

December 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Belinda Kerchner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Graciela Goyco and Family

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name O Most high **to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night.**

For You make us glad by Your deeds O Lord. For we sing for joy at the works of Your hands.

How great are Your works, O LORD how profound Your thoughts.

The senseless man does not know fools do not understand.

That though the wicked spring up like grass and evil doers flourish they will forever be destroyed.

But You O Lord are exalted forever. The righteous will flourish like a palm tree planted in the house of the Lord.

They will still bear fruit in old age. They will stay fresh and green all proclaiming, the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.

CALL TO CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God in Jesus Christ, You called us as servant people but we do not do what You command. We are often silent when we should speak, and useless when we could be useful. We get caught up in our own needs and issues, and we neglect those who are hurting both near and far. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us and free us from sin through Jesus Christ our Lord.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ blots out our sins as far as the east is from the west. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF Octavian Salvador Sterlacci
(Son of Jamie Sterlacci and Lawrence Salvador)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-14 (N.T. pg.1)

ANTHEM "Waiting in Silence" Carey Landry

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Preparing for the Lord"
Rev. Janet Pederson

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*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.

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #341 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Shall Prepare" Janet Vogt, Mark Friedman

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Janet Pederson Bio:

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

December 4, 2022



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

"Preparing for the Lord"

Rev. Janet Pederson

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 ***December 4, 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

Please pray for Donald Funk, who is still in the hospital and recovering from surgery.

Please pray for James Tuerke, Emily Palmer's brother, who is back in CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) having issues with his port. They are running tests to determine if it must be surgically replaced.

Please pray for the PNC as they work hard to find a Pastor.

2nd Week

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

Emily Palmer's cardiology tests were negative. She is fine.

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, December 4, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –
 (Guest Preacher – Rev. Janet Pederson)
 Baptism – Octavian Salvador Sterlacci
 Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, December 5, 2022

TUESDAY, December 6, 2022

2:00 p.m. Mission/Outreach Meeting – CO
 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting – CO
 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting – CR
 7:30 p.m. CE Meeting – SSO

WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2022

7:00 p.m. Property Care Meeting – CO
 8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In
 (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#.

THURSDAY, December 8, 2022

FRIDAY, December 9, 2022

SATURDAY, December 10, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –
 (Guest Preacher – Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst)
 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 11th & December 18th. 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.

*The flowers are given in honor of
Octavian Salvador Sterlacci's baptism.
With love from his family*

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – will be on Thursday, December 15th 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 18th 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, December 11, 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, December 11th

Luke 1:47-55

Matthew 11:2-11

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



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.***