

December 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Preparation (*for silent meditation before worship*)

Who are we, Lord God, that You should come to us? Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of Your word, and move us by Your Spirit to bless Your wonderful works. Amen.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carolyn Gilligan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Rienzo Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. We confess that we have not expected Your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring Your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome Your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING HYMN #22 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.**

(\*universal)

### HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE:

Micah 5:2-5a (O.T. pg. 865)

Luke 1:30-55 (N.T. pg. 57)

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

"Beyond the Moon and Stars"

Dan Schutte

SERMON:

"Blessed is the One Who Believes"

Rev. Emily Lueder

### SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN #27

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

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

\*CLOSING HYMN #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "We Shall Prepare" Janet Vogt

\*Please stand if able

### **Rev. Emily Lueder Bio:**

Originally from Northwest Indiana, Emily studied theology and ministry and philanthropic leadership and service at Valparaiso University. She moved to Princeton, NJ and graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019. She completed her yearlong chaplain residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan and currently serves as a palliative care chaplain with Hackensack Meridian Health. In her free time, Emily enjoys all things Golden Girls and Abraham Lincoln.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

December 19, 2021



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

"Blessed is the One Who Believes"

Rev. Emily Lueder

### 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, – Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky's niece

Daniel Hedner – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Steven Stockl – Carolyn & Jake Stockl's nephew

Amy Updike

Rob – serving in the U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA. - Lynn & Wayne Dubin's son.

Anthony Service – U.S. Air Force, in San Antonio.

#### OVERSEAS

Jeffrey Hansen – 1<sup>st</sup> LT, Kuwait, Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky'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

Elizabeth Port Presbyterian Church Children's Center, NJ

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 19, 2021

***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*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Week*

Prayers for Linda Vassallo's mother-in law, Teresa, who is diagnosed with Dementia.

*4<sup>th</sup> Week*

*5<sup>th</sup> Week*

*6<sup>th</sup> 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
12/31/2020	\$109,515.39	
01/31/2021	\$104,658.48	\$( 4,856.91)
02/28/2021	\$100,834.39	\$( 3,824.09)
03/31/2021	\$ 94,305.80	\$( 6,528.59)
04/30/2021	\$ 88,398.27	\$( 5,907.53)
05/31/2021	\$ 86,186.03	\$( 2,212.24)
06/30/2021	\$ 83,254.27	\$( 2,931.76)
07/31/2021	\$ 70,951.00	\$(12,303.27)
08/31/2021	\$ 71,414.52	\$ 463.52
09/30/2021	\$ 71,063.34	\$ (351.18)
10/31/2021	\$ 72,418.97	\$ 1,355.63
11/30/2021	\$ 72,414.29	\$ (8.86)

**CHURCH PROPERTY 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 19, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Advent School – KHL
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Emily Lueder)  
Live Stream-Facebook
- 5:00 p.m. Live Nativity – Sanctuary Parking Lot
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group – CE Bldg

#### MONDAY, December 20, 2021

#### TUESDAY, December 21, 2021

- 7:30 p.m. Session Meeting – KHL/Chapel  
(Joint with Deacons & Elders)

#### WEDNESDAY, December 22, 2021

#### THURSDAY, December 23, 2021

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

#### FRIDAY, December 24, 2021

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
(Guest Preacher-Rev. Lydia Tembo)

#### SATURDAY, December 25, 2021

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

#### SUNDAY, December 26, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – SSO
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Advent School – KHL
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Preacher–Rev. Alice Batcher)  
Live Stream-Facebook

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – meets every Sunday at 9 am in the Christian Education Building’s Sunday School Office.

**YOUTH GROUP** – meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 6:00pm in the Christian Education Building.

**CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY** – The following dates are available on the chancel flower calendar: December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reservations for chancel flowers may be made through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements.

*The flowers are in remembrance of loved ones, Bruce and Jane McKee,  
now celebrating in heaven given by Marlene Sorge  
and family.*

**PRAYER GATHERING** – is on Thursday evenings at 8 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski 908-930-3628.

**WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM** – via Facebook every Sunday 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** – will now be on our website. Weekly bulletins can be emailed as well. If you would like a weekly bulletin emailed, please contact the Church Office to be put on the emailing list.

