

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent

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

Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem, trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness. For You, Child Jesus, we wait, on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry. With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve, those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Toro

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Maritza Flores-Shah

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people. Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption.....(*silence for personal confession*)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

OPENING HYMN #8 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

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:

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (O.T. pg. 738)

Luke 21:25-36 (N.T. pgs. 85-86)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

“Beyond the Moon and Stars”

Dan Schutte

SERMON:

“Such New Beginnings”

Rev. Alice Batcher

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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 #53 "What Child Is This"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*BENEDICTION

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

*Please stand if able

Rev. Alice Batcher Bio:

Reverend Alice Batcher 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 works with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

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, DECEMBER 5, 2021** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO REVIEW THE NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS, REVIEW OF THE 2022 BUDGET, AND TO CONDUCT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY BE PROPERLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGREGATION.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

November 28, 2021



"Such New Beginnings"

Rev. Alice Batcher

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 November 28, 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

Prayers for guidance and comfort for Matt Barany Sr. and his family.
Matt is battling advanced prostate cancer.

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
12/31/2020	\$109,515.39	
01/31/2021	\$104,658.48	\$(4,856.91)
02/28/2021	\$100,834.39	\$(3,824.09)
03/31/2021	\$ 94,305.80	\$(6,528.59)
04/30/2021	\$ 88,398.27	\$(5,907.53)
05/31/2021	\$ 86,186.03	\$(2,212.24)
06/30/2021	\$ 83,254.27	\$(2,931.76)
07/31/2021	\$ 70,951.00	\$(12,303.27)
08/31/2021	\$ 71,414.52	\$ 463.52
09/30/2021	\$ 71,063.34	\$ (351.18)
10/31/2021	\$ 72,418.97	\$ 1,355.63

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, November 28, 2021

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

MONDAY, November 29, 2021

TUESDAY, November 30, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. JoAnn’s Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY, December 1, 2021

THURSDAY, December 2, 2021

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

FRIDAY, December 3, 2021

SATURDAY, December 4, 2021

SUNDAY, December 5, 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: December 5th & December 12th. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

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. Please see Stephen or Bob Toro after worship.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – Poinsettia plants will be obtained from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10 per plant. All orders must be in by Thursday, December 9th. Detailed order form is attached.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, let’s rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas! Join us for a 4 week Advent adult Sunday School series beginning November 28th at 9:15am in Ken Hunt Lounge.

CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER – St. Anthony of Padua Church located at 436 Port Reading Avenue will host a FREE Christmas dinner on Saturday, 12/25 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please call to make a reservation starting 12/1 at (732) 634-1419. Local transportation may be available.

GUEST PREACHER – for Sunday, December 5, 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, December 5th

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Once again our sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas. Poinsettia plants will be obtained from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10 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.



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

Please have all donations and requests in the church office no later than **Thursday, December 9, 2021**. Requests can be sent by mail, dropped off to the Church Office, or placed in the offering tray.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your name: _____

Poinsettias \$ _____ (\$10.00 each) Music \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Greetings from: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

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 19, 2021

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to this FREE event





Christmas Caroling
December 13, 2021

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.**