

December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**1st Sunday of Advent/Holy Communion  
Baptism/Confirmation/Reception of New Members**

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**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Hanna Pallitto

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Gary and Carolyn Stevenson

THE INTROIT "Here I Am To Worship" Tim Hughes

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

**We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

**We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

**We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God's promise.

**Let us worship in the shocking hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

OPENING HYMN #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we confess that we are not ready. We call on You to rend the heavens and come down, and yet we aren't ready for You to rend our hearts and enter in. When it comes to meeting You face-to-face, we hesitate. We fear what You will find in us and among us. We are uncertain that we really want our lives to be turned**

**upside down by the good news. We want the hope that comes with knowing You are coming to us, but we're not sure we're ready for the shock of that hope. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our fear that we might joyfully live in the hope that shakes us up and turns us around to follow You. In Jesus' name!.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

Hear the good news:

God is the Potter, and we are the clay. We are the work of God's hand. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**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)

**HEARING THE WORD**

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

ANTHEM "Silent Night" Franz Gruber

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

SERMON: "Anticipation and Hope" Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

**SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*RESPONSE HYMN #379 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

**+ THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**+ RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**+ CONFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS #581 "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

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.**

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Let us keep the feast.**

COMMUNION HYMN #100 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

THE BLESSING AND ANOINTING OF THE CHILDREN

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD**

\*CLOSING HYMN #155 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

\*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

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

\*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

December 1, 2024



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

"Anticipation and Hope"

### **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 –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

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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 –

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

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

## ***Prayer Concerns and Praises*** ***December 1, 2024***

***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*

Prayers needed for Tom who fractured his neck vertebrae and is recovering at home.

*4<sup>th</sup> Week*

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

Prayers for Robbie.  
Prayers for Joan who is in assisted living.

*6<sup>th</sup> Week*

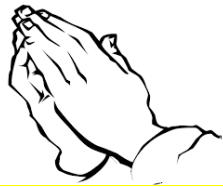
*Prayers and Sympathies*

*SHUT-INS*

*Please continue to keep in your prayers those members who are unable to join us for worship on Sundays.*

***Health and Healing***

*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

## **Sermon Notes**

**Sunday:**

**Preacher:**

**Sermon Topic/Theme:**

**Scripture:**

**Point # 1:**

**Point # 2**

**Point # 3**

**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, December 1, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –  
Baptism - Gracie Grabiell & Madelein Grabiell  
Confirmation – Amanda Seik & Jordan Seik  
New Membership – Gracie Grabiell, Madelein Grabiell,  
Amanda Seik, and Jordan Seik  
Live Stream–Facebook

#### **MONDAY, December 2, 2024**

4:00 p.m. Property Care Mtg – CO

#### **TUESDAY, December 3, 2024**

2:00 p.m. Missions Mtg – CO  
4:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg – CO  
7:30 p.m. CE Mtg – SSO

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Bible Study – On-Line (CANCELLED)

#### **THURSDAY, December 5, 2024**

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

#### **POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE**

#### **FRIDAY, December 6, 2024**

#### **SATURDAY, December 7, 2024**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

#### **SUNDAY, December 8, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Live Stream–Facebook

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

**CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY** – The following dates are open 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, & 12/29. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

**PRAYER GATHERING** – is every **Thursday** 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 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.

**BIBLE STUDY** – will begin **January** every Wednesday on-line beginning at 6:30pm taught by Rev. Misick.

**WALTER HOVING HOME** – once again we will participate in giving Christmas Donations to the ladies.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** – Poinsettia plants will be purchased from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10.50 per plant. The order deadline is **Thursday, December 5th**. Detailed order form is attached to bulletin.

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

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** – will be on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm in the Sanctuary parking lot.

## 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.*

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Rev. Glen C. Misick</i>	<i>gmisick@gmail.com</i>
<i>William Gorman</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>williamgormanmusic@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2024</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Hanna Pallitto</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>hannapallitto@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm**

*Scripture for Sunday, December 8th*

**Luke 3:1-6**

Once again our sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas. Poinsettia plants will be purchased from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10.50 per plant. 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 10:00am worship service on Saturday, December 24, by those who donated them.

Please have all donations and requests in the church office no later than **Thursday, December 5, 2024**. 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) Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Music \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Greetings from: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



Christmas Caroling  
December 16, 2023

Leaving from the church parking  
lot at 5:40 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.  
If you have any questions or  
recipient suggestions, please let  
us know.**

