

December 10, 2023
10:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Gilligan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Carolyn and Jake Stockl

PRELUDE "Your Light Will Come" Bob Hurd

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Lift up your hearts, people of God, for the Lord has looked favorably upon us and is sending us his beloved son.

He is raising up for us a mighty savior in the house of his servant David.

God is showing the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah, that we might serve him without fear.

We go before the Lord, following John the Baptist, to prepare the way of the Lord.

Come, let us worship God and listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce Your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved. With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. Therefore, in Christ we 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 Isaiah 40:1-11 (O.T. pg. 667)
Mark 1:1-8 (N.T. pg. 34)

Children's Sermon

ANTHEM "Come to Us" Greg Walton, Mary Walton

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Finding Comfort in Chaos"
Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #403 "What a Friend We Have in 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 #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Every Valley" Bob Dufford

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 10, 2023



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

"Finding Comfort in Chaos"

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 10, 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

4th Week

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

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
11/30/2023	\$100,415.69	\$ (355.87)	\$16,956.29

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 10, 2023

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

MONDAY, December 11, 2023

TUESDAY, December 12, 2023

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2023

5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling – Sanctuary Parking Lot

THURSDAY, December 14, 2023

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

FRIDAY, December 15, 2023

SATURDAY, December 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Lessons & Carols)
Live Stream-Facebook
5:00 p.m. Live Nativity – Sanctuary Parking Lot

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: 12/31, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, & 1/28. 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.

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

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.

2024 GIVING ENVELOPES – are located in the rear of the Sanctuary.

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 24th

*Isaiah 9: 2- 7
Titus 2: 11 -14
Luke 2: 1 -14*

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



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.**