

December 17, 2023
10:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Advent
A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

WELCOME Carol Stevenson

PRELUDE "Welcome Home" John Angotti

THE OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

*OPENING HYMN #49 "Once in David's Royal City"

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 96 1-3, 11-13 pg. 550)

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES Cindy and Rich Culton

ANTHEM "Christ the Lord" Sarah Hart and Robert Feduccia

The Nine Lessons

First Lesson: The First Sin and Its Punishment

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

HYMN "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring" [insert] Werde Munter

Second Lesson: The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

Genesis 22:15-18 Hanna Pallitto

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

Third Lesson: The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 cccDelia Zelanzy

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

Fourth Lesson: The Peaceful Kingdom

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Madelyn Grabiell

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

Fifth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-35, 38 Sarah Maneri

ANTHEM "By the Star" Janet Vogt

Sixth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

HYMN #25 "Away in a Manger"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

Seventh Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angel

Luke 2:8-16 Grace Grabiell

*HYMN #60 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Eighth Lesson: The Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-11 Charlie Kurowsky

HYMN #66 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

ANTHEM "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam

Ninth Lesson: The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

HYMN #31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v.1)

WORSHIP IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY HYMN #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*THE DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #40 "Joy to the World!"

*Benediction

POSTLUDE "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

December 17, 2023



LESSONS
& CAROLS

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 17, 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

5th Week

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

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 17, 2023

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

MONDAY, December 18, 2023

TUESDAY, December 19, 2023

4:00 p.m. Property Care Meeting – CO
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting – KHL (Joint with Deacons & Elders)

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023

THURSDAY, December 21, 2023

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

FRIDAY, December 22, 2023

SATURDAY, December 23, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Combined Family and Candlelight)
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: 12/31, 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.

LIVE NATIVITY – today 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.

GUEST MINISTER – for December 31st is Rev. Alice Batcher. Reverend Alice Batcher is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the

UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

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

JESU, JOY OF OUR DESIRING

WERDE MUNTER



1. Je - su, joy of our de - sir - ing, Ho - ly wis - dom,
2. Through the way where hope is guid - ing, Hear what peace - ful



1. love most bright, Drawn by you, our souls as - pir - ing,
2. mu - sic rings; Where the flocks in you con - fid - ing,



1. Soar to un - cre - at - ed Light. Word of God, our flesh that
2. Drink of joy from death - less springs! Theirs is beau - ty's fair - est



1. fash - ioned With the fire of life im - pas - sioned, Striv - ing
2. plea - sure; Theirs is wis - dom's ho - liest trea - sure; You do



1. still to truth un - known, Soar - ing, dy - ing, 'round your throne.
2. ev - er lead your own, In the love of joys un - known.

Kitchen Angels

Recently the Kitchen Angels held a meeting to determine whether we would continue with the ministry of providing Repasts for our active church members. Because we have fewer active members and we are all getting older, we are no longer able to do as much as we used to do. It was decided that none of us wanted to give up this worthwhile ministry but we would need to cut back on what we could provide for the families.

We used to cook and provide all the food and desserts and set up Jacob Morgan Hall. We would serve and clean up afterwards. We have done this for as many as 100 to as little as 30 guests. Sadly, we can no longer do this for numbers 50 or more. We will have to ask those families to supply the main food and we will provide the setting up of the hall, all the paper goods, dishes, cups, etc., desserts and beverages. We will continue to provide the fried chicken as we have done in the past. We will also serve the food and do all the cleanup.

If help is available, we would gladly provide food for less than 50 guests.

Hopefully you will understand, it's not that we don't want to do this but at this point we don't have a choice. Repasts are open to active church members and their immediate families,(husband, wife, child, siblings, & grandparents). We would like to grow our members so please join this very worthwhile and rewarding ministry. If you can't cook or bake, we can always use angels for setups and cleanups. It's a great way to have fun and serve the Lord. If you're interested please contact me, Carolyn Stockl at (732) 406-3110.

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