

December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Elaine and Stan Kaczmarek

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be patient! The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

when we will sing and rejoice, dancing with everlasting joy.

But for now, be patient, as we wait in this time called Advent,

when God speaks through dreams and visions, and we are invited to dance down the holy way into the kingdom.

For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope,

when those who limp will teach new dance steps,

when the voiceless sing, 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.'

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none. Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened so long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth

of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior. The One who calls us blessed, is the God who forgives us.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN #464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

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 1:47-55 (N.T. pg. 57)

Matthew 11:2-11 (N.T. pg. 11)

ANTHEM

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Tom Booth

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

SERMON:

"The Magnificat"

Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

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 #272 "God of the Sparrow"

*BENEDICTION

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

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst Bio:

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

December 11, 2022



"The Magnificat"

Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst

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 11, 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

2nd Week

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.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

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

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
11/30/2022 \$ 78,838.03	\$ 2,164.75	\$ 2,691.64

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 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service –
(Guest Preacher – Rev. Frederick H. Whitehurst)
Live Stream-Facebook

MONDAY, December 12, 2022

TUESDAY, December 13, 2022

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2022

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

THURSDAY, December 15, 2022

6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling – Sanctuary Parking Lot

FRIDAY, December 16, 2022

SATURDAY, December 17, 2022

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 18, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Lessons in 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 available on the chancel flower calendar: December 18th & January 1st. 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.

PRAYER GATHERING – is 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.

2023 GIVING ENVELOPES – are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience.

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>Joseph Fernandez</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>resolutjoe@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Stephanie Kurowsky</i>	<i>Stream Lines</i>	<i>avenelstreamlines@comcast.net</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2022</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Susan Smolsky</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>rustisioux@comcast.net</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>



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.***