

November 27, 2022

10:00 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Delia Zelazny

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Hanna Pallitto

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob,

**that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.”**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

**nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. We confess that we have not expected Your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring Your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome Your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.....(silence for personal confession)**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #9 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#### 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

Isaiah 2:1-5 (O.T. pgs. 631-632)

Matthew 24:36-44 (N.T. pgs. 27-28)

#### ANTHEM

“Christ the Lord” Sarah Hart, Robert Feduccia

#### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children’s Sermon

#### SERMON:

“The Lord is Coming”

Rev. Emily Lueder

#### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*HYMN #2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#### 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 #12 "People, Look East"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Come, Lord Jesus" 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 **TODAY 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. Emily Lueder Bio:

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

November 27, 2022



"The Lord is Coming"

Rev. Emily Lueder

### 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Jeffrey Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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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 27, 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*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week*

*4<sup>th</sup> Week* Praise God! James Tuerke's numbers went up and he is receiving his chemo.  
Emily Palmer will see her cardiologist on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for a positive outcome.

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*6<sup>th</sup> 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 27, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Guest Preacher – Rev. Emily Lueder)  
 11:00 a.m. Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary  
 Live Stream-Facebook

**MONDAY, November 28, 2022**

**TUESDAY, November 29, 2022**

10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry – CE Bldg.  
 6:30 p.m. Presbytery Meeting – Zoom (Carolyn Stevenson)

**WEDNESDAY, November 30, 2022**

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

**THURSDAY, December 1, 2022**

**FRIDAY, December 2, 2022**

**SATURDAY, December 3, 2022**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

**SUNDAY, December 4, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –  
 (Guest Preacher – Rev. Janet Pederson)  
 Baptism – Octavian Salvador Sterlacci  
 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: December 4th & December 11th. 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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** – will be on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary parking lot. After caroling, light refreshments will be served at Elaine and Stan Kaczmarek's home.

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

**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.

**STAFF APPRECIATION** - We have begun our year end collection for Staff Appreciation. Envelopes are located in the bulletin bin.

**GUEST PREACHER** – for Sunday, November 27, 2022, is Rev. Janet Pederson. Rev. Janet Vane Pederson is happy to return to lead you in worship once again. She has served in various churches including Morris Plains Presbytery Central Church in Summit and Tower Hill Church in Red Bank. Then she decided to go into Hospice Work as a Chaplain. Retiring from that after 13 years. She and her husband, Brent, live in Berkeley Heights. They have 13 grandchildren ranging from 25 years of age to 10 months. They enjoy visiting them as much as possible, especially now that Covid restrictions have lessened.

## 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, December 4th*

**Matthew 3:1-14**

**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



A couple weeks ago our church was blessed to celebrate the milestone of our 95th Anniversary. During this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to God for the opportunity to continue to serve Him through this church. One recent example includes collecting over \$500.00 in gift cards for the remaining families in The Fish Hospitality Program. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the life of our church by sharing Christ's love and making Him known.

Thank you!

Sandy Kosakowski



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.**

***After caroling, light refreshments will  
be served at Elaine and Stan  
Kaczmarek's home.***

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**