**LIVE STREAM CAMERA VOLUNTEERS** – The mission team is asking for several people to consider operating the live streaming camera so we can insure no interruptions in our outreach. It is easy, requires very little work once setup. Stephen will show exactly how to operate. Please see Stephen or Bob Toro after worship.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** – In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, let’s rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas! Join us for a 5 week Advent adult Sunday School series lead by Delia beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> and will continue through December 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in Ken Hunt Lounge. Masks required.

**CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER** – St. Anthony of Padua Church located at 436 Port Reading Avenue will host a FREE Christmas dinner on

Saturday, 12/25 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please call to make a reservation starting 12/1 at (732) 634-1419. Local transportation may be available.

**GUEST PREACHER** – for Friday, December 24, 2021, is Rev. Lydia Tembo. Rev. Lydia Tembo is a Zambian born, semi-cradle Presbyterian, raised in Forest Hills, NY. Rev. Tembo earned a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Theology, Women and Gender from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Tembo serves on the boards of More Light Presbyterians and Princeton Presbyterians. More Light and Princeton Presbyterians both promote kin-dom building and inclusivity of God’s creation in and beyond church walls. When Rev. Tembo isn’t serving as the Assistant Director of Recruitment at Princeton Theological Seminary, she can be found reading, DIY crafting, facilitating discernment workshops, and taking long walks on the beach with her life-partner Michael.

**GUEST PREACHER** – for Sunday, December 26, 2021, 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 works 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	Music Director	resolutjoe@gmail.com
Michael Peterson	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
Stephanie Kurowsky	Stream Lines	avenelstreamlines@comcast.net
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2021
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 26<sup>th</sup>*

**Colossians 3:12-17**

# ADULT *Sunday School*

In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, let's rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas! Join us for a 5 week **Advent Adult Sunday School** series lead by Delia beginning November 28th and continuing through December 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in Ken Hunt Lounge.



3:00pm



4:30pm  
Rev. Lydia Tembo



*Our sanctuary is filled with the gifts  
of our members and friends as they  
remember and honor their loved  
ones.*

**These gifts were given by: IN MEMORY OF:**

Nick & Bobbie Altieri	Ilene & John Nisbet
Pat Battito	Bill & Ruth Barrett Frank Battito Frank & Angela Battito
Ed & Shirley Benkert	Edward Benkert Sr. William & Ruth Freist Nancy Leclair Reinhart Thorsen
Holly Ely-Calantoni	Howard & Edna Ely Christopher & Leslie Yuhasz
Selina Critelli	Marilyn Critelli Josephine Gamble Richard Miller
Richard & Cindy Culton	Pete & Dottie Allebach Esther Nielsen Kay Price
The Gillian Family	Don Gilligan Mary Sandor Alfred A. Seddon
Danetta Juarez	Frank Juarez

**These gifts were given by: IN MEMORY OF:**

Stan & Elaine Kaczmarek	Charles & Mae Dudas Bronislaus & Marie Kaczmarek
Millie Knotts	Al Knotts
Linda, Robynn, & Scott Herrington	Ron Herrington Edythe Pekar Ted & Eleanor Smith Tom Smith
Sandra Kosakowski	Mackenzie Kosakowski
Gay Patrouch	Walter & Eloise Emery
Gail Sheets	Special Friends: Gene, Ilene, Linda, & Marjorie
Gary & Carolyn Stevenson	Ernest & Arleen Schreiber George & Stella Stevenson
Jake & Carolyn Stockl	Our Loved Ones That Passed Away

**These gifts were given by: IN HONOR OF:**

Sandra Kosakowski	Luciana Iacovino
Jake and Carolyn Stockl	To Our Church Family
Colette & Oliver Zelazny	Gaga & Pa Culton



**GREETINGS TO THE CONGREGATION**

The Aumick Family  
Selina, Jim, Sophia, James, Laurel, Julianna, Linda, & Tyler

Danetta Juarez

Linda Sammartino

Gail Sheets



**THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM**

Pat Battito

Danetta Juarez

Delia Zelazny



**Poinsettias**

*GREETINGS  
&  
GIFTS*

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Avenel  
Christmas 2021*