

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 A.M.

**Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight Service**

MUSICAL PRELUDE Joseph Fernandez

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Gayle Nolan

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.  
**To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah,  
the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and  
lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

**Come, let us worship the Lord!**

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

\*OPENING HYMN #41 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light  
shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the  
light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes  
to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive  
our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the  
fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the  
Lord.....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not  
forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY

Mrs. Carolyn Gilligan

\*HYMN #25 “Away in a Manger”

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)

THE STORY & SYMBOLS OF THE NATIVITY Mrs. Carolyn Stevenson

**HEARING THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2- 7 (O.T. pg. 638)  
Titus 2: 11 -14 (N.T. pg. 215)  
Luke 2: 1 -14 (N.T. pg. 58)

HYMN #31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

HOMILY “A Profound Message of Hope and Joy”  
Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick

**SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

HYMN #46 “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

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

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

\*HYMN #60 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Candle Lighting)

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

\*BENEDICTION

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

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 24, 2023



"A Profound Message of Hope and Joy"

### **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

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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 24, 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*

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

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

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

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

*6<sup>th</sup> Week*

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

*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 24, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Combined Family and Candlelight)  
Live Stream-Facebook

**MONDAY, December 25, 2023**

**TUESDAY, December 26, 2023**

**WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2023**

**THURSDAY, December 28, 2023**

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

**FRIDAY, December 29, 2023**

**SATURDAY, December 30, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

**SUNDAY, December 31, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Minister-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

**CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY** – The following dates are open: 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.

**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 31st*

Jeremiah 31: 15-17  
Matthew 2:13-18

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

<b>These gifts were given by:</b>	<b>IN MEMORY OF:</b>
Nick & Bobbie Altieri	Ilene & John Nisbet
Ed & Shirley Benkert	Edward Benkert Sr. William & Ruth Freist Nancy Leclair Reinhart Thorsen
Holly Ely-Calantoni	Howard & Edna Ely Marissa Kohler Christopher & Leslie Yuhasz
The Cultons	Esther Nielsen Kay Price
Carolyn Gillian	Don Gilligan Mary Sandor Alfred A. Seddon
Betty Hulsizer	Donalda Funk
Danetta Juarez	Frank Juarez
Millie Knotts	Al Knotts
Sandy Kosakowski	Mackenzie Kosakowski

<b>These gifts were given by:</b>	<b>IN MEMORY OF:</b>
Rev. Dr. Glen C. Misick	James and Helen Misick (Parents)
Dr. Jennifer Misick	Rev. Ulysses Engram and Wife Archie Engram (Parents)
Gisela and Richard Olsen	Sofie and Olav Olsen Bob and Dorle Zanzalari
Gay Patrouch	Walter & Eliose Emery
Cathy Shaffer	George Shaffer All Shaffer Ancestors
Gary & Carolyn Stevenson	Ernest & Arleen Schreiber George & Stella Stevenson
Carolyn Stockl	Jakab and Magdalena Stockl Albert and Violet Schwartz
Robert Toro	The Toro and Dowd Families

<b>These gifts were given by:</b>	<b>IN HONOR OF:</b>
Sandra Kosakowski	Luciana, Lincoln, and Violet
Carolyn Stockl	Our Church Family For All Their Prayers
Delia Zelazny	Colette and Oliver Love, Mommy, Gaga, Pa, Coco, & Ollie



**GREETINGS TO THE CONGREGATION**

Stan and Elaine Kaczmarek

Linda Sammartino



**THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM**

Linda Sammartino



**Poinsettias**

***GREETINGS***

***&***

***GIFTS***

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Avenel  
Christmas 2023*