

December 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent/Holy Communion

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Belinda Kerchner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joe Fernandez and Family

PRELUDE "Waiting in Silence" Carey Landry

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the infant lowly.

Can you see it? Can you smell it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in a Middle-Eastern child born in poverty.

Can you taste it? Can you sense it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in an infant born in the margins of society.

Come, friends, the season of Advent begins.

We gather to worship Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and Merciful God, today we light the candle of hope, a beacon of light that shines in the darkness. Today, we confess the ways we have caused others to feel hopeless. Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our greed. Others feel the hopelessness of violence because of our apathy. Still others feel the hopelessness of racism because of our ignorance. Forgive us, gracious God. Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of

old. This we pray in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick
Friends, all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and righteousness. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus, that our sins are forgiven. **Alleluia! Amen. Thanks be to God.**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:32-37 (N.T. pg. 51)

Children's Sermon

ANTHEM "Come, Lord Jesus" M.D. Ridge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Watchful Vigilance for Christ's Second Coming"
Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #316 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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.

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 #102 "Were You There?"

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Christ, Be Our Light" Bernadette Farrell

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick, Pastor

December 3, 2023



"Watchful Vigilance for Christ's
Second Coming"

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

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

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

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 ***December 3, 2023***

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

Prayers for Kim, friend of Carolyn Stevenson. Kim is receiving chemo and radiation for a rare, very aggressive form of cancer.

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

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 2023

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
12/31/2022	\$ 83,459.40		
01/31/2023	\$ 80,730.57	\$(2,728.83)	\$(2,728.83)
02/28/2023	\$ 79,873.93	\$ (856.64)	\$(3,585.47)
03/31/2023	\$ 79,283.62	\$ (590.31)	\$(4,175.78)
04/30/2023	\$ 79,248.48	\$ (35.24)	\$(4,210.92)
05/31/2023	\$ 80,317.20	\$ 1,068.72	\$(3,142.20)
06/30/2023	\$ 85,270.39	\$ 4,953.19	\$ 1,810.99
07/31/2023	\$ 90,105.95	\$ 4,835.56	\$ 6,646.55
08/31/2023	\$ 91,709.07	\$ 1,602.12	\$ 8,249.67
09/30/2023	\$ 94,254.05	\$ 2,544.98	\$10,794.65
10/31/2023	\$100,771.56	\$ 6,517.51	\$17,312.16

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 \$14/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, December 3, 2023

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

MONDAY, December 4, 2023

TUESDAY, December 5, 2023

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023

THURSDAY, December 7, 2023

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE

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

FRIDAY, December 8, 2023

SATURDAY, December 9, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
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 open: 12/10, 12/17, & 12/31. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is now back 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 now back 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.

WALTER HOVING HOME – once again we will participate in giving Christmas Donations to the ladies. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Deadline for donations is 12/15.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – for Family and Candlelight will be combined on Sunday, December 24th at 10:00am.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – Poinsettia plants will be purchased from Floral Expressions at a cost of \$10.50 per plant. All orders must be in by Thursday, December 7th. Detailed order form is attached to bulletin and on the doors of the CE building.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – will be on Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary parking lot.

LIVE NATIVITY – will be on Sunday, December 17th from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the Sanctuary parking lot.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS – sheets are located in the bulletin bin.

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
Michael Peterson
Belinda Kerchner
Linda Vassallo
Susan Smolsky

Music Director
Sexton
SS Superintendent
Church Office
Webmaster
Church Email
Church Website

resolutjoe@gmail.com
avenelpres@gmail.com
For 2023
(732) 634-1631
rustisioux@comcast.net
avenelpres@gmail.com
avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

Scripture for Sunday, December 10th

Isaiah 40: 1- 11
Mark 1: 1 - 8

The First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
 621 East 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 17, 2023

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to this FREE event



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.

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 7, 2023.** 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 \$ _____



Christmas Caroling December 13, 2023

Leaving from the church parking
lot at 5:30 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.**

Hoving Home Christmas Gift Ideas

For the House:

Vacuum Cleaners - Brooms & Mops

“HE” Laundry Detergent - Dish Soap & Hand Soap -
Disinfectant

Copy Paper (not WB Mason) - Bath & Shower Mats

Cleaning Supplies - College Lined Notebooks - Swiffer
Dusters Plastic

Shower Curtains - All Sizes New Sports Bras - Pajamas All
Sizes New Underwear Packages - All Sizes New Socks

For the Ladies:

UGG Boots/Shoes/Sneakers, Cardigans, Clear Water Bottles,
Laundry Bags, Devotionals, Winter Wear, Slippers/Socks,
Book Bags, Curling Irons/Flat Irons, Purses/Wallets

Stationary/Stamps, Perfume (no twist off cap), Writing
Journals, Christian Books, Watches/Fit Bit, Batteries AA/AAA,
Hair Dryers, Pajamas/Night Gowns/Robes (all sizes),
Flashlights, Make-Up Cases/Shower Caddies, Make-Up,
Manicure Kits, Jewelry, Bibles (NIV), Alarm Clocks (no radios),
MP3 Players (Eclipse Fit Clip no radio), Bible Highlighter,
Markers, Pens, Toiletries, Lotions, Hygiene Products, Photo
Albums/Frames (no candles), Book Lights/Night Light that
clips to bed, African American Hair Products

IF YOU OR YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP US WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE
ITEMS:

Please drop off any time before, but no later than December 15, 2023

You can donate gifts- wrapped or unwrapped.

Please Contact: Chelsea Caldwell at 908-651-5846 or email:

ccaldwell@hovinghome.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT