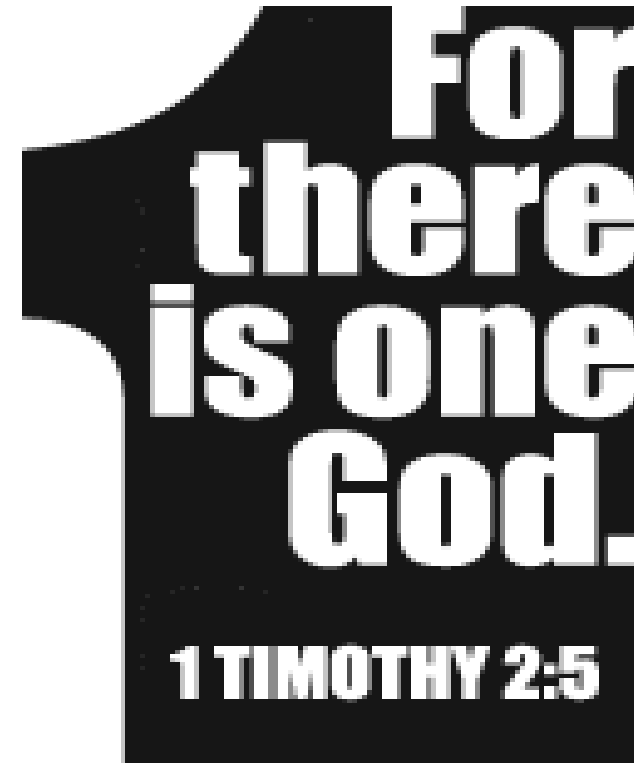
Gail Pendleton is a minister member of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey. She was the first woman ordained by the former Presbytery of Newton. She received her B.A. from Montclair State University, her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and her M.A in English (Writing) from William Paterson University. She has worked in journalism as an editor, reporter, and columnist, and at Sussex County Community College as an adjunct professor of English. She has published a novel *Two in a Canoe* and has another novel in progress. In addition, she is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

November 13, 2022



"Rattling the Gates of Heaven"

Rev. Gail Pendleton

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

November 13, 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

Praise God! James Tuerke's numbers went up and he is receiving his chemo.

Emily Palmer will see her cardiologist on Nov. 8th. Please pray for a positive outcome.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

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
12/31/2021 \$ 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)
10/31/2022 \$ 76,673.28	\$ 1,792.53	\$ 526.89

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.

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, November 13, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher – Rev. Gail Pendleton)
95TH Anniversary Celebration
 Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, November 14, 2022

TUESDAY, November 15, 2022

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting – KHL

WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2022

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

THURSDAY, November 17, 2022

FRIDAY, November 18, 2022

SATURDAY, November 19, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, November 20, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Recognition Sunday
 (Guest Preacher – Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst)
 Live Stream-Facebook

Per Capita Amount has been changed from \$45.00 to \$40.00

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: November 20th & November 27th. 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.

PRAYER GATHERING – is **now** every **Wednesday** 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.

CHURCH OFFICE – will be **closed** Thursday, 11/24 and Friday, 11/25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – Poinsettia plants will be purchased from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10.50 per plant. All orders must be in by Friday, December 2nd. Detailed order form is attached to bulletin and on the doors of the CE building.

SANCTUARY DECORATING – will be on Saturday, November 26th from 12:00pm noon on.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – will be on Thursday, December 15th at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary parking lot.

LIVE NATIVITY – will be on Sunday, December 18th from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the Sanctuary parking lot.

WALTER HOVING HOME – invites you all to get involved with upcoming holiday season events. Christmas donations will be accepted from now through 12/19. A list of ideas is attached. Christmas Wrapping week will be from 12/19-12/22. Please show your support.

SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY – there will **NOT** be a Worship Service. Everyone is welcome to attend the 10:30am service at The First Presbyterian Church of Iselin located at 1295 Oak Tree Road.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, November 20, 2022, is Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst. Rev. Whitehurst is Lead Chaplain for Grace Healthcare Services in New Jersey. He attended Columbia Theological Seminary in GA and was ordained in 1996. Later, he became Stated Supply for Hapeville Presbyterian in Atlanta for 9 years and taught at Georgia State University for 10 years. Fred lived in Manhattan in the late 1970's and consulted with the contemporary art community. He is now living in Brooklyn and happily spending time with his daughter, son-in-law and 2 grandchildren.

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

Scripture for Sunday, November 20th

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-44

The First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 E. Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ

732-634-1631

Come experience the true meaning of
Christmas by driving through our

Live Nativity Scene

Real people and real animals

Sunday, December 18, 2022

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to this FREE event



Inviting all congregation
members to join us for

SANCTUARY DECORATING

on Saturday, November 26th
from noon on



Christmas Caroling
December 15, 2022

Leaving from the church parking
lot at 6:00 pm

**Come join with others, as we bring
joy to several homebound
members of our congregation this
Christmas season!**

**Each family will drive their own
car as we travel to their homes.
Masks should be worn.**

**If you have any questions or
recipient suggestions, please let
us know.**

Once again our sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas. Poinsettia plants will be obtained from Floral Expressions at a cost of **\$10.50** per plant. If you would like to donate toward the poinsettias, you may do so. If you wish your gift to be in honor or in memory of a loved one, please designate the name(s) when placing your request. If you would like to make a contribution to the church for music or in lieu of sending Christmas cards to church family and friends, you may do that as well on the form below.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants may be taken after the 4:30 worship service on Saturday, December 24, by those who donated them.

Please have all donations and requests in the church office no later than **Friday, December 2, 2022**. Requests can be sent by mail, dropped off to the Church Office, or placed in the offering tray.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your name: _____

Poinsettias \$ _____ (\$10.50 each) Music \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Greetings from: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____